



Rabbinic Recap

The week of June 23, 2017

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Ambassador Haley to UNSC: Stand with Israel against “Forces of Terror”

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (U.N.) Nikki Haley called on the international organization to increase pressure on the Gaza-based terrorist group Hamas at a June 20 U.N. Security Council (UNSC) meeting on the Middle East. Ambassador Haley began by condemning the June 16 terrorist attack in Jerusalem that killed Israeli Border Police officer Hadas Malka. “The United States condemns in the strongest terms the cowardly terrorist attack last week in Jerusalem,” said Haley. “We express our deepest sympathies to the victims and their families. The United States reiterates its commitment to stand with Israel against these forces of terror.” Haley continued by highlighting Hamas’ efforts to thwart any peace initiative, stating that “Hamas chooses to devote its resources to terrorism instead of governing and reaching peace.” “The Security Council must unite to say that enough is enough. We need to pressure Hamas to end its tyranny over the people of Gaza. We should condemn Hamas in this Council’s resolutions and statements,” she said. “We should name Hamas as the group responsible when rockets are fired from Gaza, or when fresh tunnels are discovered. And we should designate Hamas as a terrorist organization in a resolution, with consequences for anyone who continues to support it.” Emphasizing that “Hamas remains a terrorist organization bent on Israel’s destruction,” Haley discussed how the UNSC should “come together to put real pressure on supporters of Hamas to stop.” “That is how we can help build a more peaceful Middle East, and how we can fulfill our responsibility here on this Council to actually maintain international peace and security,” she said. “You can bash Israel. You can bash the Palestinian Authority. And we will get nowhere. But if you saw what I saw, if you see the terrorist activity that is happening in that area right now, you would understand that every ounce of what we say in this Council—pitting the two sides against each other is only strengthening the terrorists.”

U.S. Envoy Greenblatt Bemoans “Intolerable” Violence that Killed Border Guard

One of U.S. President Donald Trump’s envoys charged with spearheading new Israeli-Palestinian peace talks decried the murder of an Israeli border guard in a terror attack outside Jerusalem’s Old City last Friday. Staff Sgt. Hadas Malka, 23, was stabbed to death by a Palestinian assailant. Four others were injured in the coordinated attack by three West Bank Palestinians, all whom were killed. “She was murdered by terrorists,” Jason Greenblatt wrote on Twitter Monday. “This violence is intolerable!” Greenblatt’s tweet also included a screen shot of a statement the White House released that said he visited the Malka family earlier in the day to sit shiva with them, a ritual period of Jewish mourning for the deceased. According to [The Times of Israel](#), the statement said that Malka was “murdered by terrorists in an attack near Damascus Gate” and that Greenblatt “offered condolences on behalf of the Trump administration.”

“Incidents such as this underscore why it is vital to realize President Trump’s vision of a Middle East free from the threats of terrorism and extremism,” it added. Malka, a resident of Moshav Givat Ezer in central Israel, was laid to rest early Sunday morning in the southern city of Ashdod. She left behind her parents and five siblings

IRAN

In Third Shoot-Down in a Month, U.S. Jet Destroys Another Iranian Drone over Syria

A U.S. F-15 fighter jet shot down an Iranian-made drone over southern Syria on Tuesday, a U.S. defense official said, marking the second time in a week that the U.S. military has taken a pro-Syrian government aircraft out of the sky. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the incident had yet to be made public, said the drone was in the area where a U.S. plane shot down the same type of unmanned aircraft—an Iranian Shahed 129—this month, reports [The Washington Post](#). The drone, roughly the size of a U.S. Predator unmanned aerial vehicle, was armed and within range of striking U.S.-led coalition troops and their Syrian allies, according to the official, who said the strike was in “self-defense.” In an emailed statement, the Pentagon said the drone was shot down near an “established combat outpost” northeast of the Tanf Iraq-Syria border crossing. Tanf and the surrounding area—a desert-scape of scattered dwellings and scrub brush—is seen by Iran as an integral overland supply route that connects Tehran to Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. The shoot-down is the latest escalation between the United States and forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. In just over a month, U.S. forces have struck Iranian-backed Shiite militias in southern Syria three times, and on Sunday a U.S. F/A-18 shot down a Syrian air force Su-22 jet southwest of the Islamic State’s de facto capital of Raqqa.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli Company that Extracts Water from Air Launches Florida Pilot

Large parts of Florida are suffering from severe drought, and hurricane season threatens to make things worse. Enter Water-Gen, an Israeli company, whose technology captures humidity to extract drinking water from the air. On Monday, the South Florida city of Miami Gardens announced it was launching a pilot program with the company to address its water problems—the first U.S. city to do so. “As representatives responsible for the quality of life and safety of our communities, preparedness and readiness to counter crises is mandatory,” Mayor Oliver Gilbert III said at a City Hall news conference, reports [The Times of Israel](#). “Water-Gen’s pilot will enable us to measure its use for clean drinking water if needed for hurricane relief and any other emergency water situation that may arise.” Over the next two weeks, Miami Gardens will use a mid-sized Water-Gen generator to produce drinking water for its residents. Water-Gen officials said they hope the pilot leads to contracts with Miami Gardens and other parts of Florida. The company’s largest generator yields as much as 825 gallons (3,100 liters) of water per day for only 10 cents a gallon, mostly in energy costs, according to the company. “Miami Gardens is our first significant pilot program in a U.S. city,” Water-Gen USA President Yehuda Kaploun said Monday. “We are ideally positioned to enable communities to tap into a clean and safe drinking water source with a refreshing taste. Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez said he sees Water-Gen’s potential to help the state. “I congratulate Mayor Gilbert and the City of Miami Gardens for its leadership in allowing for the demonstration of water generation technology that could be a game-changer,” he said Monday.