



Jerusalem 4:09
Toronto 5:49

ISRAEL NEWS
A collection of the week's news from Israel
From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation

Commission ordered a halt on trading its shares. And the largest municipal bond default in U.S. history when Moody's failed to realize that the Washington State Public Power Supply System was so badly

mismanaged that it would be unable to repay \$2.25 billion in bonds.

More generally, Moody's judged Israel's credit-worthiness through the woke lens of ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), citing tangential matters that concern the American left such as Israel's judicial reform and the governance of Israeli institutions. Had Moody's rated Israel's credit-worthiness rather than its political correctness, it would have recognized that Israel has few peers in its ability to repay its foreign debts—the chief question that concerns Israel's lenders.

To bolster its punditry with numbers, Moody's stated that because of Israel's wartime debt, "we now forecast the debt ratio to rise towards close to 70% of GDP." Yet that debt ratio is superior to others. In the euro area, it stands at 88.7% of GDP, in Canada at 107% and in the United States at 120%. Moreover, the Bank of Israel's foreign currency reserve, which is at an all-time high, is almost four times that of its external debt. Because Israel's exports are in perennial demand, its current account surplus has exceeded 5% in the past 20 years.

Despite the burden of a war that is now costing Israel some \$150 million a day, Moody's expects Israel to achieve long-term 3% growth in its GDP, which it acknowledges "is still comparatively robust growth compared to many other advanced economies." That statement, though positive, is nevertheless an understatement. In 2024, the International Monetary Fund expects Europe's GDP to grow by a mere 1.6%, Canada's by 1.3% and the United States's by 2.8%.

Moody's is correct that Israel faces great uncertainties in the future. That has always been the case, which partly explains why Israel's past credit rating hasn't been much higher. But those uncertainties are fewer in number and less worrying now that most of Israel's enemies are on the run. In light of the war, Moody was right to review Israel's credit rating. It was wrong to peg it lower, rather than higher. (JNS Oct 28)

Commentary...

Moody's Should Have Raised, Not Lowered, Israel's Credit Rating

By Lawrence Solomon

Israel is arguably more secure now than at any time in its history. Hamas has largely been dismantled. Hezbollah has lost two-thirds of its short- and medium-range missiles and all of its senior leaders. And Iran has lost one-third of its advanced ballistic missiles in futile attempts to overwhelm Israel's missile-defense system.

Moody's reaction to Israel's wartime success? It downgraded Israel's credit rating to its lowest level ever—down two notches from A2 to Baa1—and warns of a third.

"Israel's government has explicitly added the return of approximately 60,000 evacuees to the north to its war objectives," Moody's stated on Sept. 27, justifying its rationale for the downgrade on vague "geopolitical risks" instead of a no-nonsense bottom line. Yet the return of 60,000 Israelis to their homes and businesses would be a financial boon because they would be contributing to the economy while saving the Israeli government the cost of housing them elsewhere.

Moody's failure to assess the boon of victory in the north was all the more perplexing since at the time it made its statement, Israel had taken out most of Hezbollah's top leadership; its pager explosions had killed or incapacitated thousands of Hezbollah terrorists; and it had crippled Hezbollah's communication system. As a result, Israel had eliminated the decades-long threat that Hezbollah would be able to unleash its arsenal of 150,000 missiles so as to overwhelm Israel's defenses and destroy much of its infrastructure.

In a second failure of judgment, Moody's assumed that Israel's determination "to restore deterrence and get Hezbollah fighters to withdraw from the border area significantly increases the risk of a full-out war." Yet the risk of a full-out war, which indeed existed before Israel so successfully degraded the Iranian proxies on its borders, had dramatically diminished by the time of the ratings downgrade.

In a third failure, Moody's lamented that prospects for ceasefires have receded, not understanding that a ceasefire strategy would have kept Hamas and Hezbollah in power, burdening Israel with a continuation of its high military spending—two to three times as much per share of its gross domestic product as most Western countries. Without ceasefires, Israel may decisively defeat Iran and its proxies and end Iran's destabilization of the Middle East, states Richard Dearlove, the former head of Britain's MI6 spy agency.

Instead of being a hard-nosed, number-crunching, credit-rating agency that appreciated the overwhelming economic benefits that would follow the defeat of Israel's enemies, Moody's mused about harm to Israel's geopolitical standing and stability—resembling more a political pundit with the same biases as the U.S State Department or CNN. This colossal failure of judgment regarding Israel reflects Moody's history of failures elsewhere.

