



Rabbinic Recap

The week of June 2, 2017

UNITED NATIONS

Israel's Danny Danon Elected Vice president of Next U.N. General Assembly

United Nations (U.N.) Ambassador Danny Danon was elected vice president of the 72nd Session of the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) on Wednesday. "It is an honor to represent the State of Israel in this leadership position at the United Nations," Danon said following the vote. "We have proven once again that Israel is ready and able to serve in significant positions in the U.N. and the attempts to block this progress will not succeed." Vice presidents of the UNGA are elected according to a pattern that ensures equitable geographical representation, according to [The Jerusalem Post](#). Danon was chosen as a representative of the Western European and Others regional group. He will begin his term with the opening of the General Assembly session in September. For one year, Danon will chair UNGA meetings, take part in setting the UNGA's agenda and oversee rules and decorum during its sessions. Danon will serve alongside the incoming-president, Slovakia's Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák, who was also elected Wednesday. The election is seen as a major victory by the Israeli mission to the U.N. In May 2016, Danon became the first Israeli to chair a permanent committee of U.N. when he was elected by 109 member-states to chair the Sixth (Legal) Committee. He will remain in that position until September.

U.N. Chief: Denial of Israel's Right to Exist is Anti-Semitism

United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told officials from the Simon Wiesenthal Center that "denial of Israel's right to exist is anti-Semitism," the organization said. Guterres told senior members of the NGO at his offices at UN headquarters in New York that he rejects campaigns to erase Jewish history in the Holy Land. "History must be respected. Jerusalem is a holy city for three religions," Guterres said, according to a press release on the meeting issued by the center on Tuesday. The U.N.'s cultural organization, UNESCO, recently passed several resolutions that ignored Jewish ties to Jerusalem. Guterres has spoken out against that characterization in the past. According to [The Times of Israel](#), Guterres and the heads of the Jewish human rights group discussed various issues including challenges to achieving Mideast peace, global terrorism, the U.N.'s role in countering anti-Semitism in Europe, and Israel's treatment by U.N. agencies. On Sunday, the U.N. said it had withdrawn support for a West Bank Palestinian women's center named for a notorious terrorist, saying the move was "offensive" and glorified terrorism. "The United Nations disassociated itself from the Center once it learned the offensive name chosen for it and will take measures to ensure that such incidents do not take place in the future," said a statement from Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for Guterres. The center was named after Dalal Mughrabi, who took part in the 1978 Coastal Road Massacre. Mughrabi and several other Fatah terrorists landed on a beach near Tel Aviv, hijacked a bus on Israel's Coastal Road and killed 38 civilians, 13 of them children, and wounded over 70.

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Senate Committee Passes Bipartisan Resolution on 50th Anniversary of Jerusalem Reunification

On May 25, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed by voice vote a bipartisan resolution ([S. Res. 176](#)) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War and Jerusalem's reunification. Introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Democratic Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY), the bipartisan measure recognizes "there has been a continuous Jewish presence in Jerusalem for 3 millennia" and hails Jerusalem as a "united city in which the rights of all faiths have been respected and protected" since 1967. From 1948 to June 1967, Israeli citizens from all religious backgrounds and Jewish people from all nationalities were denied access to Jerusalem's Old City and holy sites. Immediately after reunifying Jerusalem, Israel abolished restrictions on the free exercise of religion for all people. The resolution "reaffirms its support for Israel's commitment to religious freedom and administration of holy sites in Jerusalem" and calls for "strengthening the mutually beneficial American-Israeli relationship." Additionally, the legislation reaffirms the [Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995](#), which deems Jerusalem "the capital of the State of Israel" in the text of the law. The legislation now awaits action in the full Senate.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Fruit-Pinching Out as New App Tests for Freshness

Israeli startup AclarTech has developed a mobile app that allows to monitor, in real time, the ripeness, freshness and quality of fruit and vegetables. The Ness Ziona, Israel-based firm's AclaroMeter will change the way farmers make their decisions and will "revolutionize" the global food market by helping prevent wasted products and making them accessible to wider populations, the company says on its website. Today, farmers decide when to pick fruit based on instinct or lab tests. "These methods are extremely inefficient and not standardized, leading to a yearly loss of approximately 50 percent of worldwide grown fruit" and vegetables, the company said, with some wasted even before it gets to consumers' homes. With the Aclaro meter, users scan the fruit with their built-in smartphone camera and with a standard portable molecular sensor, the SCIO. This captures a large set of measurements about the fruit and its environment, revealing data like the fruit's sugar content, acidity, firmness, weight and color, as well as its GPS location and weather conditions at the time of sampling, reports [The Times of Israel](#). The data is then uploaded to the cloud and is processed by a tailor-made algorithm that compares the data to tens of thousands of other samples of previously inspected fruit. The algorithm then grades the scanned fruit for freshness, ripeness and quality within a few seconds, the company said. This data can help farmers decide when to pick their produce and monitor its freshness as it moves along the food chain via packaging houses to retailers and end users. AclarTech has just completed a pilot project with a local grape producer and is set to start a beta test with agricultural entities in Israel, including the Agriculture Ministry, the Plant Council, the agricultural research organization Volcani Center and wineries. The revenue model is to charge customers based on usage, or some \$1-\$5 per sample depending on the kind of fruit, the company said. "Our vision is to improve the efficiency and quality of fresh agricultural produce along the food chain, from the farmer in the field to the table of the consumer," said CEO Avi Schwartz in the statement.