

## ISRAEL

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to a joint session of the US congress this week. He spoke of the threat to Israel and the world of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. The Obama administration is involved in negotiations with Iran on this subject with a self imposed deadline to complete the negotiations by the end of this month. In a speech to the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference that preceded the speech to congress Netanyahu noted that the US faces concern over its security, while Israel faces concerns over its survival.

Meanwhile, Israel's parliamentary election will be held March 17. Some Israelis have criticized the prime minister for not working harder for a peace deal with the Palestinians. In fact, Tens of thousands packed a Tel Aviv square Saturday calling for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to lose the election.

But Netanyahu has said he will not negotiate with a government that includes Hamas militants, who refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist.

So there is much conflict from both within Israel as well as from the ever-present danger from neighboring Islamic countries and terror organizations that seek to destroy Israel.