



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending July 22, 2016

IRAN

Treasury Department Designates as Terrorists Three Senior Al-Qaida Members in Iran

On July 20, the U.S. Department of Treasury designated three Iran-based senior al-Qaida members as global terrorists pursuant to [Executive Order 13224](#), making them subject to a wide array of financial sanctions by the U.S. Faisal Jassim Mohammed Al-Amri Al-Khalidi, Yisra Muhammad Ibrahim Bayumi and Abu Bakr Muhammad Muhammad Ghumayn were responsible for providing financial and logistical support to al-Qaida, helping the organization to “move money and operatives from South Asia and across the Middle East.” Specifically, Al-Khalidi served as al-Qaida’s Military Commission Chief in Iran, Bayumi worked as a mediator with Iranian authorities, and Ghumayn oversaw the group’s financing and organization. “Today’s action sanctions senior al-Qaida operatives responsible for moving money and weapons across the Middle East,” [said](#) Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Adam Szubin.

Senators Advocate for Increased Transparency in IAEA Iran Reports

On July 15, a group of 15 Democratic senators—all of whom supported the JCPOA— led by Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), sent a [letter](#) to President Barack Obama urging him to work with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to encourage increased transparency when reporting on Iran’s nuclear program. “In addition to lacking vital information on the status of Iran’s uranium stock and enrichment capabilities, the report leaves out vital details on Iranian facilities. The report does not comment on the progress made in transitioning Fordow to a research facility or provide updates on the redesign of the Arak heavy water research reactor. This data is critical for ensuring the ability to independently verify Iran’s compliance,” wrote the senators. “Providing additional situational awareness of Iran’s nuclear program is vital for the long-term health of this agreement,” they continued, “We urge your administration to ensure that the IAEA releases all relevant technical information so that we may continue to make our own judgments about the status of Iran’s nuclear program.” The most recent IAEA [report](#) notes that Iran is currently in compliance with its obligations under the nuclear agreement, but [according](#) to Sen. Peters, the report “does not include key technical details, including the total quantity of low enriched uranium in Iran, the amount produced since prior reports, details on the number of centrifuges used for enrichment, and centrifuge research and development.”

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Two soldiers wounded in West Bank stabbing attack

According to [Ynet News](#), two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a stabbing attack in the Hebron region close to Gush Etzion Monday during a routine patrol of Route 60 between Hebron and Gush Etzion outside of El Arub refugee camp. The Palestinian terrorist approached his two targets and then began stabbing them with a screwdriver. He also had a knife in his possession. Both soldiers, belonging to the Heruv regiment of the Kfir battalion, were left in light condition and evacuated to Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. One of the wounded soldiers was able to shoot the Palestinian terrorist who was then taken to Jerusalem's Sha'are Zedek Medical Center in critical condition. He was pronounced dead hours later. El Arub falls under the authority of the Heruv regiment, which was patrolling around the pillbox at the entrance to the refugee camp to prevent Palestinians from throwing rocks at vehicles travelling along the highway.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Jerusalem's gay pride parade kicks off under heavy security

The fifteenth annual Jerusalem gay pride parade was set to begin marching through downtown Jerusalem under heavy security Thursday afternoon, a year after a religious extremist knifed a teenager to death and wounded six others at 2015's march. [The Times of Israel](#) reports that ten thousand people were on hand to march under the banner of LGBT pride, but also under the watchful eye of some 2,000 police on hand to secure the highly charged march. Organizers have asked participants to bring flowers to place at the site on Keren Hayesod Street where 16-year-old Shira Banki was killed by Yishai Schlissel, who is serving a life sentence for her murder. A Times of Israel reporter saw only one entrance to the parade, where attendees were assembled to undergo two security checks. Police set up barriers to line long sections of the march and in some areas held back passersby.

Israel's largest-ever Olympic delegation heads to Rio

Rhythmic gymnast Neta Rivkin will hold Israel's blue-and-white flag aloft at the opening ceremony of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, to be held Aug. 5 to 21. According to [Israel 21c](#), the Olympic delegation that will be led into the stadium by Rivkin is Israel's largest one since the country's first Olympic Games in 1952. The 50 qualifiers will compete in 17 sport categories, including Israel's first Olympic competitors in golf, triathlon and mountain biking. Rivkin, who finished seventh in her category at the 2012 London Games, is one of 11 repeat Olympic athletes from Israel who are hoping for a spot on the medalists' podium. The 2016 delegation also includes 34 coaches and about 25 support staff. In 16 Olympic Games, Israel has won seven medals—in judo, sailing and canoeing. The only gold medalist was windsurfer Gal Fridman (Athens, 2004) and he also won a bronze medal in Atlanta in 1996.