



# Rabbinic Recap

The week of February 2, 2018

## PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT ABBAS

### **Ambassador Haley: Peace Requires Courageous Leaders**

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley criticized Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in remarks at the U.N. Security Council on Jan. 25, as [reported in AIPAC's News Hub](#). "The United States remains deeply committed to helping the Israelis and Palestinians reach a historic peace agreement," she said during the Security Council's open debate on the Middle East. "But we will not chase after a Palestinian leadership that lacks what is needed to achieve peace. To get historic results, we need courageous leaders." Haley cited former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as such a leader, for his bold rhetoric and actions that helped catalyze the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. She compared Sadat's courageous declaration to the Knesset that "we accept to live with you in permanent peace," to Abbas' recent speech in which he "declared the Oslo Peace Accords dead," "rejected any American role in peace talks" and "called for suspending recognition of Israel." "A speech that indulges in outrageous and discredited conspiracy theories is not the speech of a person with the courage and the will to seek peace," Haley added about Abbas' remarks. "The indispensable element is leaders who have the will to do what's needed to achieve peace. Real peace requires leaders who are willing to step forward, acknowledge hard truths, and make compromises."

## IRAN

### **Netanyahu Tells Putin: Iranian Missile Factories in Lebanon Are Already in Progress, We Won't Accept This Threat**

Israeli officials stepped up the rhetoric on Iran on Monday, especially with regards to missile factories Jerusalem says Tehran is setting up in Lebanon. A string of statements by Israeli leaders on Monday have framed the factories as a red line for Israel, one that it is unable to ignore, [Haaretz reported](#). The topic was the focus of the meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Monday, where the two are reported to have held an in-depth discussion on the matter. Speaking with reporters after the meeting, Netanyahu said that Iran's precision missile factories in Lebanon were already "in progress" and that he had stressed to his Russian counterpart that it is a threat Israel was not willing to accept.

### **With Tour and White House Lunch, Trump Presses U.N. Envoys on Iran**

The Trump administration escalated efforts to put pressure on Iran on Monday, taking ambassadors from the United Nations Security Council on a field trip to inspect what American officials called remnants of Iranian missiles and other weaponry illegally supplied to Yemen rebels, according to [a New York Times report](#). The ambassadors were also White House lunch

guests of President Trump, who pressed them to counter “Iran’s destabilization activities in the Middle East.” The missile fragments, along with other military equipment, were first unveiled last month by Nikki R. Haley, the American ambassador to the United Nations. She presented them as proof that Iran had violated United Nations sanctions on supplies of weaponry to Houthi rebels in Yemen, where more than 10,000 people have died in a war that began three years ago.

## GAZA STRIP

### **Greenblatt tours Gaza border tunnel, slams Hamas**

President Donald Trump’s Mideast peace envoy on Sunday toured a tunnel dug by Palestinian terrorists under the Gaza border, and slammed the Hamas terror group for using funds to bolster its military capabilities, rather than deal with the Strip’s worsening humanitarian situation, the [Times of Israel reported](#). Jason Greenblatt, the Trump administration’s special envoy in the region, toured a tunnel under the Gaza border area with Israeli military officials, led by Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories Yoav Mordechai, who is the top Defense Ministry official in charge of liaising with the Palestinian Authority. Israel has announced the discovery of several tunnels on the Gaza border recently dug by Hamas, the de facto ruler of the Strip, and the Islamic Jihad terror group. On Twitter, Greenblatt slammed Hamas for building tunnels and stockpiling rockets instead of providing for the Strip’s 1.5 million citizens. “Hamas wastes resources on tunnels & rockets to attack Israel, instead of helping the people of Gaza by getting the lights on, the water flowing & the economy growing,” he wrote. “Hamas spews hateful rhetoric & foments a vicious cycle of violence. Gaza deserves better!”

## ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

### **College students from 13 countries learn coding in Tel Aviv**

Eighty college students from Argentina, Canada, China, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey and the United States came together in Tel Aviv during January session break for another edition of TAVtech Ventures, a 4.5-week coding and entrepreneurship fellowship, as [Israel21c reported](#). The students learn high-demand coding skills in hot areas such as artificial intelligence, big data, cybersecurity and data science, while interacting with leading players in Israel’s startup ecosystem including Israel Innovation Authority CEO Aharon Aharon and Israel Cleantech Ventures Partner Jack Levy. The nonprofit fellowship program (motto: “Code for the Planet”), founded two years ago by students from NYU and Harvard, places an emphasis on social impact. It concludes with TAVhacks, a three-day hackathon where the students team up and combine the technical skills and information acquired over the previous four weeks to create projects (and possibly startups) with a meaningful social impact.