From 2000 to 2007 in the United States, Moody's gave some 45,000 grossly overvalued mortgage-related securities its coveted AAA rating, contributing to the subprime mortgage crisis of 2007-08 and the global financial crisis that followed. In 2008, Moody's maintained that Lehman Brothers was "investment grade" until the day before it declared bankruptcy. In 2001, it touted Enron as "investment grade" until four days before its bankruptcy.

Other blunders include Sino-Forest, a Toronto Stock Exchange-listed, China-based forestry company that Moody didn't realize was worthless until its CEO resigned and the Ontario Securities

UNRWA has Brought Israel Together By Douglas Altobef

It is not the norm in Israel today to have a broad-based, across-the-aisle consensual vote in the Knesset that results in the passage of legislation.

Yet that is exactly what happened this week, as 92 out of 120 Knesset members voted to ban the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) from any activities within sovereign Israel. This is an important exercise in self-respect and moral clarity, as UNRWA has shown itself time and again to be an active actor and abettor of terrorism.

Why is this law an important statement and a necessary act?

UNRWA employees participated in the Oct. 7 pogrom and have actively supported Hamas by housing hostages and weapons in the residences of its employees, as well as giving Hamas aid and comfort.

UNRWA has availed itself of the immunity granted to the United Nations and its affiliates, and has used that immunity in a fifth-column fashion to actively oppose Israel.

The law bans UNRWA from any presence or activities in sovereign Israel, so their significant presence in eastern Jerusalem will be shut down.

In addition, the law strips UNRWA of immunity, not only in sovereign Israel but in Gaza as well. This means that Israel can arrest

and prosecute UNRWA employees who act on behalf of or in conjunction with Hamas.

It is not an overstatement to say that this legislation represents a distinct disavowal of the Oct. 6, 2023 “conceptzia” and proof that political consensus can be reached in asserting Israel’s rights, interests and values.

A likely testimony to the significance of the legislation is that it has generated hysterical handwringing among many in the West. This would be expected, of course, with the United Nations itself, which has threatened to evict Israel from the international body because of its effrontery.

Many Western leaders are heavily invested in keeping a lid on an unsustainable status quo and, in the name of cheaper oil, would prefer to see Israel perennially at risk. They, too, have warned of dire consequences for this action.

Do these leaders not realize that constantly crying wolf about Israel’s actions only renders them spineless sycophants of Iran and a world order based on Islamic intimidation?

International pressure was quite intense in the days leading up to the Knesset vote, leading many to conclude that somehow the proposed legislation would be delayed or diluted or just pulled.

Happily, that did not happen, and I would attribute that defiance to a renascent spine stiffening shown by our leadership on so many fronts in dealing with the international community.

Surely, the internal assessment here had to recognize that Israel would get no benefit from caving into international pressure. The United Nations would take a few days to find something else to condemn us for, as would be the case with many, if not most, Western leaders.

So, an Israel that can eviscerate Hamas, decapitate Hezbollah and pull the curtain back from a seemingly invulnerable Iran can stand up, yet again, and exile UNRWA.

While this seems self-evident, getting to the point of actual legislation required a Herculean effort.

While several Knesset members were stalwart, focused and determined to make banning UNRWA a reality, the legislation might not have happened without the intense, persistent and focused efforts of the grassroots Zionist NGO Im Tirtzu.

For the past year, Im Tirtzu activists have protested loudly outside UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem. They have continuously detailed UNRWA’s treacherous activities in Gaza on behalf of Hamas in Israeli media. They also have been asking Knesset members and other government officials how Israel could give aid and comfort within its borders to an active enemy.

When the Nobel Peace Prize Committee recently accepted the nomination of UNRWA for the Nobel Peace Prize award, Im Tirtzu immediately launched a petition drive denouncing the very idea that this award could possibly be presented to UNRWA and that doing so would stand as an ineradicable stain on the integrity of the peace prize.

Upwards of 50,000 signatures were secured within 72 hours, representing a strong and broad-based revulsion for the hypocrisy of UNRWA.

Im Tirtzu has made banning UNRWA its signature “fighting for the home-front” initiative. Reflecting, as Im Tirtzu very often does, the sensibilities and perspectives of “Middle Israel,” meaning that the great majority of Israeli society is in sync with this initiative, which had a powerful impact on Knesset leaders.

