



Rabbinic Recap

The week of May 18, 2018

GAZA

50 of Dead in Gaza Protests Were Hamas Activists, Says Senior Hamas Official

Fifty of the 62 Palestinians reported killed during Monday's bloody protests along the Gaza border were Hamas activists, said a senior Hamas official on Wednesday, [Haaretz](#) reported. Israel Defense Forces spokesperson for Arab media tweeted a video of senior Hamas official Dr. Salah Albardawil in which he claims 50 of the approximately 60 dead in protests along the Israel-Gaza border Monday were members of Hamas. His claim followed a question posed by the interviewer about claims that Hamas sent youths to die in the protests as political fodder. On Tuesday, Islamic Jihad published a statement saying three of the 62 killed were members of that organization's military wing.

Israel Reopens Gaza Crossing, But Palestinians Turn Back Some Trucks

Palestinian officials on Tuesday refused to allow trucks loaded with goods into the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom Crossing, which Israel had reopened in the morning after rioters from the coastal enclave set fire to parts of the facility three times over the past month. Shipments of medical supplies, food and diapers arrived at the crossing in the morning. But officials on the Palestinian side said they could only allow through the medical supplies and sent back 14 trucks full of food and diapers, [The Times of Israel](#) has learned. [...] On Monday night — hours after Gazans again ransacked the facility — the army announced that Israel would be reopening Kerem Shalom on Tuesday.

Hamas Rioter: Group 'Tricks' Women, Children to Enter Line of Fire

A Hamas activist who was arrested by Israeli security forces while attempting to infiltrate the Gaza border into Israel during Monday's violent protests, explained during his investigation on Wednesday that Hamas deliberately encourages women and children to approach the border fence with the sole aim of incurring casualties and diverting negative attention away from the terror organization, [Ynet News](#) noted. "Hamas organized the protests in order for people not to 'turn' on them. They (Hamas) say: Instead of them harming us and 'turning' on us, we'll send them to the border fence where they will be hit," he told his investigators. "They tell women to go forward. They say to a woman: Go ahead, you're a woman and the army doesn't shoot women. They tell small children: Go ahead, the army doesn't shoot small children. They tell a child to go ahead and he goes. It's a small child. They trick him," the man insisted.

HEZBOLLAH

U.S., Qatar, Gulf Nations Join to Bolster Hezbollah Sanctions

Qatar and its adversaries in the Persian Gulf crisis have finally agreed to do something together: join the U.S. in placing terror sanctions on the Iranian ally Hezbollah, the [Associated Press](#) reported. The U.S. Treasury Department said Wednesday that Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf nations are slapping sanctions on Hezbollah's senior leadership. The sanctions are being coordinated by a U.S.-Gulf partnership called the Terrorist Financing and Targeting Center.

Treasury Department Sanctions New Individuals, Entities for Funding Iran Terror Proxies

On May 15, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned four new individuals and an entity, responsible for moving millions of dollars on behalf of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) to the Lebanon-based terrorist group Hezbollah, as noted in [AIPAC's News Hub](#). Those sanctioned include the Governor and a senior official of the Central Bank of Iran, an Iraq-based bank and its chairman, as well as a key Hezbollah official.

U.S. EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM

AIPAC Statement on Opening of U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem

Today is a momentous day for the U.S.-Israel relationship. The opening of the U.S. embassy in Israel's capital, Jerusalem, marks the fulfillment of a longstanding bipartisan commitment expressed through decades of U.S. legislation. This decision to move the embassy was established in law in the Jerusalem Embassy Act, which Congress adopted in 1995 with overwhelming support from both parties. We are grateful to President Trump for officially recognizing Jerusalem—the historic and spiritual capital of the Jewish people for more than 3,000 years—as Israel's capital last December and for opening our embassy there today. It is particularly fitting that this historic event occurs as Israel celebrates the 70th anniversary of its founding. (Read AIPAC's full statement [here](#).)

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Eurovision 2018: Israel celebrates after Netta Barzilai's win

Israel erupted this weekend into a state of national exhilaration – expressed with chicken-inspired dance moves – following Netta Barzilai's win at the Eurovision song contest, [The Guardian](#) noted. Fans poured into the streets of Tel Aviv in the early hours of Sunday after the 25-year-old was announced a champion in Lisbon for her techno dance tune Toy, a pop anthem filled with clucks and synthesised beats. Exuberant crowds blocked traffic and many jumped into the public fountain at Rabin Square in front of city hall to rejoice in the win for the national sensation who had previously sung with the Israeli navy band. [...] Israel's victory means it will host next year's finals, expected to take place in Jerusalem. "Thank you so much. I love my country. Next time in Jerusalem," Barzilai yelled as she held her trophy after her win.