



Rabbinic Recap

The week of February 3, 2017

U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

House Passes Bipartisan Bill to Enhance U.S.-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation

On Jan. 31, the House of Representatives passed by voice vote the United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2017 (H.R.612). Introduced by Reps. Jim Langevin (D-RI) and John Ratcliffe (R-TX), the bipartisan legislation would establish a cybersecurity grant program within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for joint research and development between Israeli and American entities. The program would also support the demonstration and commercialization of cybersecurity technology between the two nations. The bipartisan bill is a result of a 2016 trip to Israel by the two lawmakers, during which they met with Israeli cybersecurity leaders in both the public and private spheres. Ratcliffe and Langevin spearheaded a similar effort in the 114th Congress. The United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016 (H. R. 5877)—signed into law by former President Barack Obama in December 2016—permanently authorizes an already-existing three-year joint program between DHS and Israel's Ministry of Public Security, and expands it to include cybersecurity cooperation. "Israel is America's strongest and most strategic ally in the Middle East, and I'm glad the House just passed our bill to further fortify this strategic partnership through enhanced joint cybersecurity efforts," said Ratcliffe, who chairs the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection. "Cybersecurity is at the center of our national and economic security, as well as the personal security of consumers. The United States and Israel have an opportunity here to work together to develop innovative solutions to the threats we face in cyberspace," said Langevin, the co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus. The legislation now awaits action in the Senate.

IRAN

Members of Congress Condemn Recent Iranian Missile Test

On Jan. 29, Iran illicitly test-launched a medium-range ballistic missile with a range of 600 miles, in violation of United Nations (U.N.) Security Council Resolution 2231. The resolution calls upon Iran to not "undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology" for an eight-year period. Democratic and Republican members of Congress in both the House and Senate have spoken out against this latest Iranian provocation. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-TN) stated, "No longer will Iran be given a pass for its repeated ballistic missile violations, continued support of terrorism, human rights abuses and other hostile activities that threaten international peace and security." Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Ben Cardin (D-MD) declared that "we should be forceful in countering that type of violation of international norms." He continued, "Obviously they [the Iranians] have violated the ballistic missile prohibitions. The United States has sanctions. The international community has sanctions. It's violating U.N. resolutions." "While this missile test appears to have failed," stated House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), "there can be no doubt that Iran will continue to invest in ballistic missile development as long as it can do so unimpeded. That is why I continue to believe that Congress must act and pass ballistic missile

sanctions, which would target Iranian entities involved in these launches and third party entities providing support.” House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) stated: “Iran must face consequences for reportedly conducting another ballistic missile test in violation of international sanctions.” The Iranian ballistic missile test is the first of its kind since President Trump took office.

Pentagon believes attack on Saudi frigate meant for U.S. warship

The Iranian-backed suicide attack targeting a Saudi frigate off the coast of Yemen on Monday may have been meant for an American warship, two defense officials told [Fox News](#). The incident in question occurred in the southern Red Sea and was carried out by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. Two Saudi sailors were killed and three were wounded. At first the ship was thought to have been struck by a missile. The attack, near the Bab al Mandab Strait connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, occurred in the same area where U.S. Navy warships came under missile attack in October. This latest incident came a day after President Trump spoke by phone with the Saudi King to discuss setting up safe zones for refugees in Syria and Yemen. Senior U.S. defense officials who spoke with Fox News say they're concerned by this latest incident, but are confident American warships can defend themselves. The United States has supported a Saudi-led air campaign against the Houthi rebels in Yemen since 2015.

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Knife-carrying Palestinians arrested outside settlement

Two Palestinians were arrested on Sunday after trying to enter the West Bank settlement of Karnei Shomron armed with knives, police said. According to [The Times of Israel](#), a security coordinator for the settlement, west of Nablus, shot in the air as the two approached with their knives drawn, according to police. Both were then subdued and disarmed, according to reports. The two, a young man and young woman, were handed over to security forces for questioning. No injuries were reported in the incident. West Bank settlements have been the site of several deadly stabbing and shooting attacks by Palestinians during the recent wave of terrorism and violence. While the violence has dramatically waned in recent months, sporadic attacks have persisted.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israel plans to adopt orphaned victims of Syrian war

Israeli Interior Minister Aryeh Deri has approved a plan to absorb approximately 100 orphaned Syrian children who have survived the fighting in their war-torn country and are in desperate need of warm homes to provide care and rehabilitation. According to [Israel21c](#), despite the fact that Israel and Syria have no diplomatic relations, Deri authorized the Interior Ministry's Population and Immigration Authority last week to begin contacting relevant agencies to facilitate the absorption of children who have survived the fighting. They are to be integrated into Arab-Israeli families. “The situation in Syria is very harsh. Civilians have been slaughtered for years only a few dozen kilometers from Israel,” said Deri. “I have decided to order professionals in my ministry to work toward absorbing children on humanitarian grounds in order to render assistance and rescue 100 of them from the horrors and afford them good and normal lives in Israel.” An estimated half a million Syrians have been killed and several million displaced in the Syrian civil war raging just across the border from the Jewish state for nearly six years. The Israeli government, military and various humanitarian groups have coordinated efforts to aid Syrian victims in many ways.