This legislation has to be seen as yet another innovative, out-of-the-box Israeli victory in the ongoing war thrust upon us. Banning UNRWA is an act of keeping faith with our soldiers, with the hostages and their families, and with all those who have sacrificed to uproot and destroy those who sought to destroy us.

To paraphrase Neil Armstrong, banning UNRWA is a small step for Israel but a great leap forward for all those seeking justice and sanity. May Israel only go from strength to strength. (JNS Oct 30)

Last Chance to Stop a Nuclear Iran By Henry Kopel

Under clear pressure from the United States, Israel refrained from targeting Iran’s nuclear development sites in last week’s retaliatory strikes against Iran’s military assets. But that merely delays Israel’s dilemma of what to do about this existential danger.

By all Western intelligence estimates, Iran is at most months and possibly just weeks away from having deployable nuclear weapons. Hence, both the United States and Israel face an inescapable choice: Either massively bomb Iran’s nuclear development sites now to stop and disable its drive to nuclear weapons capacity or forgo such a strike, thereby subjecting the world to the terrifying specter of a nuclear-armed Iranian regime.

For Israel, the necessary response is obvious. Ever since the 1979 revolution that installed the Islamist theocracy, Iran’s ruling mullahs have declared ad nauseam their intent to destroy the “Israeli cancer” that afflicts the Muslim world. In the past half-century, the country has massively invested in that goal by financing and arming a ring of terror armies that surround Israel. All those Iranian proxies seek to perpetrate a modern-day Holocaust in the Middle East: Hamas and Palestine Islamic Jihad in Israel’s south; Hezbollah to the north; Syria, along with related Syrian-based militias, in the northeast; and the Houthi terror gangs in the far southeast.

Iran effectively declared open war on Israel in October 2023, both by green-lighting thousands of Hamas terrorists to storm the border on Oct. 7 to slaughter, rape and maim thousands of innocent Israelis and by launching a year-long barrage starting on Oct. 8, with tens of thousands of Hezbollah missile and drone strikes launched towards communities in Israel’s north. This has forced more than 100,000 people from both the south and the north to become refugees within their own country, many of whom are today still languishing in hotel rooms far from their homes and workplaces. Proportionate to population size, this would be like 3.7 million Americans forced to abandon their homes along the southern and northern borders.

So far, Israel has waged an extraordinary defense against those genocidal proxy armies. But once Iran has nuclear weapons, such efforts will be rendered nearly irrelevant. As then-Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani declared in 2001, “The use of even one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything.”

This imminent need to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran is not just an existential problem for Israel. Since 1979, Iran’s leaders have declared that their annihilationist targets include “the Great Satan” (America) and the “Little Satan” (Israel). Iran’s national assembly routinely prefaces its business with chants of “Death to America!” Iran’s growing ballistic-missile arsenal—now the largest in the Middle East—can strike targets across the region and in parts of Europe.

A nuclear-capable Iran would radically diminish both America’s and its allies’ capacity for action and influence in the Mideast. This reality is illustrated by NATO countries’ self-imposed limits and frequent expressions of apprehension in supporting Ukraine against nuclear-armed Russia. Iran’s nuclear blackmail would likely preclude the anticipated entry of Saudi Arabia into the 2020 Abraham Accords and could lead to the collapse of that unprecedented Arab-Israeli peace architecture.

The existential threats of a nuclear Iran do not end there. Possibly the greatest risk lies with the question: What will Iran’s neighbors do? Would they place their hopes in diplomacy and American security guarantees? They all know that Ukraine did exactly that in 1994 when it surrendered its nuclear-weapons arsenal in exchange for a U.S. security guarantee, and they all know how that worked out. This is why many expect that if Iran reaches nuclear-weapons capacity, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt will all follow suit.

Here is the real endgame of the decision not to take out Iran’s nuclear capacity: The end of nuclear non-proliferation and the launch of a Middle East nuclear arms race. After that, it’s down the proliferation rabbit hole with a plethora of unstable Islamist regimes bristling with nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately, this is precisely the endgame that inexorably follows from the Biden-Harris administration’s highly public

pressure campaign against an Israeli airstrike on Iran's nuclear facilities. In effect, the administration is protecting Iran's march to nuclear-weapons capacity, despite Iran's clearly stated genocidal goals, despite its half-century shadow war on the free world, and despite the irreversible risks to the free world from a nuclear Iran.

