



Rabbinic Recap

The week of July 21, 2017

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

House Committee Approves Pro-Israel Measures

On July 19, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee included key provisions in the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2018 that support America's ally Israel. The bill provides \$3.1 billion in security assistance to Israel—fully meeting America's commitment under the current Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries. It also extends America's authority to stockpile weapons in Israel until the end of 2019 and provides Israel with \$7.5 million for assisting with refugee resettlement. The bill and its accompanying report also include additional important provisions that: address rampant anti-Israel bias at the United Nations; maintain key funding restrictions on the Palestinian Authority (PA); restrict Palestinians' diplomatic representation in the United States and cut off aid if the Palestinians initiate or actively support an International Criminal Court investigation against Israel; maintain stringent prior-year restrictions on U.N. Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) funds, including a reporting requirement to provide a justification of why it is in the national interest of the United States to provide funds to this organization, along with an analysis of the current definition of Palestinian refugees used by the agency; provide funding for important people-to-people reconciliation programs that promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians; provide funding for regional allies Egypt and Jordan; and continue provisions that mandate reporting on sanctions applied against Iran for its ballistic missile activities.

IRAN

United States Puts New Sanctions on Iran over Ballistic Missile Program

The United States slapped new economic sanctions on Iran on Tuesday over its ballistic missile program and said Tehran's "malign activities" in the Middle East undercut any "positive contributions" coming from the 2015 Iran nuclear accord. The measures signaled that the administration of President Donald Trump was seeking to put more pressure on Iran while keeping in place an agreement between Tehran and six world powers to curb its nuclear program in return for lifting international oil and financial sanctions. According to [Reuters](#), the U.S. government said it was targeting 18 entities and people for supporting what is said was "illicit Iranian actors or transnational criminal activity." Those sanctioned had backed Iran's military or Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps by developing drones and military equipment, producing and maintaining boats, and procuring electronic components, it said. Others had "orchestrated the theft of U.S. and Western software programs" sold to Iran's government, the Treasury Department said. "The United States remains deeply concerned about Iran's malign activities across the Middle East which undermine regional stability, security, and prosperity," the State Department said in a statement. It said the activities "undercut

whatever 'positive contributions' to regional and international peace and security were intended to emerge" from the nuclear agreement. On Monday, the Trump administration said Iran was complying with the nuclear agreement but it was also in default of the spirit of the accord and Washington would look for ways to strengthen it.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Dozens Hurt in Riots over New Temple Mount Security Checks

Protesters rioted in East Jerusalem neighborhoods overnight Tuesday against new security measures at the Temple Mount, throwing stones and petrol bombs at police and shooting fireworks at Israeli forces. At least 50 Palestinians and one officer were reported hurt. The disturbances come after Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party on Monday called for a "Day of Rage" on Wednesday in protest against the new measures, including metal detectors installed following a terror attack in which three Arab-Israelis shot dead two Israeli police officers at the Temple Mount on Friday. Speaking to Israel Radio, Jerusalem police commissioner Yoram Halevi said the city was tense but quiet on Tuesday morning after what he described as a difficult night of protests, with youths throwing stones at officers and setting dumpsters on fire, reports [The Times of Israel](#). Halevi said that many of those who took part in the rioting were encouraged to do so by the provocative statements that came from the Palestinian leadership. He said despite the protests Israel would not back down on the new security measures. "We are determined to create [a situation of] security after the killing of two police officers," Halevi said. "While the families are still sitting and mourning, we can't let this just pass."

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

First Half of 2017 Sees Record Increase in Tourism, Ministry Reports

Israel has experienced its best half-year ever in the history of the country's tourism industry, breaking incoming traveler records month after month thus far in 2017. During the first six months of the year, 1.74 million tourists entered the country, up 26 percent from the first half of last year and generating NIS 9.4 billion in revenues, the Tourism Ministry reported on Monday. In June, 303,000 tourists arrived—a 28 percent rise in comparison to June 2016, according to the ministry. "The June tourism statistics bring us to record levels for incoming tourism in the first six months of the year," Tourism Minister Yariv Levin said, according to [The Jerusalem Post](#). "Our policy continues to prove itself and to bear fruit, and we can see that the right marketing strategy can bring Israel to new heights. We are implementing marketing activities and innovative processes to brand Israel and to bring new airlines and new routes into Israel and all this activity proves itself, month after month." Tourist arrivals from China took a particular leap from the first half of 2016 to the first half of 2017, climbing some 76 percent, the Tourism Ministry said, citing data from the Central Bureau Statistics. Looking at June in particular, the data showed that 275,000 entries occurred via air, while 28,600 people came by land—with about 24,000 tourists arriving from Jordan and about 4,500 from Egypt. A total of about 19,300 travelers entered as day visitors, as opposed to 8,700 in June 2016, the data said. As the second half of the year moves forward, Levin expressed his confidence that Israel would continue to attract rising numbers of tourists and positively impact the country at large.