

MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT INSTITUTION

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JUDAISM	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM
Torah — Written Tanakh only	Old Testament covenant record	Tawrat / Zabur — Tanakh as Al-Kitab

DOCUMENT 140

ABOVE THE LAW OF NATIONS:

THE COVENANT WITNESS ANSWERING MARC BOTENGA'S QUESTION TO THE NATIONS

"Is the United States Still Bound by International Law?"

A Covenant Deep Dive — Legal / Geopolitical / Three-Religion

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DOCTRINAL AUTHORITY — STANDING RULE

The sole authoritative source of this study is the **Written Tanakh** — Torah, Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings). Talmud, Church councils, Papal encyclicals, and Hadith collections are historical references only and carry no binding authority. Where any tradition departs from the Written Text, the Written Text governs. **Yahweh** (יהוה) is the personal name of the Creator. **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is His title. Neither is rendered 'God' or 'LORD' in this document.

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

This study is written simultaneously for three audiences:

Judaism — The Written Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim are your authority. Every covenant statute cited herein stands on that authority alone.

Christianity — The Old Testament is the Tanakh. Every prophetic structure your faith affirms finds its legal basis in the covenant text cited here.

Islam — The Tawrat and Zabur are acknowledged in the Qur'an as Al-Kitab. The covenant statutes of Yahweh cited here are the very foundation your tradition honors.

TANAKH BOOKS CITED IN THIS STUDY

HEBREW BOOK NAME	ENGLISH NAME
Bereishit	Genesis
Shemot	Exodus
Vayikra	Leviticus
Bamidbar	Numbers
Devarim	Deuteronomy
Yehoshua	Joshua
Shoftim	Judges
Shemu'el Aleph	1 Samuel
Melachim Aleph	1 Kings
Yeshayahu	Isaiah
Yirmeyahu	Jeremiah
Yechezkel	Ezekiel
Amos	Amos
Tehillim	Psalms
Mishlei	Proverbs

PART ONE: THE QUESTION BEFORE THE NATIONS

I. WHO IS MARC BOTENGA AND WHY DOES HIS QUESTION MATTER?

On February 20, 2026, Belgian Member of the European Parliament **Marc Botenga** — representing the Workers' Party of Belgium (PVDA-PTB) and serving on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Security and Defence, and the Delegation for Relations with Palestine — confronted

United States Ambassador to the EU **Andrew Puzder** before the assembled European Parliament with a question that reverberated across the world: *"Is the United States still bound by international law and the UN Charter?"*

Botenga's public record demonstrates a sustained, documented position: **the United States and the European Union have adopted a policy of selective accountability** — imposing sweeping sanctions on adversaries while granting immunity to allies committing identical or greater violations. He has publicly accused the EU of being 'an accomplice to crime' and a 'junior partner to US imperialism,' citing the failure to sanction Israel for military operations in Gaza and Lebanon that he has characterized as ethnic cleansing and targeted civilian destruction. He draws a direct contrast between the EU's robust response to the Russia-Ukraine war — full sanctions, weaponry, and unequivocal support for Ukrainian territorial integrity — and its near-silence regarding Israeli military operations in Gaza and Lebanon.

As of April 2026, Lebanese authorities had recorded at least **1,270 people killed and 3,750 injured** in Israeli attacks since a ceasefire nominally took effect in November 2024. Botenga stated: *"If you listen very carefully to what the Israelis are saying, and if you look at what they're doing in Beirut, in the South of Lebanon — targeting entire villages, emptying spaces — this is ethnic cleansing."* He has further accused the EU of actively enabling the violence through trade and cooperation agreements that remain in full force.

This document does not endorse Botenga's political party, his economic ideology, or all of his positions. It addresses the **covenant legal question** his challenge raises — a question that every nation and every ruler must answer before **Yahweh: Is there a law above the law of nations?** And if so, what does it require of those who seize the inheritance of others, destroy the heritage of peoples, and stand above accountability?

II. THE PATTERN OF EMPIRE REFUSING ACCOUNTABILITY

The pattern is not new. Every empire in the recorded covenant history of **Yahweh** has arrived at the same position: *We are above the law.* Mitzrayim (Egypt) said it to Mosheh (Moses). Babylon said it to Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah). Assyria said it to Yeshayahu (Isaiah). The written record of **Yahweh's** responses to that claim is the precise subject of this study.

PART TWO: THE COVENANT LEGAL FRAMEWORK

I. YAHWEH'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER EVERY NATION — DEVARIM 10:14 AND TEHILLIM 24:1

The foundational premise of covenant jurisprudence is stated without qualification in **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 10:14**:

"Behold, to Yahweh your Elohim belong the heavens and the highest heavens, the earth and everything that is in it."

And in **Tehillim (Psalms) 24:1**:

"The earth is Yahweh's, and all it contains; the world, and those who dwell in it."

The United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and every government on earth exists under this jurisdiction. There is no opt-out clause. There is no sovereign immunity from the law of **Yahweh**. The UN Charter is a human document. The Torah is the law of the Sovereign of the universe.