We have one last chance to prevent such a catastrophe, but the window is about to close. The time to strike is now. (JNS Oct 28)

Israel Must Not End War Yet Despite Sinwar Success

By Gil Troy

When Israel's soldier-heroes killed Yahya Sinwar, President Joe Biden declared: "This is a good day for Israel, for the United States, and for the world." Vice President Kamala Harris agreed, echoing Biden that "Israel has a right to defend itself, and the threat Hamas poses to Israel must be eliminated."

Even Thomas Friedman, who has spearheaded The New York Times' condemnation of Israel's war and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for supposedly prolonging the campaign for political reasons, acknowledged: "it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the death of the Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar."

Yet somehow, these military geniuses – like most others – failed to add four words: "and I was wrong."

But they were – and still are.

They were wrong by constantly pressuring Netanyahu and Israel to end the war – months ago. They were wrong by opposing Israel's entry into Rafah, where Israeli soldiers caught Sinwar in the broad net Israel needed to cast so wide and for so long after Hamas's bloodbath.

They were wrong by unfairly politicizing Netanyahu's stubborn determination to crush Hamas. And they were – and are – wrong, to treat this war as some video game that only kills really, really bad guys, with no innocents getting caught in the crossfire as the fight ends quickly and painlessly.

Urban warfare is grueling – especially with Hamas terrorists cowering behind Palestinians who also hate Israel. Don't forget: "There has rarely been a military campaign like this, with Hamas leaders living and moving through hundreds of miles of tunnels, organized in multiple stories underground, determined to protect themselves with no care for the civilians suffering above ground." Guess who said that? Biden last week.

Israelis appreciate the munitions America has supplied, and Biden's tremendous moral support. Still, the obsessive attempts to restrain Israel terrify me as an American historian.

Such moral and strategic confusion does not bode well for America's defense posture. It telegraphs weakness to America's enemies, who see the disdain with which too many pro-Israel Democrats treat Israel, along with so many Americans' impatience with the kind of sustained conflict required to defeat evil.

Such callowness cultivates among America's population a sniveling, simplistic, and unrealistic approach to foreign relations that underestimates the need to unleash tremendous firepower when fighting totalitarians and terrorists. And this remote-control moralizing has stained Israel's reputation among too many Americans – let alone the rest of the world.

Sinwar's reign of terror ended only because Netanyahu and Israel defied conventional wisdom and world opinion – including most American leaders and many American Jewish leaders. Deploying unremitting, prolonged pressure on Gaza worked. The Wall Street Journal headlined: "Israel Killed Sinwar by Forcing Him From the Tunnels."

The IDF has destroyed over 40,000 military targets this year.

Nevertheless, both Southern Lebanon and Gaza still overflow with weapons depots, command-and-control centers, and Jihadists vowing to destroy the Jewish State. Consider the stockpile's scale.

Imagine the courage, military prowess, weaponry and determination required to eliminate so many threats – while also actively repelling attacks. And maybe, just maybe, Americans and others should question their "conceptzia" – (mis)conception. They, too, tolerated this buildup.

They then decided the war could be lightning short. And, even now, many resist learning the lessons of the need to grind down the enemy, a valiant effort that eventually ensnared Sinwar.

Alas, refusing to incorporate new, inconvenient, politically incorrect facts into their worldviews, Biden, Harris, and Friedman instantly returned to the same stale rhetoric they used to try to restrain Israel for months.

Harris, whose words most count now, insisted: "This moment gives us an opportunity to finally end the war in Gaza, and it must end such that Israel is secure, the hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends, and the Palestinian people can realize their right to dignity, security, freedom, and self-determination."

We in Israel crave those goals. But this year has confirmed that achieving them requires a long, bloody process – and much more patience.

Indeed, we cannot "end the war in Gaza" until "Israel is secure." And if the Gazans are truly innocent, they should turn on Hamas and force it to surrender, while freeing the hostages.

Until that happens, Israel must maintain the military pressure, and prepare its security zone along the Gaza border, including taking Gazan territory, so the Palestinians learn that every future attack will result in more territorial losses.

