Rabbinic Recap

AIPAC SYNAGOGUE INITIATIVE

The week ending January 15, 2016

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

IDF officer stabbed and wounded near Nablus; assailant shot and killed

A suspected terrorist lightly wounded an Israeli commander on Thursday after stabbing him on the hand on the slopes of Mount Ebal near Nablus located in the West Bank. According to The Jerusalem Post, the assailant was shot and killed following the incident. According to Palestinian media accounts, the suspect was 36-year-old Mahmoud Abed al Jalil Yasin. The incident began when the alleged assailant threw a Molotov cocktail at security forces stationed on the slopes, where he then pulled out a knife and attacked the commander. The incident marks the second terrorist attack of the day. Earlier on Thursday, a suspected terrorist was shot and killed by Israeli security forces after attempting to stab a soldier at the Beit Einoun junction located close to the Kiryat Arba settlement and the West Bank city of Hebron. No Israelis were injured in the event. The incident is the latest in a string of violent attacks against Israelis who have been the target of Palestinian violence over the last three months.

Update: Palestinian and Arab Terrorism against Israel

Palestinian and Arab terrorist attacks against Israel have left at least 27 dead and over 200 wounded. Below is a timeline of major attacks since January 9, 2016.

Jan. 12: A knife-wielding Palestinian attempted to stab an Israeli soldier in the West Bank near Hebron. The attacker was shot and killed.

Jan. 11: A Palestinian attempted to stab Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers at a checkpoint near Jenin. The attacker was shot and given medical treatment.

Jan. 9: Two Palestinian attackers were shot and killed as they tried to stab IDF soldiers at the Bekaot checkpoint in the West Bank.

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Lockheed Begins Assembly of First Israeli F-35

Lockheed Martin has officially begun assembly of Israel's first F-35 "Adir" fighter jet at the company's facility in Fort Worth, Texas. According to Defense News, the aircraft, designated AS-1, last week began its "mate" process, where the major components are joined to form the full structure, according to a Jan. 10 Lockheed statement. Lockheed plans to deliver AS-1 to the Israel Air Force (IAF) later this year. "These 5th Generation aircraft will greatly enhance the IAF's ability to defend the State of Israel from the serious threats we face," Aharon Marmarosh, director of the Israel Ministry of Defense Mission in New York, said in the statement. Israel plans to buy a total of 33 F-35A conventional takeoff and landing aircraft to replace its aging F-15s and F-16s. Israel is also a key contributor to development of the plane; its Elbit Systems is partnered with Rockwell Collins on the Generation III helmet, which provides pilots a 360-degree view of the battlefield. "Today marks a new beginning for tactical aviation for Israel," said Jeff Babione, Lockheed Martin F-35 program manager, according to the statement. "Lockheed Martin is proud of our long and storied relationship with Israel's armed forces. The F-35A Adir

strengthens our solid relationship with the IAF and ensures that the Israeli aerospace industry will remain strong for decades to come."

Israel brings tech expertise to protecting connected cars

Building on its expertise in technology, Israel is emerging as a leader in the race to keep cars secure and prevent the nightmare scenario of a hacker commandeering your vehicle, reports Reuters. Most cars today are equipped with some level of connectivity and self-driving vehicles are being developed. Given this level of sophistication, protecting cars from contamination with malicious software has become big business. "We view this as a potential $10 billion market opportunity over the next five years," said Daniel Ives, an analyst with FBR Capital Markets in New York. "As we have seen with cyber security over the past decade, the lion's share of the innovation going after this market is from Israel and Silicon Valley." From its headquarters in Tel Aviv, Check Point, one of the world's largest cyber security firms, pioneered the computer firewall two decades ago. It hopes to repeat that success with a security capsule for vehicles. Yoni Heilbronn, the company's head of marketing, was the only foreigner to appear at a closed-door session last year in the U.S. Congress discussing how to protect connected cars. "Car manufacturers for the last 100 years simply built cars and were very good at doing that. Cyber security is generally not their core competence," he said. "This is where it comes back to Israel."

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Apple's Siri Voice Assistant Learns Hebrew

For Israeli users of Apple's iPhone who get tongue-tangled trying to pronounce a Hebrew name in a way the virtual assistant Siri is likely to understand, hope is here! According to The Times of Israel, No longer will they have to pronounce Bar'el as "barrel," or Carlebach as "carlbatch," because Siri the robot – that indispensable, hands-free finder of phone numbers, weather warnings and other online information—is finally learning Hebrew. Siri stands for Speech Interpretation and Recognition Interface. To date, it has been available in various dialects of English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese and Korean. The iOS update, and with it the Hebrew-speaking Siri, will be available to the Israeli public in around a month, although it will apparently not include a service enabling local searches for restaurants, films, etc. Siri is known for his/her jokes (users can choose the assistant's gender), and for witty ripostes to impolite requests or expressions of frustration. Israelis will be taking a close look at how the Holy Land's Siri will handle Israelis' (in) famous etiquette and linguistic stylings.

Ripple Maker and Vuze take top prizes at CES 2016

The hype around Israeli technologies at the 2016 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas was more than justified when two blue-and-white companies—HumanEyes and Steam CC—scored the top two innovation prizes from a field of thousands. According to Israel21c, Tech experts and gadget geeks voted the Ripple Maker—Steam CC's 3D printing system that draws coffee-extract pictures on foamy drinks—as the Last Gadget Standing Online winner. The Ripples technology originated at Prof. Shlomo Magdassi's lab at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was licensed-out by Yissum, the technology transfer company of the Hebrew University, and was brought to market with seed funding from Landa Ventures. HumanEyes won the Last Standing Live Audience prize for Vuze, the world's first consumer portable 360° 3D VR camera and software studio to bring immersive content creation to the masses. HumanEyes was founded by Yissum and Professor Shmuel Peleg, from the School of Engineering and Computer Science of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.