



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending June 10, 2016

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

United States Condemns Tel Aviv Palestinian Terror Attack

Senior administration officials and members of Congress have condemned a June 8 Palestinian terror attack in central Tel Aviv that left four dead and over a dozen others wounded.

Two Palestinian terrorists from a village near Hebron opened fire in a restaurant at the upscale Sarona market. Police captured both assailants, shooting and wounding one. Israel has additionally [arrested an accomplice](#) in Wednesday's attack Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed on Thursday.

The slain victims of the attack include Ido Ben Ari, 42, from Ramat Gan; Michael Feige, 58, from Givatayim; Ilana Naveh, 39, from Tel Aviv; and Mila Mishaeve, 32, from Ashkelon.

Shortly after the attack, the U.S. State Department released a [statement](#) denouncing the act of terrorism.

"The United States condemns today's horrific terrorist attack in Tel Aviv in the strongest possible terms. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of those killed and our hopes for a quick recovery for those wounded. These cowardly attacks against innocent civilians can never be justified. We are in touch with Israeli authorities to express our support and concern," announced Deputy State Department Spokesperson Mark Toner.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro wrote on [social media](#) that he "strongly condemns tonight's horrific terrorist attack in Tel Aviv" and that it "cannot be justified."

Several members of Congress also condemned the attack. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) [stated](#), "My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and the families." Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) [expressed](#) that his "prayers are with the people of Israel." Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) [said](#) that "we stand with Israel tonight as it faces yet another cowardly terrorist attack," and Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL) [conveyed](#) his condolences for the "victims of this terrorist attack, their loved one, and Israel."

Joining United States leaders, the office of United Nations Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon [condemned](#) the attacks, stating that "there is no justification for terrorism nor for the glorification of those who commit such heinous acts."

It added that the secretary general is "shocked that the leaders of Hamas have chosen to welcome this attack and some have chosen to celebrate it. He calls upon the Palestinian leadership to live up to their responsibility to stand firmly against violence and the incitement

that fuels it.”

Senior Administration Official Pledges “Largest Military Aid Package in U.S. History” to Israel

On June 6, U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice pledged to provide Israel “the single largest military assistance package – with any country – in American history.” During her speech at the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Global Forum in Washington D.C., Rice said that the new 10-year agreement currently under negotiation will “constitute a significant increase in support,” reportedly totaling somewhere between \$37.5 billion and \$40 billion. The United States has long defined Israel’s survival and security as important to its national interests. And accordingly, it provides Israel—the sole democracy in the Middle East—with annual security assistance to help it defend itself, by itself, against mounting threats across the region. Security assistance is currently provided at levels established by a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two allies, averaging \$3 billion per year. The current MOU expires in 2018.

New York Governor Signs Anti-BDS Executive Order

On June 5, Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) signed a historic [executive order](#) instructing state entities to divest all public funds from companies that support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

“New York stands in solidarity with Israel today and always. This state will not stand for the politics of discrimination in any form, and we will continue to demonstrate our unwavering support for the people of Israel in the fight for freedom, liberty and democracy,” stated Cuomo in a [press release](#).

The “first-in-the-nation action” against BDS will guarantee that no state agency or authority in New York participates in or endorses investment activities that seek to economically harm and delegitimize the Jewish state.

“I’m proud to sign this nation’s leading executive order, which will help protect Israel from the threat of divestment,” said Cuomo. “This order sends the message that this state will do everything in its power to end this hateful, intolerant campaign. New York and Israel share an unbreakable bond and I pray that the Israeli and Palestinian people will find a way to live side by side and find peace, prosperity and security.”

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

NASA Intends to Reach Mars by 2030s with Israel’s Help, Space Agency’s Administrator Says

On June 6, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden [announced](#) that Israel will assist the space agency to successfully launch “the first human voyage to the red planet” by the 2030s. Bolden highlighted that NASA is eager to work with Israel’s “incredibly innovative people on the cutting edge of technology.” Bolden will travel to Israel to meet with various representatives of the Israel Space Agency to discuss NASA’s journey to Mars. While there, he will also be presented with an honorary doctorate by Bar-Ilan University President Rabbi Professor Daniel Hershkowitz. “Charlie is one of the most sensitive and wonderful people I have ever met. In Yiddish, we’d call him a mensch,” said Hershkowitz. “Together,” Bolden noted, “we can bring humanity to the face of Mars and reach new heights for the benefit of all humankind...and we will.”