



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending May 20, 2016

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

House Authorizes U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Funds

On May 18, the House of Representatives passed [H.R. 4909](#)—The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017 in a 277-147 vote. The measure authorizes a total of \$600.8 million for U.S.-Israel missile defense programs. Of that total, \$62 million is authorized for the procurement of the Iron Dome rocket defense system, \$270 million for the production of David's Sling and Arrow-3 missile defense programs, and \$268.8 million for research and development of U.S.-Israel cooperative missile defense. In addition, the House bill supports continued U.S.-Israel anti-tunnel cooperation and provides initial funding for U.S.-Israel directed energy activities—which include laser technologies to combat missiles and rockets. The authorization is part of a multi-step process. The actual funding will be allocated through an appropriations bill.

The legislation also contains Iran-related provisions:

- Authorizes assistance and training to countries to deter and counter illicit smuggling and related maritime activity by Iran;
- Requires a report on the use by Iran of commercial aircraft for illicit military activities;
- Requires the president to officially notify Congress whenever Iran conducts a ballistic missile launch and inform Congress on actions the president will take in response;
- Amends the annual report on the military power of Iran to include Tehran's cyber capabilities and information on Iranian military and security organizations responsible for detaining members of the United States Armed Forces or interfering with military operations;
- Extends the reporting requirement for three years on the use of certain Iranian seaports by foreign vessels and the use of foreign airports by sanctioned Iranian air carriers;
- Requires a report on cooperation between Iran and the Russian Federation and to what extent such cooperation affects United States national security and strategic interests; and
- Requires a briefing on the Defense Department's investigation of the Iranian seizure of American sailors.

AIPAC's press release on the House NDAA can be found [here](#).

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Shin Bet: Hamas bringing weapons, rocket-making material into Gaza

The Israeli Navy arrested off the coast of Gaza last month a Hamas-affiliated smuggler who is accused of bringing weapons and illegal building materials into the Strip, the Shin Bet revealed to [The Times of Israel](#) Monday. Salim Jamal Hassan Naman, a resident of the al-Shati refugee camp, admitted to interrogators that he'd been involved in a naval smuggling operation for some time and had helped bring in weaponry and "materials used in the production of rockets, like fiberglass resin," the security service said. After his arrest, Naman was handed over to the Shin Bet for further questioning, where he provided his interrogators with information regarding Hamas's smuggling operations and attack strategies. He also gave additional information on the terror group's methods of using dedicated smugglers as well as Gaza fishermen to bring contraband to and from Egypt. Naman also gave his interrogators information regarding Hamas's operational plans to use Gazan fishermen as a "camouflage" for their military actions, the Shin Bet said.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israel successfully tests shipborne Iron Dome missile interceptor

Israel has successfully tested a maritime missile interception system that can shoot down short-range missiles, dubbing it the "Iron Dome of the Sea," the navy announced on Wednesday. According to [The Times of Israel](#), the Tamir-Adir system, which the IDF said can shoot down short-range rockets similar to those fired from Gaza, successfully destroyed "several" missiles, Col. Ariel Shir, head of operational systems in the navy, said. Shir said that during tests carried out two weeks ago, a battery mounted to a ship shot down every one of a salvo of short-range ballistic rockets fired from the shore. He said the test "proved the Israeli navy's ability to protect Israel's strategic assets at sea against short-range strategic rockets." The Tamir Adir system uses technology developed for Iron Dome but adjusted for the operational needs of a moving vessel. The system was in development for several years, but was only unveiled to the public Wednesday. The battery is designed to be placed on a moving ship traveling up to cruise speed and will be used to protect strategic assets, such as natural gas rigs, in Israel's territorial waters. Included in Israel's sea assets is a major offshore gas rig around 16 nautical miles from Gaza which the Hamas terror group has previously targeted unsuccessfully. Any damage to the rig or other rigs under development could be hugely damaging to the Israeli economy, since it provides large amounts of the country's energy needs and is expected to turn Israel into a gas exporter.

A new gauze that stops bleeding in minutes

The cloud of war constantly hanging over Israel has one shiny silver lining: groundbreaking advances in wound care developed for the battlefield and then shared with the rest of humanity. According to [Israel21c](#), a new product coming out of Israel is designed originally with soldiers in mind but with much broader potential: WoundClot gauze, a flexible and easy-to-handle material made of highly absorbent regenerated cellulose (plant cells). WoundClot absorbs about 2,500 percent of its own weight in fluids and forms a coagulating gel membrane with platelets from the blood on the open wound. The technology was developed at Ben-Gurion University by nanomaterials chemist Shani Eliyahu-Gross and commercialized by Core Scientific Creations, founded in 2012 in Kfar Saba by private angel investors.