



Rabbinic Recap

The week of April 13, 2018

GAZA

Hamas Vows Gaza Protests to Last Until Palestinians ‘Return to All of Palestine’

The protests along the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel will continue until they achieve their goals and the Palestinians return to all of Palestine, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh vowed on Monday, the [Times of Israel reported](#). Hamas, he said, will not recognize Israel and will not make any concessions. He added that the demonstrations, in which the Palestinians say at least 30 Gazans have been killed, have catapulted the Palestinian issue back to the center of the international stage. “Palestine and Jerusalem belong to us,” Haniyeh declared, urging Palestinians to preserve the “peacefulness” of the protests. “We will break the walls of the blockade, remove the occupation entity and return to all of Palestine.” [...] Palestinian activists have insisted the protests are civilian-led and nonviolent, while Israel has said they have been used as cover for attempts at violence against Israeli troops and efforts to breach and damage the border. Defense analysts say the marches are a new tactic by Hamas, which rules Gaza, to conduct terror operations in the confusion of the demonstrations, as the group’s rockets have been thwarted by Israel’s Iron Dome and its tunnels have been countered with a new underground barrier being constructed around Gaza.

Abbas Adviser: Hamas is ‘Sending Gazans to Their Deaths for Good Headlines’

Hamas is deliberately sending Gazan civilians to their deaths to grab good headlines, a senior adviser to Palestinian Authority head Mahmoud Abbas charged, the [Times of Israel also noted](#). Referring to the current round of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces on the Gaza-Israel border, in which some two dozen Palestinians have been killed, Mahmoud al-Habbash — the PA’s top cleric and Abbas’s adviser on religious and Islamic affairs — ridiculed Hamas’s “emotional stories of heroism,” saying they would be more appropriate inside Jerusalem’s al-Aqsa Mosque, “after they liberated it.” Hamas was “selling illusions,” he went on, “trading in suffering and blood, trading in victims” so that it could make strong declarations on TV. “These [Hamas] acts of ‘heroism’ don’t fool anyone anymore,” he said. “The Palestinian people...sides with the PLO.”

IRAN

Iran Threatens Israel Over Airstrike in Syria

A senior Iranian foreign policy official warned Israel on Tuesday that its strike on an air base in Syria that killed several Iranians would “not remain without a response,” the Lebanese news channel Al Mayadeen reported, according to a [New York Times report](#). Seven Iranian military personnel were killed on Monday in the strike on the Tiyas, or T4, air base near Homs,

according to the Iranian news agency Tasnim. The semiofficial Fars news agency initially said that three were members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, but the report was later withdrawn without explanation. Syria, Iran and Russia have accused Israel of mounting the attack, though Israel has neither confirmed nor denied involvement. Israel has carried out several strikes in Syria in the past, some aimed at stopping what it says is a military buildup by Iran and its regional ally, Hezbollah, along the Syrian-Israeli border.

U.S. Backs EU Iran Sanctions Push, Warns Firms Against Tehran Trade

The United States on Tuesday welcomed a push by some EU states to impose new sanctions on Iran and warned firms considering doing business with the Islamic Republic that they could be funding militant groups and regional instability, as [reported by Reuters](#). U.S. President Donald Trump has set European allies a May 12 deadline to revamp an international deal agreed with Tehran in 2015 that lifted international sanctions against Iran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. Speaking in London at the start of a tour of European signatories to that deal, Sigal Mandelker, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, said sanctions were an important part of a comprehensive effort to counter Iran's "malign activity" in the region. "We understand that the EU, it's been reported in the press, is considering new Iran-related sanctions. This is a good and important step that we support," she told reporters before meetings with British officials. Last month, France, Britain and Germany sought EU support for approval of new sanctions, but have struggled to persuade other member states to back them. Mandelker will visit Berlin and Paris during her three-day tour.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Israeli Nonprofit Save a Child's Heart Wins U.N. Award

Israeli-based international nonprofit organization Save a Child's Heart (SACH) has received the 2018 United Nations Population Award, according to [Israel21c](#). Established by the General Assembly in 1981, the award recognizes outstanding achievements in population and health. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which made the selections, is chaired by Ghana and includes Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Benin, Gambia, Haiti, Iran, Israel, Paraguay and Poland. Based at Wolfson Medical Center in Holon, SACH was founded in 1995 with the mission of improving the quality of pediatric cardiac care for children in developing countries and creating centers of competence in these countries. To date, SACH has saved the lives of more than 4,400 children from 58 countries in Africa, South America, Europe, Asia and throughout the Middle East, and trained more than 100 medical team members from these countries. "We are honored to receive this prestigious award from the UN," said Simon Fisher, executive director. "The work of Save a Child's Heart over the past 23 years represents so well the ethos of the Israeli society, the State of Israel and so many Jewish universal values that are at the core of Save a Child's Heart."