



Rabbinic Recap

The Week of June 9, 2017

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

Ambassador Nikki Haley to U.N. Human Rights Council: Address “Chronic Anti-Israel Bias”

On June 6, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (U.N.) Nikki Haley urged the U.N. Human Rights Council to end its one-sided, anti-Israel behavior in remarks at the opening of the body’s 35th session in Geneva. “It is essential that this council address its chronic anti-Israel bias if it is to have any credibility,” said Haley. Later that day at the Graduate Institute of Geneva, Haley called for the removal of Agenda Item Seven, calling it the Council’s “scandalous provision” that ensures that the Jewish state is singled out with automatic criticism at every meeting. She continued: “Since its creation, the Council has passed more than 70 resolutions targeting Israel. It has passed just seven on Iran. This relentless, pathological campaign against a country that actually has a strong human rights record makes a mockery not of Israel, but of the Council itself.” In addition, “The Council’s effort to create a database designed to shame companies for doing business in Israeli controlled areas is just the latest in this long line of shameful actions.” Following her Geneva trip, Ambassador Haley will visit Israel from June 7-9 to meet with Israeli and Palestinian leaders and tour U.N. operations in the region.

Senate Unanimously Adopts Resolution Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Jerusalem’s Reunification

On June 5, the Senate unanimously approved in a 90-0 vote S. Res. 176, a bipartisan resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. Authored 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. “While we know that Israel continues to face a number of threats, bipartisan passage of this resolution will serve as yet another indication of the United States’ commitment to standing by our Israeli friends,” said Sen. McConnell. “It is very fitting that the Senate passed this resolution 50 years to the day of the start of the Six-Day War,” said Sen. Schumer. “I was proud to sponsor this resolution, which reaffirms the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 that states Jerusalem should remain an undivided city and Israel’s capital—in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are celebrated, valued and protected.” June 5 marked the 50-year anniversary of the beginning of the Six-Day War. This war of Israeli self-defense resulted in Jerusalem’s reunification. From 1948 to 1967, Israeli citizens from all religious backgrounds and Jewish people of all nationalities could not access Jerusalem’s Old City and holy sites. After the Six-Day War, Israel immediately eliminated constraints on the free exercise of religion, and supported access of Jews, Christians and Muslims to worship in Jerusalem, a practice which continues today.

HEZBOLLAH

IDF: Hezbollah is an Imminent Threat, at the Top of Our Priorities

Hezbollah is the most imminent challenge on the horizon for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), and the Israeli military has placed the Shi'ite terror organization at the top of its priority list, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot announced Wednesday when speaking about the northern border. "We are re-prioritizing the northern front," the chief of staff emphasized and added that the army has plans both to fend off the Hezbollah threat and to react to it. Eisenkot also said that the army has sufficient intelligence concerning the Lebanon-based terror organization. Eisenkot also spoke about the progress Hezbollah has made in the 11 years that have lapsed since it lost the Second Lebanon War to Israel, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#). "From a perspective of eleven years, the Hezbollah organization has gotten stronger in terms of its capacities, despite the fact that it exists in great complexity, but on the other hand the north [of Israel] has experienced 11 years that were unprecedented [in terms of relative quiet] since the establishment of the country. Children grow up in Kiryat Shmona and Naharia without sirens, without Katyusha rockets and terrorist infiltrations," Eisenkot emphasized, contrasting it with "decades of a reality of terror" that the north had previously faced. However, the chief of staff was confident in the army's durability facing this threat. "From knowing [our strength], I can say that when it comes to Israel's power balance and its relations with its enemies in general and on the Lebanon front in particular, the IDF is a strong, powerful army that has an absolute edge over its enemies," he concluded.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

With \$1 Billion Africa Deal, Israel's Solar Power Exports Eclipse Local Usage

An Israeli company will oversee \$1 billion worth of solar field projects in Africa, harnessing the power of the sun, even as Israel itself struggles to bring its own plans for large solar fields online. The massive deal to install the solar panels is part of an agreement that came out of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's trip to Liberia to attend the Economic Community of West African States on Sunday. According to [The Times of Israel](#), Jerusalem-based Energiya Global's deal will start with a \$20 million solar field next to Liberia's main airport producing 10 megawatts of power, and eventually expand to other Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries, though further fields are still in the preliminary planning stages. Energiya Global CEO Yossi Abramowitz, who was in Liberia with Netanyahu and was part of Israel's negotiating team for the COP21 Paris Climate Accords, said Israel's legacy of bureaucracy and its struggling infrastructure mean that the deals Energiya Global is inking with African countries will put those countries ahead of Israel in terms of percentage of renewable energy consumption. Gigawatt Global, another company overseen by Abramowitz, is exploring solar fields in 10 African countries. In Rwanda, the 7.8-megawatt solar field it opened in 2015 now produces approximately 5% of the country's electricity. "In Africa, they deeply feel the effects of climate change because of increasing desertification," said Abramowitz. "They are looking to Israel as a world leader to hold back desertification, and a lot of conflicts in the region are due to scarce water and food conflicts." He noted that the joint communique from ECOWAS and Netanyahu identified the top area for cooperation as agriculture, but the second area for cooperation was climate change and climate mitigation.