



Rabbinic Recap

The week of June 1, 2018

GAZA

Nikki Haley Slams Security Council Over Gaza Rockets: Hamas Committed to Israel's Destruction

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley slammed the Security Council early Thursday with a defiant speech in the aftermath of the flare-up between Palestinian militants in Gaza and Israel, saying it was “outrageous for the UN Security Council to fail to condemn rocket attacks” by Hamas “terrorist organization.” Haley expressed regret that a statement proposed by the U.S. deploring the attacks from Gaza was blacked, claiming representatives at the council use a double standard when it comes to condemning actions against Israel, [Haaretz](#) reported. “We all know that certain actions in and around Gaza receive an enormous amount of attention both here in the Security Council and throughout international media. Strangely, other actions do not receive nearly the same attention that they deserve,” Haley said with sarcasm. Haley said that the “desired outcome” of attacks against Israel was “to maximize civilian casualties.” Five Israelis sustained shrapnel wounds and a kindergarten was hit by mortar fire some 30 minutes before it was opened.

If Hamas Holds Fire We Will Too, Israeli Official Says Amid Respite in Attacks

A senior defense official said Wednesday that Israel was prepared to refrain from further attacks on Gaza if terror factions in the Strip also kept the peace, indicating that an informal ceasefire has taken hold after a restive day, according to the [Times of Israel](#). The Israeli Air Force bombed dozens of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad facilities across the Gaza Strip in two rounds of air raids, on Tuesday afternoon and predawn Wednesday, amid the largest exchange between Israel and Gazan terrorist groups since the 2014 war. The escalation began with a barrage of mortar shells fired into southern Israel by Islamic Jihad on Tuesday morning, one of which landed outside a kindergarten shortly before the children arrived. Over the course of 22 hours, from 7 a.m. Tuesday to 5:17 a.m. Wednesday, sirens were triggered at least 166 times in southern Israel, according to the IDF Home Front Command, by mortar fire, rockets or, in some cases, heavy machine gun fire.

IRAN

U.S. Sanctions Start to Pinch Shipping in Iran

It will be months before new U.S. sanctions against Iran take hold, but global shipping operators are already pulling back from the big oil-exporting nation, the [Wall Street Journal](#) reported. The world’s two biggest shipping lines, Denmark’s Maersk Line and Swiss-based Mediterranean Shipping Co., said they were winding down general cargo shipments, while tanker owners said

they plan to move their vessels to other oil-producing countries in the Middle East or West Africa.

Iran Says Security Forces to Clamp-Down on Protests

Iranian security forces will "resolutely confront" unrest that could be exploited by the United States and other enemies, a judiciary spokesman said on Sunday, after a wave of protests across the country mainly about economic issues, as reported by [Reuters](#). The likely return of U.S. economic sanctions after Washington withdrew from an Iranian nuclear deal with world powers has triggered labor unrest and protests in Iran in the past few weeks by various groups, including teachers and truckers. [...] Iran's ruling elite are anxious to prevent any repeat of unrest in late December, when people staged demonstrations in 80 cities and towns over poor living standards, some calling on Shi'ite Muslim clerical leaders to step down.

UNITED NATIONS

Anger Spreads as Syria Leads Global Disarmament Body

The Syrian government of Bashar al-Assad has been accused of using chemical weapons, barrel bombs and torture against its own people during a seven-year civil war, as reported by the [New York Times](#). On Monday, it took up the rotating presidency of the United Nations-backed Conference on Disarmament. The move was met with outrage from Western governments, but there was little they could do to prevent Syria from taking over the world's only permanent multilateral body for negotiating arms control agreements for four weeks. The leadership structure was set up to prevent major powers dominating the forum, and with Syria following Switzerland in the alphabetical list of member states, the path was cleared for what the United States ambassador to the conference, Robert Wood, condemned as "one of the darkest days" in the forum's history. Matthew Rowland, the British ambassador to the organization, said it "deplores the fact that Syria will assume the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, given the regime's consistent and flagrant disregard of international nonproliferation and disarmament norms and agreements." The conference was created in 1979, and one of the most significant treaties it negotiated was the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, which bans the production, stockpiling or use of chemical weapons.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Self-Repairing Health Wearables Powered by Body Heat

Israeli scientists have developed an integrated system of wearable monitors that passively detect and transmit vital signs as early markers for disease, according to [Israel21c](#). Such wearables aren't unique, but this system is unprecedented because it's powered by energy from the wearer's movements and body heat, and can fix its own tears or scratches. The wearable system could spare patients pain, greatly reduce medical expenses, and provide extensive and detailed information for epidemiological studies, say Prof. Hossam Haick and postdoctoral researcher Weiwei Wu, who invented the system at the Wolfson Faculty of Chemical Engineering of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.