



Rabbinic Recap

The week of June 8, 2018

GAZA

Israeli Firefighters Battle to Contain Huge Blazes Sparked by Gaza Fire Kites

Firefighters were working to put out three large fires along the Gaza Strip border, believed to have been started by incendiary kites flown from the coastal enclave last Saturday, the [Times of Israel](#) reported. The largest fire was near to Kibbutz Carmia, adjacent to the northern Gaza Strip. Preliminary estimates suggested that between 2,000 to 3,000 dunam (500 to 740 acres) of fields and parts of a nature reserve adjacent to the kibbutz were destroyed. Officials at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority estimated that at least one third of the Carmia reserve had been destroyed. Residents were working alongside with firefighters to try to contain the fires that have become almost daily occurrences since the start of the "March of Return" protests along the border at the end of March. During the protests, Gazans have been flying kites into Israel outfitted with Molotov cocktails and containers of burning fuel, setting fire to large swaths of land.

Most Naksa Day Protests Postponed to Friday

This weekend may indicate whether Israel and Hamas will be able to reach an arrangement securing a calm on Israel's southern border for a while, or whether the sides will face a war in the summer. On Tuesday, the Palestinians mark Naksa Day, which marks the Arab defeat in the Six-Day War, 51 years after the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. IDF officials believe, however, that most of the protest clashes on the Gaza border will take place on Friday, in a bid to synchronize the events with the "Jerusalem Day" events in Iran, and that Tuesday's fence protest will be limited, [Ynet News](#) noted. Both sides are at the peak of a flare-up, which began on Land Day in late March and has so far included mass protests, planting explosive devices on the fence, border infiltrations, sending incendiary kites across the border to set fire to fields in Gaza vicinity communities, and last week—rocket fire and extensive Air Force strikes in Gaza.

IRAN

PA Warned Paris That Gaza Border Clashes Financed by Iran — Report

The Palestinian Authority informed the French government last month that Iran was financing and encouraging the weeks of violent protests along the Gaza border, Channel 10 reported Tuesday, as reported by the [Times of Israel](#). "Iran is fully financing and pushing the Hamas demonstrations," Salman al-Harfi, the Palestinian ambassador to France, reportedly told a government official. "The PA has no choice but to support the demonstrations because so many of the participants are demonstrating against the economic situation." [...] Last week Iran

agreed in principle to renew its funding for the Hamas terror group, according to a report published in a London-based Arabic daily.

Iran's Uranium Enrichment Plans Are Close to the 'Red Line': French Minister

Iran's declaration that it could increase its uranium enrichment capacity if a nuclear deal with world powers falls apart risks sailing close to the "red line", France's foreign minister said on Wednesday, [Reuters](#) reported. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei said on Monday he had ordered preparations to increase uranium enrichment capacity if the nuclear agreement collapsed after the United States withdrew from the deal last month. It also informed the U.N. nuclear watchdog of "tentative" plans to produce the feedstock for centrifuges, which are the machines that enrich uranium.

UNITED NATIONS

U.S. Vetoes Kuwaiti Resolution Calling For 'International Protection' of Palestinians

When the Trump administration demanded a U.N. Security Council vote on Friday meant to counteract a Kuwaiti resolution condemning Israel, the Israelis saw the birth of a new diplomatic strategy that it hopes becomes the norm. Under the plan, Israel would no longer face hostile votes at the council without the U.S. counter-punching, demanding a vote on language that calls out "the hypocrisy of the council," Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the U.N., told the [Jerusalem Post](#) on Friday. "This is changing the rules of the game — we are now on the offense," Danon said. [...] The U.S. vetoed Kuwait's resolution, in the works for weeks, in a Friday afternoon vote, alongside abstentions from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Poland and Ethiopia. Israel was pleased with the extent of opposition to the measure, and considers the tally a mark of progress, although Israeli officials expressed concern with France's vote in favor.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli Aid Team Arrive in Volcano-Struck Guatemala

A team of Israeli aid workers from relief organization IsraAID arrived in Guatemala on Tuesday to distribute relief and assess needs in the wake of two devastating volcanic eruptions that have killed 62, injured hundreds, and left many missing, according to [Israel21c](#). Already on location at the scene were 45 Guatemalan first responders who were trained earlier this year by Israeli volunteer rescue and recovery organization ZAKA. On Monday, Israel's Foreign Ministry also announced that it was sending \$10,000 to Guatemala through its embassy there, for emergency supplies including medicine, food and blankets.

New York Hosts A Huge Party for Israel's 70th Birthday

Fifth Avenue was awash in blue and white on Sunday (June 3) with tens of thousands of marchers waving Israeli flags and sporting the country's colors for the annual Celebrate Israel Parade in New York, [Israel21c](#) also noted. This year's parade was themed "70 and Sababa" in honor of Israel's 70th birthday. New York Mayor Bill De Blasio, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Israel's Consul General in New York Dani Dayan and Israel's Ambassador to the U.N. Danny Danon led the march, joined by ambassadors from Canada, Germany, Spain, Thailand, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Nigeria, Ukraine and Romania.