



Rabbinic Recap

The week of February 24, 2017

U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley Vows to Fight Anti-Israel Bias

On Feb. 16, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (U.N.) Nikki Haley criticized the international organization's anti-Israel bias and pledged to defend Israel against one-sided measures at the Security Council and other U.N. bodies. Following the U.N. Security Council's monthly consultations on Middle East issues, Haley stated: "The Security Council is supposed to discuss how to maintain international peace and security. But at our meeting on the Middle East, the discussion was not about Hezbollah's illegal build-up of rockets in Lebanon. It was not about the money and weapons Iran provides to terrorists. It was not about how we defeat ISIS. It was not about how we hold Bashar al-Assad accountable for the slaughter of hundreds and thousands of civilians. No, instead, the meeting focused on criticizing Israel, the one true democracy in the Middle East." Haley also underscored that direct talks, rather than imposed solutions, are the only way to achieve peace between Israelis and the Palestinians. "I'm here to say the United States will not turn a blind eye to this anymore," she said. "I am here to underscore the ironclad support of the United States for Israel. I'm here to emphasize the United States is determined to stand up to the U.N.'s anti-Israel bias. We will never repeat the terrible mistake of Resolution 2334 and allow one-sided Security Council resolutions to condemn Israel. Instead, we will push for action on the real threats we face in the Middle East." "We stand for peace," she continued. "We support a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that is negotiated directly between the two parties, as President Trump reiterated in his meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu yesterday. The outrageously biased resolutions from the Security Council and the General Assembly only make peace harder to attain by discouraging one of the parties from going to the negotiating table." "The United States will not hesitate to speak out against these biases in defense of our friend and ally, Israel," she concluded.

IRAN

Iran's supreme leader backs 'Holy Intifada' to destroy 'Cancer' Israel

Calling Israel a "cancerous tumor," Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday expressed support for a "holy intifada" to eradicate the Jewish state, arguing that the international community is headed toward confrontation with the "Zionist regime." According to [The Times of Israel](#), in the opening address of the regime's sixth international conference in support of the Palestinian violent uprising against Israel, Ayatollah Khamenei hailed the "resistance" against the "cruel occupation," which he described as the worst case of oppression against one particular people recorded in history. He also accused Israel's founders of being responsible for the current upheaval in the wider Middle East. A wave of terrorism some called a third intifada, which began last year and manifested itself mainly in stabbings and vehicular attacks against Israelis troops and civilians, is "moving forward in a bright and hopeful manner," the ayatollah declared. "And by Allah's permission, we will see that this intifada will begin a very important chapter in the history of fighting and that it will inflict another defeat on that usurping regime." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday evening, during a

visit in Singapore, highlighted his recent trips to two Muslim countries—Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan—citing their religious tolerance and friendship to Israel as a model to be emulated by other states.

HEZBOLLAH

Hezbollah said to have obtained ‘game-changing’ anti-ship missiles

The Lebanese terror group Hezbollah has obtained advanced Russian-made anti-ship missiles, potentially threatening Israeli gas fields in the Mediterranean Sea and the Israeli Navy’s ability to operate in the area, according to a report published Sunday. Hezbollah’s possession of the Yakhont missiles was revealed by unnamed Western intelligence officials over the weekend at the Munich Security Conference, where world leaders and defense ministers are meeting to discuss major security issues, according to a report in the Hebrew daily Yedioth Ahronoth. According to [The Times of Israel](#), the report did not reveal in what forum the revelations were made. If true, Hezbollah’s possession of the missiles would represent a serious threat to Israeli interests in the Mediterranean; endangering both Israeli commercial vessels sailing in shipping lanes off the Lebanese coast and the ability of Israeli Navy ships to operate in and around Lebanese waters. Most significantly, the missiles would give Hezbollah the ability to strike Israel’s gas production platforms in the Mediterranean, a threat Israel reportedly intends to counter by installing maritime versions of the Iron Dome missile defense system on naval vessels as part of the Israeli Navy’s efforts to secure the country’s natural gas fields. Israeli security officials have previously said that advanced missiles such as the Yakhont falling into the hands of Hezbollah would constitute the crossing of a red line, and Israel is said to have targeted at least two shipments of Yakhont systems in 2013 from Syria to Hezbollah. Syria, one of Russia’s closest allies, has a large arsenal of the advanced anti-ship missiles.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Forbes releases second annual Israel 30 under 30 list

Forbes Israel has released its second annual Forbes Israel 30 Under 30 List, comprised of top young innovators who are bringing disruption and game-changing transformation to business, technology, media, government, management and finance, social entrepreneurship, sports and culture across Israel and beyond. According to [Israel21c](#), the list actually includes 60 names—30 from the entrepreneurship and technology arena and 30 from a variety of different categories. According to a statement from Forbes, the list was compiled by Forbes Israel’s team after lengthy research that included consultations with local industry leaders and institutions including Tel Aviv University, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, IDC Herzliya, investment banks, VC funds and tech accelerators. Among the honorees on the 2017 Forbes Israel 30 Under 30 list are: Hasan Abo-Shally, founder of Hasoub, an NGO seeking economic and social change through technology, innovation and entrepreneurship, Adam Friedler, cofounder of low-cost drugstore chain GoodPharm, and Yarden Gerbi and Ori Sasson, bronze-medal winners in judo at the 2016 Summer Olympics. Forbes magazine Editor Randall Lane, creator of the Forbes Under 30 franchise, said: “Each of these honorees has accomplished tremendous success in an incredibly short amount of time and we expect that, similar to the experiences of our Forbes 30 Under 30 alumni from all over the world, inclusion on this list will present each of them with new partnerships and opportunities that they otherwise would not have had access to, helping accelerate their already impressive careers.” The honorees will be invited to participate in the Forbes Under 30 Summit EMEA, to be held in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, April 2-6, 2017. The summit is expected to bring together more than 600 young entrepreneurial game-changers from the United States, Europe, Africa and Israel.