



# Rabbinic Recap

The week ending March 11, 2016

## U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

### **Biden Condemns Palestinian Terror Attacks**

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas this week praised as a “martyr” a young Palestinian woman who attempted to kill an IDF soldier with her car, reports [The Times of Israel](#). “We see in her a martyr who watered the pure earth of Palestine with her blood,” he wrote in a letter to the parents of Amani Husni Sabatin, 34, from the Palestinian village of Husan, near Bethlehem. Abbas’s letter came as U.S. Vice President, Joe Biden, was visiting Israel and the West Bank for meetings with Israeli as well as Palestinian leaders. On Wednesday, just one day after a Palestinian terrorist stabbed to death American graduate student, Taylor Force, and wounded nine others, including Force’s wife, in Jaffa, Biden criticized the Palestinian leadership’s “failure to condemn” terror attacks. “Let me say in no uncertain terms: The United States of America condemns these acts and condemns the failure to condemn these acts. This cannot become an accepted modus operandi,” Biden said during a press conference alongside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Prime Minister’s Office in Jerusalem. “This cannot be viewed by civilized leaders as an appropriate way in which to behave,” he continued. “It is just not tolerable in the 21st century. They’re targeting innocent civilians, mothers, pregnant women, teenagers, grandfathers, American citizens.”

[Click here for a list of the Americans killed in the recent wave of Palestinian terrorism.](#)

### **Members of Congress Speak out against Palestinian Terrorism**

Members of Congress from both parties strongly condemned the recent wave of Palestinian violence, including the murder on March 8 of U.S. citizen Taylor Force. Lawmakers also called on the Palestinian Authority (PA) to take action to combat rising incitement and violence. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-TN) said, “I am horrified and saddened by the senseless attack that took the life of American student Taylor Force and wounded others.” The committee’s Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD) deplored the attacks as “unconscionable.” The attacks “are a tragic reminder of the brutality of the misguided and indiscriminate tactics being used to terrorize people in Israel. These attacks and incitement to further violence must be immediately condemned by all leaders. There is no amount of violence that is tolerable or justifiable. My thoughts and prayers are with the Force family and all those impacted by this truly senseless and repugnant attack,” said Cardin.

[Click here for more statements from Members of Congress condemning recent Palestinian terrorism.](#)

### **In Israel, Taylor Force was exploring a future in start-ups**

A Vanderbilt University graduate student stabbed to death in Israel by a Palestinian terrorist during a school trip was exploring what to do with his life as a civilian after graduating from West

Point and serving tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Taylor Force's father said Wednesday the 28-year-old business student was an avid skier and guitar player who loved horses and ranch life after a childhood in Texas. Force was murdered Tuesday in Tel Aviv-Jaffa while on a school-sponsored trip to learn about start-up companies overseas. In a letter notifying students, faculty and staff, Vanderbilt Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos called the stabbing a "horrific act of violence." Force served in the Army from 2009 to 2014 and then took about a year off after active duty. He lived in Lexington, Kentucky, before moving to Nashville to attend Vanderbilt. Taylor Force had been making friends and having a great time at school, and he was very excited about the trip to Israel, his father, Stuart Force, said. According to [The Times of Israel](#), Zeppos wrote in his letter, "This horrific act of violence has robbed our Vanderbilt family of a young hopeful life and all of the bright promise that he held for bettering our greater world."

## IRAN

### **Members of Congress Condemn Latest Iranian Ballistic Missile Tests**

Members of Congress from both parties are condemning Iran's March 8 ballistic missile tests—a violation of international law. According to Iranian news reports, Iran illegally conducted tests of two ballistic missiles. One of the missiles allegedly had "Israel should be wiped off the Earth" written on it in Hebrew. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corp's aerospace division, said the test was intended to show that Iran could hit Israel. "The 2,000-kilometer (1,240-mile) range of our missiles is to confront the Zionist regime," Hajizadeh said. "Israel is surrounded by Islamic countries and it will not last long in a war. It will collapse even before being hit by these missiles." Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) told the media that lawmakers will continue to push for new Iranian sanctions "until the regime ends its violent, provocative behavior against the U.S. and our allies." House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) stated that "This week's tests were the second and third time since the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that Iran has violated ballistic missile restrictions. It ought to be a warning to the world that Iran is trying to have it both ways: it wants to integrate fully into the international community while continuing to flout international law, particularly U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, and threaten its neighbors. The world should not be fooled. Iranian reports that messages were written on the sides of the missiles calling for Israel's destruction leave no doubt as to the nefarious intentions of Iran's leaders."

[Click here to read more statements from Members of Congress.](#)