



Rabbinic Recap

The week of October 19, 2017

IRAN

AIPAC Editorial: A Bipartisan, Comprehensive Strategy on Iran

Any comprehensive, bipartisan strategy on Iran must lay out a path that can successfully address two particularly key dangers: (1) shortcomings in the JCPOA that will enable Iran—while complying with the deal—to come within days of breakout to a nuclear weapon, and (2) Iran’s regional aggression that endangers America and our allies.

Nuclear. The most problematic shortcomings in the nuclear deal are its sunset provisions, which lift most nuclear restrictions by 2026. Also of deep concern is the fact that international inspectors must operate under several constraints. For example, Iran has vowed that it will never permit inspections of its military facilities. These shortcomings must be addressed if the world is to prevent Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Non-Nuclear. Iran has only stepped up its malign activities since the agreement was reached. . Since July 2015, Tehran has test-fired at least 15 missiles in defiance of U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2231. Iran’s missiles can already reach Israel, other U.S. allies and U.S. forces in the region, and it is developing ICBMs capable of hitting America.

Iran is anchoring support for Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, and has increased its training and funding for terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. Iran already holds considerable sway in four Arab capitals. The world must thwart Iran’s efforts to dominate the Middle East and enable Hezbollah and Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) forces to camp on Israel’s border.

AIPAC’s Approach

In short, the United States must address both Iran’s dangerous aggression and the underlying flaws of the JCPOA. Iran must understand that the United States will never permit it to acquire nuclear weapons.

As outlined above, American must: (1) Overhaul the JCPOA’s sunset clauses; (2) Strengthen inspection of Iran’s nuclear program; (3) Counter Iran’s regional aggression and prevent a permanent military presence in Syria; and (4) Toughen sanction against those supporting Iran’s missile program, the IRGC, and Hezbollah. In addition, America must ensure that Israel has the means to defend itself against the growing Iranian threat.

Accomplishing these goals will not be easy. It will require strong American leadership and bipartisan cooperation. This is a critical moment. [AIPAC urges](#) the administration and Congress to work together to achieve these critical objectives.

HEZBOLLAH

U.S. offers \$12 million in rewards for capture of Hezbollah leaders

The [Jewish Telegraphic Agency \(JTA\) reported](#) that the State Department offered \$12 million in rewards for the capture of two leaders of the Hezbollah terrorist group. The United States is offering up to \$7 million and up to \$5 million “for information that leads to the location, arrest or conviction in any country” of Talal Hamiyah and Fu’ad Shukr, respectively, State Department Counterterrorism Coordinator Nathan Sales said Tuesday at a news briefing. It is the first time in a decade that the U.S. is offering rewards for Hezbollah operatives under its counterterrorism rewards program. Hamiyah leads Hezbollah’s international terrorist unit, responsible for planning attacks outside of Lebanon. Most attacks target Americans and Israelis, Sales said. Shukr is a senior military commander for Hezbollah in Lebanon who helped launch and plan the 1983 Beirut barracks bombings that killed 241 U.S. and 58 French peacekeepers and six civilians. “Until Hezbollah stops using terrorism and violence to achieve its goals, the United States and our allies will aggressively target its terrorism infrastructure and financial support networks,” Sales said.

PALESTINIANS

Hamas chief: We won’t discuss recognizing Israel, only wiping it out

According to a [Times of Israel report](#), the Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip on Thursday dismissed US and Israeli demands that it lay down its arms and recognize the Jewish state, saying the terror organization was to debate “when to wipe out Israel.” The remarks came during a closed roundtable discussion between Yahya Sinwar and Gazan youth about the ongoing reconciliation negotiations with rival Palestinian faction Fatah, to which some media outlets were invited to attend. “Over is the time Hamas spent discussing recognizing Israel. Now Hamas will discuss when we will wipe out Israel,” Sinwar said, according to the Hamas-linked news agency Shehab.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli Driver, Alon Day, Wins European NASCAR Championship

Alon Day was having a very good day, the online news magazine [Israel21c noted](#). The 26-year-old race car driver entered Israeli motorsport history last weekend when he clinched the NASCAR Whelen Euro Series championship in Zolder, Belgium. Day is in the midst of a sensational racing season. He won four races in total this year. The Whelen race on Saturday was his third straight victory in the playoffs and the 10th in his career with CAAL Racing, the Italian racing team Day has been with for three years. He came in second place overall with the team in 2015 and came in third last year. This year, Day finished in the top 5 eleven times and in the top 10 ten times. “Finishing the season like this is the sweetest thing I can ask,” Day said. “I am so happy for the CAAL Racing team, they did a great job all season long. We finally made it. I have no words right now.” Day has racked up a series of other racing accomplishments in his brief career.