



# Rabbinic Recap

The week of May 4, 2018

## IRAN

### **Netanyahu Says He Has Proof of Secret Iranian Nuclear Program**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel has evidence Iranian officials were "brazenly lying" when they said Iran wasn't pursuing nuclear weapons and that the Islamic republic is keeping an "atomic archive" at a secret compound, [CNN](#) reported. "Tonight, I'm here to tell you one thing: Iran lied -- big time," Netanyahu said late Monday during an address from the Israel Ministry of Defense in Tel Aviv. Calling it one of the greatest achievements in the history of Israeli intelligence, Netanyahu displayed what he said were files that demonstrate Iran planned to continue pursuing a nuclear weapons program despite the 2015 deal it brokered with the international community. Speaking in English, Netanyahu accused Iran of ramping up efforts to obscure the files in 2015 and moving them to a secret location in Tehran last year. The files were kept in massive vaults inside an "innocent-looking compound" in Shorabad District, the Prime Minister said. The 100,000 files contain, among other things, blueprints, charts, photos, videos and presentations dealing with nuclear weaponry, he said. "Iran planned at the highest level to continue work related to nuclear weapons under different guises and using the same personnel," he said.

### **Missile Attack in Syria Reportedly Kills at Least 16, Raising Regional Tensions**

The missiles struck after dark, hitting facilities in Syria where Iran and its militant proxies had set up camp, setting buildings on fire and causing an explosion so large that it shook the ground like a minor earthquake. But neither the presumed attacker, Israel, nor the reported victims, Iran and its allies, said much as the dust settled on Monday, the [New York Times](#) noted. Both sought to manage the escalation in the battle between them that has been building for years in the shadows of the war in Syria. The strikes hit a munitions storage site on Sunday, destroying a cache of missiles and killing at least 16 people, many of them Iranians, according to a conflict monitoring group and one of Iran's regional allies. Other reports suggested higher death tolls. Much more was at stake, however, as Iran and its foes in the region — Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — compete for power in the Middle East while trying to subvert their enemies' plans. The increased military action and heated language has raised worries that the increasing tensions could set off a new war.

## PALESTINIANS

### **Abbas Says Jews' Behavior, Not Anti-Semitism, Caused the Holocaust**

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Monday said that the Holocaust was not caused by anti-Semitism, but by the "social behavior" of the Jews, including money-lending, as

reported by the [Times of Israel](#). In a long and rambling speech in Ramallah in front of hundreds at a rare session of the Palestinian National Council, Abbas touched on a number of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories during what he called a “history lesson,” as he sought to prove the 3,000-year-old Jewish connection to the land of Israel is false.

## UNITED STATES

### **Pompeo Rails Against Iran During Middle East Tour**

President Donald Trump’s new chief diplomat emphasized the administration’s view of Iran as a danger to the Middle East and beyond, as a deadline looms for the U.S. to decide whether to remain in the nuclear deal, the [Wall Street Journal](#) reported. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo landed in Amman on Sunday after stops in Brussels, Riyadh and Tel Aviv, capping a whirlwind trip after being sworn in on Thursday. Concerns about Tehran’s influence in the Middle East and the threat of its nuclear program have dominated the trip, which comes ahead of Mr. Trump’s self-imposed May 12 deadline. Iran “is indeed the greatest sponsor of terrorism in the world, and we are determined to make sure it never possesses a nuclear weapon,” he said in Riyadh alongside Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir on Sunday. “The Iran deal in its current form does not provide that assurance. We will continue to work with our European allies to fix that deal, but if a deal cannot be reached, the President has said that he will leave that deal.”

## ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

### **New, Accurate Israeli Method Detects Early Breast Cancer**

Researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Soroka University Medical Center in Beersheva announced the development of a new and accurate method of screening for early breast cancer, using inexpensive technology for breath and urine analysis. The team of Israeli researchers used two different “electronic nose” gas sensors for breath, along with gas-chromatography mass spectrometry to isolate relevant data and more accurately identify breast-cancer biomarkers, Ben-Gurion University announced, according to [Israel21c](#). In their study, published in *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, the researchers were able to detect breast cancer with more than 95 percent average accuracy using two different electronic noses (e-noses) that identified unique breath patterns in women with breast cancer. In addition, the researchers said their revamped statistical analyses of urine samples submitted both by healthy patients and those diagnosed with breast cancer yielded 85 percent average accuracy. “Breast cancer survival is strongly tied to the sensitivity of tumor detection; accurate methods for detecting smaller, earlier tumors remains a priority,” says Prof. Yehuda Zeiri, a member of Ben-Gurion University’s Department of Biomedical Engineering who contributed to the study. “Our new approach utilizing urine and exhaled breath samples, analyzed with inexpensive, commercially available systems, is noninvasive, accessible and may be easily implemented in a variety of settings.”