Meanwhile, let's end the hostage negotiation farce – by exposing the self-destructiveness of Israel's Hostage Deal movement. Politicizing the issue keeps raising Hamas's price to free the hostages.

The movement should only protest – and harass within the limits of the law – Qatari and Turkish diplomats, as well as those in North America, Australia, and Europe. Qatar and Turkey host and bankroll Hamas. Bibi-bashing may feel good – but it's counterproductive.

The Wall Street Journal reports that Sinwar kept "urging" Hamas officials "to refuse a hostage deal. Hamas had the upper hand in negotiations, Sinwar said, citing internal political divisions within Israel, cracks in Netanyahu's wartime coalition and mounting US pressure to alleviate the suffering in Gaza."

A more unified global front against Hamas might have freed the hostages sooner; it remains the only way to end their suffering, which weighs on all people of conscience.

In short, we, who want this war to end yesterday, must keep fighting tomorrow and tomorrow, until the aggressors – Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran – cave in.

Only then, once Israel is secured, will those Palestinians who actually want "dignity, security, freedom, and self-determination" – rather than Israel's destruction – have a shot at making progress, too. (Jerusalem Post Oct 23)

The Banality of 'Don't!' By Thane Rosenbaum

Do you get the feeling that President Biden's lame-duck presidency has reached a new phase of irrelevancy? No one is listening to him—and that includes leaders in Iran and Israel.

He never quite seemed as though he was fully in charge from the moment he took office. After the turbulence of the Trump years, some felt that an experienced politician with a respect for democratic norms is just what the nation needed. There was a kind of post-pandemic, post-Jan. 6 malaise that required a more measured, less rambunctious commander-in-chief.

A firm hand seemed to be missing, however. The botched withdrawal from Afghanistan. A porous southern border and a casualness about an additional 10 million unvetted migrants wandering the homeland, whose whereabouts, and intentions, were unknown. Rising consumer prices. A dangerous tolerance for street crime. Antisemitic protests and campus takeovers in support of terrorists. Foreign governments hacking into our mainframes. Chinese balloons taking home movies of America. Mixed messaging to our allies. And national-security leaks.

Therein encapsulates Donald Trump's brief to the nation. Nothing better demonstrates just how flawed and unappealing a candidate he is than the dead heat he finds himself in with Kamala

Harris. With the Biden administration's poor record, and the deficits that should disqualify Harris from consideration, even a candidate with Trump's many liabilities should be way ahead in the polls.

This election is evocative of both a divided nation and a dearth of choices.

The Jewish vote is shaping up as a harbinger of these electoral conflicts. Since the 1930s, American Jews overwhelmingly supported the Democratic Party, which reliably received well over 80% of the Jewish vote in both national and statewide elections. But over the past 25 years, Republicans have made the case that its policies toward Israel, and the Democratic Party's drift away from Israel, should shift the electoral priorities of American Jews.

Trump has been vocal in his astonishment that he is not the favorite candidate among American Jews. Yet, he might actually capture 40% of the Jewish vote in this upcoming election. Not a majority, but a giant haul, nonetheless, given past historical election patterns.

George W. Bush has reasons for resentment. He, too, supported Israel, but failed to garner a critical mass of the Jewish vote.

Trump points to many of his favorable decisions that benefited Israel as the reason why his support among American Jews should be greater. But if his numbers improve (a still uncertain outcome), past performance will have little to do with it.

This past year has been a depressing one for Jews around the world, with Israel at war on several fronts and a massacre against Jews on Oct. 7, 2023 that was considered unthinkable after the Holocaust.

It has been especially alarming for American Jews. For decades, they have grown complacent over their relative safety in a welcoming melting pot. Warning signs elsewhere registered little concern here. When there was an uptick in antisemitic violence in other Western nations, American Jews always believed themselves to be impervious.

When the FBI conducted its annual crime statistics and threat assessments, violence against Jews was always much higher than any other ethnic or religious group. But what we have seen since Oct. 7 has been a true revelation—attacks against Jews on city streets, bridges, transports, college campuses and synagogues, at Jewish-owned businesses and homes, and troubling attitudes among Hollywood elites and large segments of the Democratic Party.

Anti-American terrorists who resorted to barbarism on Oct. 7 were being favored over Israelis acting in self-defense.

Many Americans turned against their Jewish neighbors and fellow employees, or simply turned a blind eye to those who meant them harm. Craven American Jews denounced Israel to impress their "progressive" friends and prove their moral superiority.

