

Russia leverages Hamas and the Houthis to advance its geopolitical agenda of weakening Western, particularly American, influence in the Middle East and globally. By providing diplomatic support, and according to reports, intelligence data and potential weaponry, Moscow utilizes these Iran-backed groups to create instability that distracts the U.S. and its allies from the war in Ukraine.

Key connections include:

- **Houthis (Yemen):** Russia has engaged in growing cooperation with the Houthis (Ansar Allah), who have targeted international shipping, including hosting delegations and providing, as reported by the *Wall Street Journal*, satellite data to enhance these attacks. Additionally, there are reports that Moscow has considered providing anti-ship missiles to the group, as noted by the Jamestown Foundation.
- **Hamas:** Russia maintains relationships with Hamas, hosting their leaders in Moscow and providing diplomatic cover, while avoiding classifying them as a terrorist organization, according to Wikipedia. This aligns with Russia's aim to present itself as a pro-Arab power.
- **Axis of Resistance:** These partnerships are facilitated by Russia's expanding military alliance with Iran, according to the Atlantic Council and the Jamestown Foundation, positioning Moscow as a key player in the "Axis of Resistance" against Western interests.
- **Strategic Distraction:** These ties allow Russia to drain Western resources in the Red Sea and Gaza, providing a diversion from the Ukraine conflict.

Essentially, the Houthis and Hamas serve as strategic tools for Russia to create "supply chains of instability" against the West.

There is no credible, direct evidence that Russia provided direct aid, training, or arms to Hamas for the October 2023 attack on Israel. While Russia maintains ties with Hamas and benefits strategically from the conflict, which distracts from the war in Ukraine, allegations of direct involvement remain unproven.

Key Aspects of Russian Involvement:

- **Strategic Benefit:** Russia benefits from the conflict, as it shifts international attention away from the war in Ukraine and creates instability for Western allies.
- **Support for Iran:** Russia has been strengthening its defense partnership with Iran, a major supporter of Hamas. There are reports of Russia providing drones and training to Iran.
- **Disinformation:** Historically, Russia has used propaganda to destabilize the Middle East, with some reports suggesting they continue such activities.

- **Lack of Direct Evidence:** Despite accusations and speculation, there is no evidence that Russia provided specific support for the Hamas attack on October 7.

While some reports indicate potential knowledge or strategic interest from Moscow, the claim that Russia directly assisted in the attack is not supported by evidence.

Sources:

- Russia reportedly sending Iran drones for use against the U.S. and Israel — FDD's Long War Journal (Mar 27, 2026)
- Did Russia Prepare Hamas for the Attack on Israel? — Byline Times (Oct 27, 2023)
- Russia and the Israel-Hamas War: A Preliminary Assessment — BCFA
- Russia Against Israel — Ukrainer

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<https://bylinetimes.com/2023/10/27/did-russia-prepare-hamas-for-the-attack-on-israel/>

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