



# Rabbinic Recap

The week of March 9, 2018

## JERUSALEM

### **Guatemalan President Tells AIPAC He'll Move Embassy to Jerusalem in May**

Guatemala's president told the AIPAC Policy Conference on Sunday night that he will move his country's embassy to Jerusalem in May, and that the relocation will take place two days after the United States moves its embassy to the holy city, to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Israel's founding, as [reported by the Times of Israel](#). "In May of this year, we will celebrate Israel's 70th anniversary, and under my instructions two days after the US will move its embassy, Guatemala will return and permanently move its embassy to Jerusalem," President Jimmy Morales told a crowd of more than 18,000 gathered in the nation's capital for the annual confab. "This decision strongly evidences Guatemala's continued support of Israel," he went on. "And we are sure that many other countries will follow in our steps."

## UNITED NATIONS

### **Nikki Haley Accuses U.N. of 'Bullying' Israel at AIPAC**

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, addressing the American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington, accused the United Nations of "bullying" Israel in a speech supporting the nation, [CNN reported](#). "At the U.N. and throughout the U.N. agencies, Israel does get bullied. It gets bullied because the countries that don't like Israel are used to being able to get away with it," Haley told the audience Monday, adding, "That just doesn't sit well with me." "The U.N. spends more than half of its time singling out one country," she said. "We will not stand for it any longer."

## CONGRESS

### **House Bill Would Write into Law Decade's Promised \$38b Defense Aid for Israel**

A bipartisan bill timed for AIPAC's annual conference would codify into law the memorandum of understanding signed in 2016 by Israel and the United States guaranteeing Israel \$38 billion in defense assistance over 10 years, the [Times of Israel noted](#). The bill introduced Friday is sponsored by two Middle East policy leaders in the US House of Representatives — Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., the chairwoman of the Middle East subcommittee, and Ted Deutch, D-Fla., its ranking Democrat. Their senior positions in their respective House caucuses means the bill has a high chance of passage. Delegates to the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee policy conference starting Sunday will lobby for the bill on Tuesday. The thinking behind the bill is to prevent any president from renegeing on the agreement. Separately, but also timed for the AIPAC conference, all 100 senators signed a letter urging the Department

of Homeland Security to expedite Israel's full membership in the Global Entry program, which facilitates passage through customs for citizens of member countries. Israel has had limited membership since 2012.

### **AIPAC-Backed U.S. House Bill Seeks to Broaden Iran Sanctions**

The top Republican and the top Democrat on the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee have introduced a bill that would broaden sanctions targeting the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the [Times of Israel also reported](#). The bill was proposed Thursday, three days before the start of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual policy conference in Washington, D.C. Republican Ed Royce, the Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, and Democrat Eliot Engel, its ranking Democrat, sponsored the measure, which would remove the 50 percent threshold for Revolutionary Guard ownership that currently makes companies eligible for sanctions. Its sponsorship by two party leaders boosts its chance of passage. The measure will be featured on the AIPAC conference's legislative agenda.

## **PALESTINIANS**

### **Palestinians Increase Payments to Terrorists to \$403 Million**

The Palestinian Authority increased its payments to terrorists and their families by nearly \$56 million, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Avi Dichter (Likud) said overnight Monday, when a bill to discourage the practice passed a first reading, reported [the Jerusalem Post](#). Dichter pointed out that PA President Mahmoud Abbas authorized the 2018 PA budget on Sunday, and that there is a PA law that says 7% of each budget must go to paying terrorists, or to their families, if they're killed in the act. [...] The PA paid terrorists and their families more than \$347m. in 2017. Terrorists who have been sentenced to three to five years in Israeli prisons receive the average income of a Palestinian, about \$580 per month. The families of those who committed more severe crimes and were involved in killing Israelis receive five times that each month for the rest of their lives.

## **ISRAEL IN THE NEWS**

### **Israel Steps in to Help Teachers after Parkland Shooting**

Ten days after the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, experts from the Israel Trauma Coalition arrived at the community to guide teachers, clinicians, law enforcers, first responders, social workers, parents and clergy through a "day after" strategy for helping people face the future with resilience. Seventeen people were killed in the shooting – 14 students and three staff members – making it one of the world's deadliest school massacres. The community, which had never dealt with a shooting on this scale, was in shock. "It was devastating," says Nancy Teitelbaum, senior director of marketing and communications at Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County. "Everyone in our small community in Parkland is affected." Teitelbaum has a son in 11th grade at Stoneman Douglas, and he was at the school on the day of the shooting. Her older son graduated from the same school just a year ago. "Most counselors, teachers and clinicians have never dealt with a mass shooting," she told [ISRAEL21c](#). "They have no frame of reference." That's exactly what the Israeli team came to provide. ITC members Yotam Dagan from Natal Israel Center for Trauma and Resilience, and Alan Cohen from the Community Stress Prevention Center, led sessions for about 600 community leaders in the Parkland area.