Such showboating was not new to world Jewry. Just ask the Jews of Berlin during the 1930s. Oh, I forgot, you can't; they were murdered a long time ago. Love for the fatherland did not save them from Auschwitz.

The Biden administration, and the record that Harris has inherited over these past four years, has left American Jews with many questions. On the one hand, President Biden has supplied Israel with weapons—including the recent delivery of the THAAD anti-ballistic missile system; deployed naval warships to the region; assisted in destroying Iranian missiles before they reached Israeli airspace; shared intelligence; and declared himself a Zionist.

Would Harris ever make such a declaration?

But there has also been a different Biden, one beholden to the progressives within his party and terrorist sympathizers who are making baklava in anticipation of a caliphate that a Harris administration might help usher in. This Biden threatened an arms embargo, pestered Israel with such refrains as: "show restraint," "de-escalate," "diplomatic solutions," "ceasefires," "stay out of Rafah," "do not invade Beirut," "take the win," "over-the-top" and "stay away from Iranian oil facilities and nuclear enrichment sites."

The very same Biden who repeatedly warned Iran: "Don't!"

Iran didn't pay heed. It went ahead and just did. And why wouldn't it? This is the same administration that released billions in confiscated funds, which ultimately went into the hands of the Houthis and Hamas. Its proxies never took a day off from attacking Israel. Iran

itself launched ballistic and cruise missiles on April 13 and Oct. 1 this year.

Biden adopted President Obama's love affair with the Islamic Republic. He even retained the three architects behind the original Iran Deal, who by now must have achieved the rank of honorary Persians: Antony Blinken, Jake Sullivan and Robert Malley.

Remember Malley, Biden's "Special Envoy" to Iran? He's nowhere to be found these days. He was placed on indefinite leave, his security clearance revoked for mishandling classified information.

Last week, we learned that someone else in the Biden administration leaked classified information to Iran—this time regarding Israel's planned retaliation for the fusillade of missiles launched on Oct. 1.

These leaks (more like floods) that favor an enemy like Iran and prejudice an American ally like Israel should be front-page news. They would be if the mainstream media were not wholly owned subsidiaries of the Democratic Party.

Israel ignored Biden, too. This past weekend, its vaunted air force put on an aerial show, destroying Iranian air-defense systems and missile-production facilities—without losing a single aircraft.

Israel has most definitely reestablished deterrence in the Middle East. Its support among Democrats, however, is still up in the air. (Jewish Journal Oct 29)

Kol HaKavod to the IAF By Julio Messer

In the absence of inside information, but assuming a continuation of the proven track record of the Israeli Air Force, last week's Israeli operation in Iran was utterly masterful, both in conception and execution.

Even before it began, Israel seems to have managed to secure a package of concessions from the United States (including, but not limited to, the deployment of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense batteries) in exchange for agreeing not to target Iranian energy and nuclear sites.

On the way to Iran, Israel destroyed radar and anti-aircraft batteries in Syria and Iraq. In Iran, Israel:

1. Neutralized anti-aircraft and anti-missile defenses (important for the current and possibly future offensive operations.)
2. Attacked ballistic missile (and UAV?) manufacturing facilities.
3. Demoralized the Iranian regime and encouraged internal opposition, practically forcing a risky retaliation in the near future.
4. Reportedly did not harm civilians, thus avoiding a possible "rally around the flag" effect.
5. Did not provoke an Iranian attack against the oil facilities of Arab countries (which would have been deleterious to the United States and the European Union, as well as to China—but beneficial to Russia.)
6. Did not interfere with the U.S. election.
7. May have damaged the Parchin technology complex southeast of Tehran, officially "only" a military installation and thus "fair game" in this phase but, in reality, a significant facility knowingly used for nuclear weapons-related experiments.
8. Lost no Israeli pilots or aircraft.
9. Carried out an important "dress rehearsal" for a possible attack against major Iranian nuclear installations (between the election and inauguration of the new American president?).

It is simply amazing what the IAF was able to do: In under 24 hours, it attacked military targets in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Iran! (Yemen was spared this time around but was severely attacked twice in the recent past).

There are probably only two countries in the West capable of doing that: the United States and Israel—except that the United States tends to restrict itself to defensive operations while Israel does not.

KOL HAKAVOD!!! (JNS Oct 28)
