



# Rabbinic Recap

The week of October 27, 2017

## IRAN & HAMAS

### **With visit to Iran, Hamas thumbs nose at Palestinian reconciliation**

According to a [Times of Israel report](#), at the outset of the current round of Palestinian reconciliation talks, Hamas appeared committed to working with Egypt to reach a deal to end 10 years of a bitter rivalry with Fatah, which controls the Palestinian Authority. But then a senior delegation of officials from the terror organization took an unexpected visit to Iran, casting a shadow over the unity efforts. When talks began, it seemed Hamas had taken a good look in the mirror — seen its international stance waning, and the territory it controls, the Gaza Strip, suffering from vast unemployment as well as crippling electric and water crises — and understood it had to make drastic changes to stay in power. And there was the matter of Egypt. Cairo holds strong sway over Hamas, as it can partially remove the 11-year crippling blockade of the enclave, which would end years of limited travel and boost the Gazan economy. Hamas's senior leadership is now also located in Gaza, so without Egypt's consent, they can't leave the Strip. So whereas previous reconciliation attempts between Hamas and Fatah had failed, both Palestinian factions argued that perhaps with Egyptian help, real progress could be made. This image was punctured over the weekend, when a senior Hamas delegation, which included group's deputy political leader Salah al-Arouri, took an unexpected visit to Iran and publicized it on its official media. Earlier this month, it was Arouri who personally signed a deal in Cairo to allow for the Palestinian Authority government to retake control of the Gaza Strip, under the watchful gaze of Egyptian Intelligence Minister Khalid Fawzi. Two weeks later, Arouri was in Tehran, promising to "eliminate Israel," and shaking hands with senior Iranian officials, who promised Iran's support — including military aid — would continue to get stronger "day by day." On Monday, Hossein Sheikholeslam, an adviser to Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, told the Hamas-linked al-Shehab news site, "We will give Hamas anything it demands from Iran."

## HEZBOLLAH

### **Israel Unmasks New Hezbollah Leader on Syria Border**

As the war of words with Hezbollah continues, the security establishment is raising the lid over the identity of the Shi'ite terrorist group's new top commander on the Golan Heights, the [Jerusalem Post reported](#). The IDF Military Intelligence Directorate has identified Hezbollah's main man on the eastern, Syrian-held side of the Golan as Munir Ali Naim Shaiti, also known as Haj Hasham. The 50-year-old father of four from south Lebanon spends most of his time in Syria where he is in charge of security and directing all Hezbollah operations in the war-torn country. Shaiti is believed to have been the deputy chief of Hezbollah's Bader Brigades, which handles terrorist operations north of the Litani River in Lebanon, before he became the head of

Hezbollah's operations in Syria in June 2016, replacing Samir Kuntar who was killed the previous year. While his main role in Syria is to assist the Assad regime's army in its fight against the rebel groups in the area, he gets his orders from the influential and powerful Maj.-Gen. Qasem Soleimani, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps's Quds Force, according to intelligence sources. Shaiti is also in charge of preparing Hezbollah's military infrastructure for a war with Israel, which the Jewish state believes will not be confined to one front but will see conflict with both Syria and Lebanon. While the primary threat posed by Hezbollah remains its missile arsenal, which has been rebuilt with the help of Iran since the 2006 Second Lebanon War, the IDF believes that the next war will see the group trying to bring the fight to the home front by infiltrating Israeli communities to inflict significant civilian and military casualties. The identity of Hezbollah's main man on the Golan has not been revealed until now, and Arabic-language press seem to have been taken off guard, replicating what has been printed in Hebrew press.

## PALESTINIANS

### **Sinwar boasts better than ever capabilities**

Gaza's Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar claimed on Tuesday that Hamas' military wing was in good shape, adding that, as of today, they are capable of firing at Tel Aviv in 51 minutes as much as they had fired at it in all 51 days of Operation Protective Edge, [Ynet News noted](#). Sinwar then reiterated that Hamas would not give up their arms in the framework of the reconciliation agreement between them and Fatah. "The Palestinian people are still at the stage of national liberation, we cannot give up our weapons at this stage," he said. "The weapon of resistance is not the property of Hamas or its military wing, but of every Palestinian resident in Gaza."

## ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

### **Printer, can you please make me a low-fat burger with fries?**

If two Hebrew University of Jerusalem researchers have their way, we could be printing our hamburgers and French fries from a 3D machine within five years. Researchers at the Yissum Research Development Company, the technology transfer company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said they have created a 3D printing technology that will be able to produce nutritious meals, for use in homes, restaurants and institutions, using nano-cellulose, a natural and edible calorie-free fiber, the [Times of Israel reported](#). They have so far used their technology to "print" dough, but not a full meal. The technology was to be presented for the first time on Wednesday at the 3D Printing and Beyond: Current and Future Trends conference at Hebrew University, and the researchers hope it will be the basis for a product on the market within the next two to five years. The technology was developed by professors Oded Shoseyov and Ido Braslavsky, both of the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment at Hebrew University. In a phone interview, they explained what 3D printing of food involves. Imagine an espresso machine for whole meals. The technology relies on two basic elements: cartridges containing the meal's ingredients — in powder or solution form — and hardware that applies heat and shapes the matter. The cartridges contain crystalline nano-cellulose as a core element, along with proteins, carbohydrates, fat, antioxidants and vitamins. Following individualized specs provided by the consumer on a 3D printer, the technology applies localized heat and shapes the raw material through infrared lasers. Created through extraction from cellulose, the most abundant biomaterial on earth, nano-cellulose has a variety of technological and biomedical applications and is an expanding global market.