



# Rabbinic Recap

The week of June 15, 2018

## PALESTINIANS

### **Shin Bet Says 250 ‘Significant Terror Attacks’ Thwarted Since January**

The head of the Shin Bet security service on Wednesday announced that his organization had foiled some 250 “significant terror attacks” since January, crediting this achievement in part to high-tech surveillance and tracking tools, the [Times of Israel](#) noted. Nadav Argaman, who has led the Shin Bet since 2016, noted the changing security threats in Israel and the West Bank, away from more organized terror groups and toward so-called “lone wolf” attacks by unaffiliated individuals. [...] “Since the start of the year, the Shin Bet security service has prevented 250 significant terror attacks, including suicide bombings, kidnappings, and shootings,” he said.

### **Israel Accuses Hezbollah of Helping Hamas Establish Military Presence in Lebanon**

Israel has approached the United Nations Security Council with the accusation that Hezbollah is helping Hamas establish itself in Lebanon with Iran’s backing, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon said on Saturday, [Haaretz](#) reported. "The cooperation between Hezbollah and Hamas crosses borders," Danon said, adding that "the ramifications of the Hamas terror regime in Gaza extend to Lebanon, where they are strengthening their relations with Hezbollah with the approval and support of Iran." Danon said he made it clear to the U.N. Security Council "that Israel does not intend to stand still and will do whatever is necessary to protect its citizens."

## IRAN

### **IDF Intel Chief: Iran Determined to Maintain Strike Capability from Syria**

Despite Israeli efforts, Iran is continuing to try to improve its ability to launch rockets from Syria, IDF Intelligence Directorate head Maj.-Gen. Tamir Heyman said at a closed-door forum of the International Homeland Security Forum in Jerusalem on Wednesday, as reported by the [Jerusalem Post](#). “The fact that they succeeded in launching rockets toward Israel, causing us to open shelters, is seen by them as a great success, even though it was a total failure operationally. And now they are trying to increase their efforts and capabilities to launch rockets and establish terror cells that can penetrate into Israel and harm communities in the Golan Heights,” Heyman was quoted as saying by Israel’s public broadcaster KAN. In May, Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired a barrage of 32 Fajr-5 and Grad missiles toward Israel’s front defensive line on the Golan Heights. That caused no damage or injury but led to Israel carrying out the most extensive operation in Syria since 1974, striking more than 50 Iranian targets there. Israeli officials have repeatedly voiced concerns over the growing Iranian

presence on its borders. “No one has noticed Iran’s regional expansion in the Middle East,” Heyman told the crowd, saying the international community was focused on the nuclear agreement and not on other worrisome elements, such as the IRGC’s missile arsenal.

### **PM Hariri Says Iran Should Stay Out of Lebanon’s Affairs**

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri criticized a top Iranian general Monday for comments he reportedly made recently in which he praised Iran-backed groups for making gains in last month’s parliamentary elections, according to a [Times of Israel](#) report. The Iran-backed Hezbollah and its allies gained more than half the seats of the 128-member parliament in the May 6 parliamentary elections. Lebanese media aired a video posted on social media showing Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran’s elite fighting Quds Force, saying that Hezbollah’s victory came at a time when some Arab countries labeled it and its leaders as terrorists.

### **Iranian Official: We Protected Al-Qaeda Terrorists Before 9/11**

A top Iranian official has admitted for the first time that Iran knowingly helped al-Qaeda terrorists — including some of the 9/11 attackers — travel secretly through the Middle East, as reported by the [New York Post](#). “Their movements [through Iran] were under the complete supervision of the Iranian intelligence,” Mohammad-Javad Larijani said in a recently surfaced interview. That was one of the main accusations leveled against Iran in the U.S. government’s 9/11 Commission Report, which named the nation as a state sponsor of terrorism. Larijani, the secretary of the Iranian judiciary’s High Council for Human Rights and a former diplomat, is a prominent member of the regime. “Our government agreed not to stamp the passports of some of them” when al-Qaeda members passed through Iran on trips between Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, Larijani confirmed.

## **ISRAEL IN THE NEWS**

### **Historic Resonance as Israeli Paratroopers Train Over Germany, Poland**

Israeli paratroopers trained alongside their American counterparts in the U.S.-led Swift Response exercise in Europe this month, practicing how to take over an airfield with a jump into Polish territory, an officer who took part in drill said Wednesday, the [Times of Israel](#) also reported. Last Monday, a company of 40 soldiers and officers from the Paratroopers Brigade’s reconnaissance battalion traveled to Europe to take part in the exercise, which was organized by the U.S. European Command (EUCOM). [...] The annual Swift Response exercise was held this year in Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, with participants from across Europe, including the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Poland and Portugal.

### **Children of Sderot Counter Kite Terror with Kite Festival**

Hundreds of helium balloons and kites bearing flammable materials have been launched from Gaza since March 30, killing wildlife and incinerating thousands of acres of forests and agricultural fields in Israeli border communities. In a therapeutic response to the kite terrorists operating just 33 kilometers (20.5 miles) from their city, officials in Sderot invited parents and children to create and launch colorful handmade kites bearing positive messages, according to [Israel21c](#). [...] “As opposed to our neighbors from the Gaza Strip who have turned the wonderful hobby of flying kites into an act of terrorism, with terrible damage to agriculture, the children of Sderot and the surrounding communities are returning the kite to its source — from preparation to flying it into the sky and hoping that it will not fall,” said Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi.