



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending October 14, 2016

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

UNESCO Backs Motion Erasing Jewish Ties to Temple Mount

UNESCO adopted an anti-Israel resolution Thursday that disregards Judaism's historic connection to the Temple Mount and casts doubt on the link between Judaism and the Western Wall. Twenty-four countries voted in favor of the decision while six voted against and 26 abstained while just two were missing from the vote. The U.S., Britain, Germany, Holland, Lithuania and Estonia voted against the resolution. According to [Haaretz](#), a senior source said that the efforts of Israeli diplomats significantly changed the votes of European states, none of which supported the motion. The resolution asserted that Jerusalem is holy to the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. However, it includes a special section dealing with the Temple Mount, which says the site is sacred only to Muslims and fails to mention that it is sacred to the Jews as well. In fact, it mentions neither the Hebrew term for the site—*Har HaBayit*—nor its English equivalent, the Temple Mount. The site is referred to only by its Muslim names—*Al-Aqsa Mosque* and *Haram al-Sharif*.

AIPAC Statement: AIPAC Deplores UNESCO Resolution

AIPAC deplores the resolution preliminarily approved today by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which outrageously attempts to undermine historic Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem. In its characterization of the current situation in Jerusalem, this resolution is an affront to the truth and a crude attempt to delegitimize the Jewish state.

By approving such an untruthful and one-sided resolution, UNESCO undermines efforts to seek a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by giving support to forces in the Palestinian community that reject reconciliation. Unfortunately, this resolution is also demonstrative of Palestinian efforts to circumvent direct negotiations by manipulating international institutions.

We commend the nations that stood up for historic truth and rejected this malignant resolution. We praise the Obama administration for opposing this resolution along with the signers of the Oct. 10 bipartisan Congressional letter which urged UNESCO to reject it.

Bipartisan Congressional Letter Disavows Anti-Israel UNESCO Resolution

On Oct. 10, 39 members of Congress sent a bipartisan, bicameral letter to the executive board members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) urging the organization to oppose a resolution that minimizes the historic Jewish and Christian links to Jerusalem. Spearheaded by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), the members of Congress emphasize that the resolution “delegitimizes the state of Israel.”

“This unnecessarily divisive and selective resolution undermines the very purpose and integrity of UNESCO by seeking to rewrite Jerusalem's history, rejects Jerusalem's multi-cultural heritage, and undercuts Jerusalem's extraordinary diversity. Forged in the aftermath of World War II, UNESCO strives to establish peace on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity. Attempting to erase the Jewish and Christian connection to this sacred city will further damage the prospects of peace between Israel and the Palestinians,” the letter states.

Additionally, Rep. Ros-Lehtinen and Sen. Cruz sent a separate letter to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power and U.S. UNESCO Permanent Representative Crystal Nix-Hines urging them to vote against the measure. “The resolution's ill intent is unmistakable: to deny the historical record of the Jewish peoples' connections to their holiest city and to imply that Jerusalem is inconsequential to Jews and Christians, with the intent of laying the groundwork for additional UN efforts to delegitimize Israel and undermine its status as the capital of the Jewish State,” said Rep. Ros-Lehtinen.

“The United Nations' obsessive hostility towards Israel will be on display yet again this week as UNESCO considers another blatantly biased resolution that unjustly singles out our close ally Israel with false accusations and criticism, and attempts to erase the specific deep-rooted, historical connection of Jews and Christians to Jerusalem,” added Sen. Cruz.

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Two Israelis die of injuries after Jerusalem shooting attack

Two Israelis who were gravely injured in a Jerusalem shooting attack on Sunday morning have died of their wounds, a hospital spokesperson said. The fatalities in the terror attack at Ammunition Hill were a female in her 60s who was shot as she waited with other Israelis for public transport, and a police officer, approximately 30 years old, who was involved in the shootout with the terrorist. The attacker was shot and killed. He was identified as a 39-year-old resident of Silwan in East Jerusalem, police said. According to reports, he was to report to prison on Sunday to serve a sentence for incitement. According to [The Times of Israel](#), he possessed an Israeli identification card, according to Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan. “There were no prior warnings ahead of a focused attack like this,” Erdan said. The Hamas terrorist organization praised the shooting, calling it “heroic,” “brave” and a “natural response to the occupation,” Army Radio reported.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Samsung opens branch in Tel Aviv to tap into Israel's engineering innovation

Samsung Electronics opened a branch of its early-stage technology investment program in Tel Aviv to tap into the innovative engineering Israel is known for. Investment in individual companies will typically be about \$1 million with no limit on the number of beneficiaries or the funding amount, Eyal Miller, Samsung Next Tel Aviv's general manager and chief executive, said at a news conference. “Everyone is trying to leapfrog the competition,” said Kai Bond, general manager and chief executive of Samsung Global Innovation Center in New York. “But for us to continue to innovate three, five, seven years out, we want to play with individuals who are very, very early on, at a concept phase with a vision, as opposed to something that is fully established.” According to [The Washington Post](#), Samsung Global Innovation Center has invested in more than 40 technologies and acquired 11, including one that powers the Samsung Galaxy mobile phone payment software, Miller said.