



Rabbinic Recap

The week of December 22, 2017

U.N. Security Council

U.S. Vetoes Anti-Israel U.N. Security Council Resolution

On Dec. 18, the United States vetoed an anti-Israel United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) objecting to the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, as [reported in the AIPAC News Hub](#). Following the vote, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley explained that “for the simple act of deciding where to put our embassy, the United States was forced to defend its sovereignty. The record will reflect that we did so proudly. Today, for acknowledging a basic truth about the capital city of Israel, we are accused of harming peace. The record will reflect that we reject that outrageous claim. For these reasons, and with the best interests of both the Israeli and the Palestinian people firmly in mind, the United States votes ‘no’ on this resolution.” Russia, Ukraine, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Sweden, Senegal, Ethiopia, Egypt, Bolivia, Uruguay and Kazakhstan all voted in favor of the resolution. The resolution comes almost one year after the United States abstained, rather than veto, from a vote on anti-Israel UNSCR 2334. The move broke long-standing U.S. policy and defied bipartisan majorities in both the Senate and House of Representatives, which had urged the administration to veto any such one-sided, anti-Israel resolutions. “Given the chance to vote again on Resolution 2334, I can say with complete confidence that the United States would vote ‘no,’” Haley proclaimed during a UNSC Middle East briefing. “We would exercise our veto power. The reasons why are very relevant to the cause of peace in the Middle East.”

IRAN

France, U.S. 'determined' to up pressure on Iran over ballistic weapons

France and the United States are determined to “vigorously” raise pressure on Iran over its ballistic missile program, including possibly through sanctions, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said during a visit to Washington, according to [a Reuters report](#). Le Drian was in the American capital on Monday to meet U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, White House national security adviser H.R. McMaster and U.S. President Donald Trump’s special adviser Jared Kushner. Tensions between Iran and France have risen in recent months with both sides repeatedly trading barbs in public, including Le Drian accusing Iran of “hegemonic temptations” in the region. Iran on Sunday criticized President Emmanuel Macron over his tough stance toward Tehran and said Paris would soon lose its international credibility if it “blindly follows” U.S. President Donald Trump. “They didn’t like the word, but I stand by it,” Le Drian told reporters. “Iran’s hegemonic temptations in the region is a matter of urgency because it’s within the framework of getting peace in Iraq and Syria that we will stop this process.”

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Light and water flow to rural Africa due to Israeli tech

The scene was shocking: Villagers in Akuyam, Uganda, hadn't eaten in three days when Sivan Ya'ari and her Innovation: Africa (iA) staff met them in February 2017 on their way to check on the organization's solar water-pumping and drip-irrigation projects in six nearby villages, [Israel21c reported](#). "The state of poverty we saw there was nothing like we'd ever seen before. During the week we were there, 37 people died. The drought and hunger is truly incomprehensible," says Genna Brand, iA's director of communications. Ya'ari, the Israeli founder of the nine-year-old NGO, immediately added Akuyam to iA's list of projects in the Karamoja region. She also mounted iA's first-ever emergency feeding appeal – an exception to the organization's mission of using Israeli technology to raise the long-term standard of living in African villages. "We went back to Israel and raised \$110,000 for a food relief mission and sent maize, beans and other food through an African supplier. It was very challenging logistically but we couldn't turn a blind eye to what we saw," Brand tells ISRAEL21c. iA's country manager in Uganda reported that both the emergency aid and the water-pumping project have led to healthier and happier Akuyam residents. iA has so far installed solar technology in schools, orphanages and medical clinics in some 150 villages in Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, South Africa, Ethiopia, DRC, Senegal and Cameroon, bringing clean water and electricity to more than 1 million people. Ya'ari believes that using Israeli knowhow to harness energy from the abundant sun in Africa is the key to freeing rural villagers from poverty and food insecurity. Electricity allows them to pump water for drip irrigation, refrigerate lifesaving medications and vaccines, and light up classrooms. Now iA is positioned to do even more, since Israel became an official partner in the USAID Power Africa initiative for sub-Saharan Africa, where two out of three residents lack access to electricity.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Seven Israeli Companies Made Prestigious List of Top 100 Artificial Intelligence Firms

[Israel21c also noted](#) that seven Israeli companies appear on this year's AI 100 list compiled by San Francisco-based CB Insights, joining 92 other private artificial intelligence technology companies from nine countries, chosen from more than 1,000 candidates. Israeli companies are Applitools (app validation), Cybereason (computer cybersecurity), Dynamic Yield (marketing technology) OrCam (wearable artificial vision device), Prospera (computer vision for plant health), Twiggle (ecommerce search engine), and Workey (automated career networking). The full list was revealed by CB Insights CEO Anand Sanwal during the A-ha! conference in San Francisco, December 12-13. Among the speakers was Noam Bardin, cofounder of Waze, the Israeli navigation app used across the globe. Senior innovation executives and journalists from around the world were in attendance.