



Rabbinic Recap

The week of January 6, 2017

U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

House Adopts Resolution Opposing Anti-Israel UNSC Action

AIPAC applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for overwhelmingly adopting [House Resolution \(H. Res.\) 11](#) today. This resolution vigorously objects to U.N. Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2334—adopted on Dec. 23—because it both undermines the prospects of productive, bilateral Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and one-sidedly criticizes Israel. This bipartisan measure was introduced by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY). In adopting H. Res. 11, the House characterized America's abstention from UNSC Res. 2334 as undermining long-standing U.S. policy of vetoing one-sided measures at the U.N. that seek to impose solutions on Israel and the Palestinians. Further, the House resolution urges the U.S. government to veto any similar UNSC resolutions. It also determines that any additional international efforts to impose parameters or dictate the terms of an agreement—whether from the U.N. in New York or at the upcoming Paris conference scheduled for Jan. 15—would set back the cause of peace and harm Israel's security. H. Res. 11 concludes with a call to repeal or fundamentally alter UNSC Res. 2334 to change its anti-Israel character, and reiterates congressional support for direct, bilateral Israel-Palestinian negotiations resulting in a two-state solution that resolves all final status issues. The Senate introduced a similar [bipartisan resolution](#) on Jan. 4.

Bipartisan group of senators call for repealing U.N. resolution on Israel

A bipartisan coalition of U.S. senators introduced a measure Wednesday that seeks to repeal the United Nations Security Council resolution passed last month that labels Israeli settlements illegal and calls for a complete halt to all construction in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. According to [The Times of Israel](#), the Obama administration refused to veto the resolution, allowing it to pass in a move that infuriated Israel. Co-sponsored by New York Sen. Chuck Schumer (D), Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin (D) and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio (R), the Senate resolution condemns the UN motion as “anti-Israel,” calling for it to be “repealed or fundamentally altered” to no longer be “one-sided.” The proposal also calls for the U.S. to reject efforts made by outside parties to impose a solution on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and demands the U.S. ensure no action is taken at the upcoming Paris peace conference, set for January 15. Expressing support for a two-state outcome, the text declared that any final-status resolution to the conflict needs to be settled through direct negotiations between the parties. The United Nations was not an appropriate venue for making progress on the issue, said Senate Minority Leader Schumer, one of the most prominent Jewish members of Congress and a fierce Israel supporter. Efforts to delegitimize Israel have been underway a long time at the United Nations and have now sadly been aided by the outgoing administration,” Senator Rubio said. The resolution, Senator Cardin said, is “a one-sided text that makes direct negotiations for a two-state solution more challenging.” “Going forward,” he added, “Congress will take action

against efforts at the UN, or beyond, that use Resolution 2334 to target Israel." Nineteen other senators have already signed on to support this resolution.

ISRAEL AND THE WORLD

Rivlin pays condolence call to Istanbul attack victim's family

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin on Thursday paid a condolence visit to the family of an Israeli teenager who was killed in a terror attack at an Istanbul club during New Year's festivities. Lian Zaher Nasser, 19, from the Arab city of Tira, was killed when a gunman went on a shooting rampage at the exclusive Reina nightclub in the Turkish capital in the early hours of January 1. The attack, which killed 39 people, most of them foreigners, was claimed by the Islamic State terror group. "We are here to share in your grief and to tell the world that terrorism is terrorism, and we must fight it and not surrender to it," the president told Nasser's parents, Lucy and Zaher. "We heard what an impressive and wonderful girl she was, and we are sorry for your pain," Rivlin said. The Nassers told the president that they had warned Lian against traveling to Turkey because of the surge in terror attacks throughout the country in recent months. "It was her first and last trip," her mother said through tears. According to [The Times of Israel](#), Tira Mayor Mamoun Abd El Hai, who came to the Nassers' family home Thursday afternoon to thank Rivlin for his visit, said the community was overwhelmed by support from neighbors. "We've been warmly embraced by all citizens of this country, Jews and Arabs alike," he told the president. "Yesterday, some Jews that we don't know came by to offer their condolences." "This unity against terrorism, which does not distinguish between religions, blood or race, is important," El Hai added.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israel harnessing sunshine with world's tallest solar tower

In sunny Israel, solar energy supplies only a small percentage of the nation's power needs, leaving it far behind countries with cloudier and colder climates. According to [ABC News](#), now the fledgling solar industry is trying to make a leap forward with a large-scale project boasting the world's tallest solar tower, as a symbol of Israel's renewable energy ambitions. The Ashalim project, deep in the Negev desert, is made up of three plots, with a fourth planned for the future, each with a different solar technology. Together, the fields will be Israel's largest renewable energy project when completed by 2018. They are set to generate some 310 megawatts of power, about 1.6 percent of the country's energy needs - enough for about 130,000 households, or roughly 5 percent of Israel's population, according to Israel's Electricity Authority. "It's the most significant single building block in Israel's commitment to CO2 reduction and renewable energy," said Eran Gartner, chief executive of Megalim Solar Power Ltd., which is building one part of the project. The centerpiece is a solar tower that will be the world's tallest at 250 meters (820 feet). Israel has developed some of the world's most advanced solar energy equipment and enjoys a nearly endless supply of sunshine.