



Rabbinic Recap

The week of January 12, 2018

U.S. CONGRESS

U.S. House Cheers Iran's Protests, Condemns Human Rights Violations

The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution Tuesday supporting the Iranian people's right to free expression while condemning the country's leadership for crackdowns on recent protests, [Voice of America reported](#). The 415-2 vote comes just days ahead of the beginning of a congressionally mandated 60-day window for lawmakers to address U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to not re-certify the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. At least 21 people have been killed in nationwide anti-government protests that began last month. "With the passage of this resolution, we state that America stands with the Iranian people," Representative Ed Royce, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said Tuesday. The protests have since dwindled amid arrests of more than 3,700 people, according to one Iranian lawmaker. The demonstrations were the largest in Iran since the June 2009 "Green Revolution," triggered by a presidential election that protesters said was fraudulent.

Read AIPAC's Press Release on the House resolution [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Netanyahu: Israel Thwarted 'Major' Terror Attacks in Europe Involving Planes

Israeli intelligence has thwarted mass terrorist attacks in Europe that "involve civil aviation," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday, in a possible reference to 9/11-type attacks planned against European targets using hijacked aircraft, as [reported by The Jerusalem Post](#). Speaking in Jerusalem to ambassadors of NATO countries, Netanyahu said that the world is threatened by radical Sunni groups – initially led by al-Qaida, now by Islamic State – and radical Shi'ites led by Iran. "When we talk about ISIS it's important to understand that Israel helps Europe in two fundamental ways," the prime minister said. "The first is that we have – through our intelligence services – provided information that has stopped several dozen major terrorist attacks, many of them in European countries. Some of these could have been mass attacks, of the worst kind that you have experienced on the soil of Europe and even worse, because they involve civil aviation. Israel has prevented that, and thereby helped save many European lives." He did not elaborate. Netanyahu has said many times that Israeli intelligence has helped thwart numerous terrorist attacks in Europe. The second manner in which Israel helps Europe and NATO fight Islamic State is by preventing the establishment of "ISIS West" in Sinai, he said. Netanyahu said that with Islamic State on the retreat in Syria and Iraq, it is trying to establish an alternative base in Sinai. "Israel is contributing to preventing that in myriad ways, and in general I would say that Israel is the most powerful indigenous force in the Middle East that fights radical Islam," he said.

PALESTINIANS

More Rockets Fired at Israel in 2017 Than Previous Two Years

[The Jerusalem Post](#) also reported that terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip fired a total of 35 projectiles toward Israel over the past year, up from the two previous years. According to statistics published by the IDF Spokesperson's Unit on Sunday, 2017 saw the most serious peak of violence between Israel and terrorist organizations in Gaza, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), since the end of Operation Protective Edge in 2014. Most of the fire is believed to have come from groups like PIJ and smaller Salafi groups. Israel holds Hamas responsible and retaliated by striking 59 terrorist targets in the Hamas-run enclave, including observation posts, military compounds, weapons depots and weapons production sites. The majority of projectiles were fired towards the South from late October after the IDF discovered and destroyed a cross-border Islamic Jihad terrorist tunnel and following the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital by U.S. President Donald Trump. While the vast majority of the projectiles landed in open territory, causing no damage or injuries, around 10 struck in residential areas or were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli Surgeon Enables Palestinian Teen to Stand Again

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict doesn't enter into Israeli hospitals, where patients are treated equally, regardless of citizenship, religion or ethnicity, [Israel21c](#) noted. That's how Yusef Rabaya, a 19-year-old from Jenin, located in the Palestinian Authority territories, received a revolutionary treatment in Israel that has transformed his life and got him walking again for the first time in nearly a year. Rabaya was born with cerebral palsy and a neuromuscular kyphosis – a curve from the front to the back of his body that looks like a hump. When Rabaya hit his teens, the curve became so pronounced that he could no longer stand and was in terrible pain. His parents searched for a cure in Europe, to no avail. Finally, the family made a connection in Boston where surgery was performed to implant rods into his back to strengthen his spine. But the rods broke and Rabaya was now confined to bed in even worse pain. The solution to Rabaya's misery turned out to be not in Europe or Boston, but right here in Israel. Dr. Josh Schroeder, a senior surgeon and spine specialist at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center, performed four-hour reconstruction surgery. It was not easy. "We needed equipment that is not used in Israel, because the technique and equipment for its implementation are used almost exclusively in the United States," Schroeder explained. Four boxes of rods and screws developed by a surgeon at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York were dispatched to Jerusalem. The broken rods were removed, new implants were anchored to Rabaya's vertebrae, and the spinal deformity corrected. As a result of the surgery, Rabaya can stand again. He is now beginning physical therapy to build up the muscles that deteriorated during the time he couldn't get out of bed. Rabaya's father, Iyad, praised Schroeder and the Hadassah team "who saved my son."