



Rabbinic Recap

The week of May 11, 2018

IRAN

Iran Targets Israeli Positions Across Syrian Frontier, Israel Pounds Syria

Iranian forces in Syria shelled Israeli army outposts across the Syrian frontier overnight Wednesday, Israel said, prompting one of the heaviest Israeli strikes in Syria since its civil war began in 2011, the [New York Times](#) reported. The attack into the Golan Heights marks the first time Iranian forces have hit Israel from Syria, where they have deployed along with Iran-backed Shi'ite militias to support President Bashar al-Assad in the civil war. Syrian state media said dozens of Israeli missile strikes hit a radar station, Syrian air defense positions and an ammunition dump, underscoring the risks of a wider escalation involving Iran and its regional allies. The Israeli military spokesman said the Iranian attack with around 20 projectiles or rockets was carried out by the Quds Force, an external arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

AIPAC Statement on Iran Nuclear Deal Announcement

Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapons capability. [AIPAC](#) has long worked with Democrats and Republicans in Congress and with administrations of both parties to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions. Given the combination of a critically flawed 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and the international community's inability so far to adequately address these shortcomings, we believe the administration's decision on Tuesday provides an important opportunity to address the shortcomings of the deal and to confront Iran's escalating regional aggression. Strong and effective economic and political pressure previously brought Iran to the negotiating table. Working with our allies, we must once again use the tools of American diplomacy and economic pressure to fix the deal's shortcomings and counter Iran's malign activities. We recognize that there are significant differences over this decision. AIPAC remains committed to working with Congress and the administration in a bipartisan fashion to forge policies that will ensure Iran can never acquire a nuclear weapons capability or realize its dangerous regional ambitions.

PALESTINIANS

Hamas Leader: Next Week's Protests Will Be 'Decisive'

The Gaza leader of the Hamas militant group on Wednesday said that a mass protest on the Israeli border will be "decisive," vowing that he and other top officials were "ready to die" in a campaign to end Israel's decade-old blockade of the territory, the [New York Times](#) also noted. In a speech to hundreds of Gazan youths, Yehiyeh Sinwar said Hamas has rejected international proposals to stop the weekly, often violent gatherings, which culminate in Monday's mass demonstration. "We can't stop these protests. We are supporting, even leading, them," he said. The protests will be "like a tiger running in all directions," he said. [...] The audience included activists who have been leading the confrontations each Friday, burning tires along the

fence, throwing stones at Israeli troops and flying incendiary kites over dry fields on the Israeli side of the border. Some of the youths brandished wire cutters, a popular tool in weekly attempts to cut through the border fence. Hamas has signaled it may encourage protesters to storm the border next week.

HEZBOLLAH

Hezbollah Allies Gain in Lebanon Vote, Underscoring Iran Sway

Hezbollah and its political allies made significant gains in Lebanon's parliamentary election, official results showed, boosting an Iranian-backed movement fiercely opposed to Israel and underlining Tehran's growing regional clout, as reported by [Reuters](#). The leader of Shi'ite Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, called the result a "a very big political, parliamentary and moral victory for the choice of resistance". [...] Hezbollah and its political allies won just over half the seats in parliament, according to final results from all but one of Lebanon's 15 electoral districts. Branded a terrorist group by the United States, heavily armed Shi'ite Hezbollah has grown in strength since joining the war in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad in 2012. [...] An Israeli minister said the outcome showed the Lebanese state was indistinguishable from Hezbollah, signaling the risk of Israel hitting Lebanon's government in a future war.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Hundreds from 30 Nations Explore Israeli Agtech Innovation

WeedOUT, an Israeli startup developing a novel biological herbicide for resistant weeds, won the Best Israeli Agtech Company Competition at the AgriVest 2018 conference in Tel Aviv on May 8, according to [Israel21c](#). More than 600 investors, industry leaders, entrepreneurs and academics from about 30 countries were at the fifth annual AgriVest to explore the latest in Israeli agricultural and food technology. Efrat Lidor Nili, CEO of WeedOUT, won out over 11 other startups selected from more than 40 applicants, and received a round-trip airline ticket to attend the Business France and AER Learning Expedition program in Paris and Dijon in June. [...] AgriVest 2018, an initiative of The Trendlines Group, GreenSoil Investments and Israel New Tech of the Israeli Ministry of Economy and Industry, came on the heels of an AgFunder report showing that global agriculture and food technology startups received a record \$10.1 billion in investments last year, up 29% from 2016. Gideon Soesman of GreenSoil Investments remarked, "In 2012, the first AgriVest conference hosted about 100 people and the agtech startups were few and far between. Now there are about 800 Israeli agtech start-ups and the agrifood tech sector has been firmly placed on the international map."

Canon Will Acquire Israel's Briefcam Video Analytics Firm

In the second major acquisition announced this week for an Israeli company, Modi'in-based BriefCam — maker of widely used rapid video review, search and analysis technology — revealed its upcoming acquisition by Tokyo-based Canon, a world leader in digital imaging solutions, [Israel21c](#) also reported. [...] Masanori Yamada from Canon's Network Visual Solution Business Promotion Headquarters added, "With BriefCam, we can deliver an even broader range of leading-edge technology and solutions in the fields of network cameras, video management software and video content analysis software to customers and partners across the globe. We are very excited to work with such an innovative organization." The financial details of the not-yet-completed BriefCam transaction have not been disclosed. Earlier this week, International Flavors & Fragrances of New York announced its planned acquisition of Frutarom of Haifa in a cash-and-stock transaction valued at approximately \$7.1 billion.