



Rabbinic Recap

The week of May 25, 2018

IRAN

U.S. Lays Out Demands for New Iran Deal

The Trump administration put Iran on notice that any new deal would require it to stop enriching all uranium and halt its support for militant groups in the region, sweeping demands that Tehran swiftly rejected, the [Wall Street Journal](#) reported. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday spelled out 12 requirements for a new agreement with Tehran that would require a wholesale change in Iran's military posture in the Middle East. In return for agreeing to an accord on nuclear and regional issues to replace the 2015 Iran nuclear accord from which President Donald Trump withdrew this month, Mr. Pompeo said, the U.S. would lift the punishing economic sanctions it is now moving to impose, restore diplomatic and commercial ties and allow Iran to have access to advanced technology. In effect, the administration is planning to apply the same strategy of "maximum pressure" to the Iranian government that it has sought to use with North Korea—a comparison Mr. Pompeo invoked. "Our eyes are clear as to the nature of this regime, but our ears are open to what may be possible," Mr. Pompeo said in a [speech](#) at the Heritage Foundation.

U.S. Widens Iran Sanctions for Supplying Missiles to Yemen's Houthis

The Trump administration imposed sanctions on five Iranian officials it said are responsible for providing Yemeni rebels with long-range missiles being used to target Saudi Arabia, the [Wall Street Journal](#) also noted. The U.S. action on Tuesday is part of a broader White House strategy to isolate Iran and rein in Tehran's support for proxies involved in conflicts across the Middle East. The U.S. Treasury Department added five officials linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Al-Ghadir Missile Command and related programs, including Mahmud Bagheri Kazemabad, the missile unit's commander. The IRGC, Iran's elite military unit, already is under U.S. sanctions. "Their actions have enabled the Houthis to launch missiles at Saudi cities and oil infrastructure," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said. "They have also disrupted humanitarian aid efforts in Yemen and threatened freedom of navigation in key regional waterways."

Hamas Chief Boasts of Tehran's Support, Close Ties to Hezbollah

The leader of the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip has boasted about the large amounts of cash, equipment and expertise it has received from Iran and said the organization is in touch with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group in Lebanon "on an almost daily basis," as reported by the [Times of Israel](#). Speaking to Lebanon's pro-Hezbollah al-Mayadeen TV channel on Monday, Yahya Sinwar also lauded the "strong, powerful and warm" ties Hamas enjoys with Qassem Soleimani, who heads the Islamic Revolutionary Guards's Quds Force tasked with operations outside of Iran. Soleimani is assumed to have masterminded the firing from Syria of dozens of rockets at Israeli military positions on the Golan Heights earlier this month.

UNITED NATIONS

United States Opposes Biased U.N. Human Rights Council Resolution on Gaza

On May 18, the United States opposed a one-sided, anti-Israel United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution to establish an investigation into Israel's actions to defend its citizens from Hamas-initiated riots at the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, as reported in [AIPAC's News Hub](#). The UNHRC convened this meeting solely to address Israel's response to the recent unrest in Gaza and the West Bank. As the meeting concluded, the body voted to approve the biased resolution with 29 votes in favor, 2 votes against and 14 abstentions. The United States and Australia were the two countries that voted against it. Following the vote, U.S. Representative to the UNHRC Theodore Allegra criticized the measure and the Council, stating: "This is yet one more example of the Human Rights Council's biased focus on Israel. The continued insistence of this body to focus more attention on Israel than on any other member state calls into question the credibility of this body."

JERUSALEM

Paraguay Officially Moves Embassy to Jerusalem: 'We Have No Better Friend,' Netanyahu Says

Paraguay officially moved its country's embassy to Jerusalem on Monday, with President Horacio Cartes in Israel for the ceremony, also attended by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, [Haaretz](#) noted. Paraguay is now the third country to move its embassy to Jerusalem, following the United States and Guatemala. The inauguration ceremony took place at noon at the embassy's new home in the Malkha technology park, which also houses the Guatemalan embassy. Netanyahu gave a speech at the ceremony in which he emphasized that both countries "have great cooperation and it will be even better."

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

U.S. Pediatricians Go to Kenya with IsraAID

Marking its first joint Israeli-American medical specialist mission, Israeli humanitarian aid organization IsraAID arranged for a delegation of American pediatricians to join IsraAID's ongoing medical program in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, according to [Israel21c](#). According to IsraAID, Kakuma is one of the world's oldest and largest refugee camps and is chronically understaffed. Kakuma houses more than 185,000 refugees from countries across the region, including South Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, in addition to a host community from the Turkana ethnic group. Nearly 60 percent of Kakuma's refugee population is under the age of 18. The mission participants, led by Dr. Michelle Sandberg and Dr. Sabrina Braham from the Stanford University School of Medicine in California, landed on May 16 and were greeted by Israeli peers in the camp's two hospitals and six clinics operated by the International Rescue Committee and Kakuma Mission Hospital. The US doctors also will train Kakuma's medical staff. "Major health issues affecting Kakuma's residents vary, and have recently included malaria, lung infections, tuberculosis, HIV, malnutrition and cholera," said IsraAID in a press statement. "By providing up-to-date training in pediatrics, the visiting physicians can make a real difference to the long-term prospects of Kakuma's children."