



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending October 7, 2016

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

For 2nd straight day, rocket fired from Gaza hits Israel

A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip landed in an open area in southern Israel Thursday, the second such attack in as many days. There were no injuries or damage reported from the missile, which landed in an open field in the southern Eshkol region causing no injuries, according to a statement from the IDF spokespersons department. The incident came a day after a rocket fired from Gaza struck a street in the town of Sderot, causing some damage to nearby homes and cars but no injuries. Three people were hospitalized for anxiety following the strike. Israel says it holds Hamas responsible for any attacks emanating from Gaza and routinely responds to such launches with strikes against Hamas targets. According to [The Times of Israel](#), military spokesman Peter Lerner said Wednesday's attack was "the direct result of Hamas's terror agenda in the Gaza Strip that encourages deliberate attacks against Israeli civilians."

Israeli Air Force pilot dies while ejecting from his fighter jet

An Israeli Air Force pilot was killed Wednesday after ejecting from his F-16 fighter jet while attempting to land at the Ramon air base in southern Israel, the army said. The pilot was named as Maj. Ohad Cohen Nov, a deputy squadron commander. He was 34 and lived at the Ramon base. The Israeli Air Force said the jet was returning from an attack on the Gaza Strip. Israeli warplanes hit targets in Gaza after a rocket fired from the coastal enclave struck Sderot. According to Israeli Channel 2 television, the targets included Hamas rocket stockpiles. The army said it was not immediately clear what caused the two to eject and that Air Force commander Major General Amir Eshel ordered an investigation into the deadly crash, [Ynet](#) said the plane caught fire on its descent. The jet was an F-16I, made specifically for Israel by Lockheed Martin, and known as the "Storm." The F-16I has been in service with the Air Force for the last decade. According to [The Times of Israel](#), this was the first Air Force fatality since 2010 when an F-16 crashed into the Ramon Crater in the Negev Desert during a training exercise, killing both the pilot and navigator.

U.S. – ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Shimon Peres funeral: 'Israel grieves for him'

The body of former Israeli Prime Minister and President Shimon Peres was laid to rest Friday in a funeral attended by world leaders flanked by heavy security. A long list of dignitaries and foreign leaders arrived in Jerusalem to pay their respects, including President Barack Obama, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and the leaders of France and Germany. Prince Charles and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson also attended, along with former UK Prime Ministers Tony Blair and David Cameron. According to [CNN](#), a video tweeted by a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu showed him shaking hands with President Abbas. The moment appears to have

taken place before the two leaders entered the funeral. In the final eulogy of the service, Obama made reference to the presence of President Abbas, stating it was a "gesture and a reminder of the unfinished business of peace." He also said that Peres recognized the need for a Palestinian state alongside Israel. Obama signed off his speech in Hebrew saying: *Todah rabah, chaver yakar*—"thank you, dear friend." President Obama sat next to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the ceremony. In his eulogy, Prime Minister Netanyahu said that Peres had "lived a life of purpose... he was a great man of Israel, he was a great man of the world." He added: "Israel grieves for him, the world grieves for him, but we find hope in his legacy, as does the world."

Portman, Cardin Lead Senate Bill to Reject United Nations' Attempt to Economically Isolate Israel

U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) announced the introduction of the *Protecting Israel Against Economic Discrimination Act*, legislation to further combat the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement. According to the [press release](#), over the past several years, a growing number of countries have sought to isolate and delegitimize Israel through BDS actions, including through international governmental organizations like the United Nations. Earlier this year, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) targeted Israel with a commercial boycott, calling for the creation of a database—akin to a “blacklist”—of companies that operate in or have business relationships beyond Israel’s 1949 Armistice Lines, including East Jerusalem. The UNHRC’s effort is the latest in a long history of singling out Israel for special condemnation, and threatens significant damage to both Israel and the United States, adding to the need for U.S. legislation. The U.S. State Department expressed opposition following the UNHRC resolution’s adoption in March. The *Protecting Israel Against Economic Discrimination Act* would formally state Congress’s opposition to the UNHRC resolution. To prevent the implementation of similar “blacklists” in the future, it would amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to prohibit boycotts or requests for boycotts imposed by international governmental organizations against Israel. The legislation would also ensure that the Export Import Bank considers BDS issues when evaluating potential credit applications.

The full bill is available [here](#).

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli diplomats and doctors join hands for Vietnam

Within just one week, more than 8,300 needy Vietnamese citizens received humanitarian and medical aid in remote Kon Tum province from the Joining Hands Mission sponsored by the Embassy of Israel in Hanoi and the Family Medical Practice (FMP), a chain of clinics in Vietnam founded and headed by an Israeli physician, Dr. Rafi Kot. “It’s a drop in the bucket of what these people need, but it’s something,” says Israeli Ambassador to Vietnam Meirav Eilon Shahr, speaking to [Israel21c](#) from Hanoi after the September 11-17 mission. The embassy and FMP brought clothing, food, medications and medical attention to 3,500 families in Kon Tum, a 10,000-square-kilometer province consisting of nine districts and small “communes” in the central highlands of Vietnam. In this remote mountainous jungle area, where half a million people from 21 different minority groups live under impoverished conditions, life expectancy is among the lowest in the region.