II. THE LAW AGAINST SEIZING THE INHERITANCE — VAYIKRA 25:23 AND MELACHIM ALEPH 21

The covenant law governing the seizure of land — specifically the inheritance (*nachalah*, נַחֲלָה) — is stated without qualification in **Vayikra (Leviticus) 25:23**:

"The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me."

The operative principle: **no earthly power holds title to the land**. Every nation is a tenant under the covenant of **Yahweh**. When a nation expels the inhabitants of a land, destroys its heritage, and seizes its territory by military force, it has violated the covenant of **Yahweh** regardless of which nation does it.

The most precise case study is **Melachim Aleph (1 Kings) 21 — the Vineyard of Navot (Naboth)**. Navot refused to surrender his inheritance: *"Yahweh forbid me that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you"* (**Melachim Aleph 21:3**). Izevel orchestrated false witnesses, executed Navot, and Ach'av seized the vineyard.

Yahweh's response through **Eliyahu (Elijah)** was immediate: *"Have you murdered and also taken possession?"* (**Melachim Aleph 21:19**). The covenant charge was not merely murder — it was the conjunction of violence and seizure. The pattern — **destroy the people, seize the land** — is the precise legal category that covenant law identifies as the highest violation of nachalah doctrine, and it is the pattern being documented in Gaza and Lebanon today.

III. THE LAW OF THE GER — PROTECTION OF THE STRANGER — SHEMOT 22:20 AND VAYIKRA 19:33-34

The covenant does not permit the distinction the nations are making between 'legitimate' populations and those labeled 'enemy' or 'terrorist.' **Shemot (Exodus) 22:20**:

"You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

And Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:33-34:

"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am Yahweh your Elohim."

Palestinian and Lebanese civilian populations are *gerim* (גֵּרִים, strangers/sojourners) in the most precise covenant sense: populations whose land is being administered or occupied by another power, who are entitled by the law of **Yahweh** to full protection. The covenant does not require political agreement with their leadership as a precondition for this protection. It requires only their humanity.

IV. THE LAW AGAINST PARTIAL JUSTICE — DEVARIM 16:18-20

Botenga's central accusation — that the West applies international law selectively — finds its covenant parallel in **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 16:18-20**:

"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates... and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may live and possess the land that Yahweh your Elohim is giving you."

The Hebrew word rendered 'partiality' is *paneh* — literally 'face.' To show partiality is to judge based on whose face is before you. The bribe is not only monetary: an arms deal is a bribe. A Security Council veto cast to protect an ally from accountability is a bribe. *Tzedek tzedek tirdof* (צֶדֶק צֶדֶק תִּרְדּוּף) — **Justice, justice shall you pursue** — the doubling is emphatic. Yahweh requires the same standard for all faces before the court: friends and enemies, strong and weak, politically useful and politically costly.

V. THE LAW AGAINST FALSE WITNESS AND THE SHIELD-BEARER — DEVARIM 19:15-21

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 — the foundational research standard of this institution:

"A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."

And **Devarim 19:18-19** on the false witness:

"The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst."

The UN Security Council veto mechanism — which allows a single nation to block all accountability regardless of the weight of evidence — is structurally a violation of this covenant standard. The covenant requires at minimum two or three independent witnesses. The nation that uses its veto to shield a party it knows to be acting in violation of law incurs the same penalty that the accused would have received. **Yahweh** holds the shield-bearer equally accountable to the actor.

VI. THE KING WHO TAKES FIELDS AND VINEYARDS — SHEMU'EL ALEPH 8:14-17

Document 133 of the Master Library (*Shemu'el Aleph 8 — The Babel Pattern of Centralized Governance*) established the covenant case against imperial governance. **Shemu'el (Samuel)** warned Yisra'el what a king would do:

He will take your fields and your vineyards and your olive orchards and give them to his servants. He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. (Shemu'el Aleph 8:14-17)

The list of what the imperial king *takes* is the list of what is documented in Gaza and Lebanon: fields, agricultural land, vineyards — the *keramim* (כֶּרְמִים) — the long-term agricultural heritage of communities that have been systematically destroyed. The covenant description of what empire does to a people is a live description of what the nations are witnessing today.

PART THREE: THE COVENANT CHARGE TO THE UNITED STATES, THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND THE UNITED NATIONS

I. THE UNITED STATES — YESHAYAHU 10:12-14

The United States now sits in the position **Yahweh** most precisely described through **Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 10:12-14**:

"When Yahweh has finished all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes. For he says: 'By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I removed the boundaries of peoples, and plundered their treasures.'"

A great power that *removes the boundaries of peoples* and declares it has done so by its own wisdom, without accountability to any law above itself, has taken Assyria's posture. **The covenant charge to**

the United States: You are not above the law of the universe. The weapons you supply, the vetoes you cast, and the immunity you grant are recorded in the covenant record of Yahweh. Return to the standard of righteous judgment or receive the judgment Yahweh has reserved for empires that seize the inheritance of others.

II. THE EUROPEAN UNION — DEVARIM 27:25

Botenga's accusation against the EU is that it has become an accomplice — not a judge. **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 27:25:**

| *"Cursed be he who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood."*

The 'bribe' in the covenant sense is not only monetary. An arms deal is a bribe. A trade agreement maintained while atrocities are documented is a bribe. A diplomatic relationship preserved at the cost of silence before innocent blood is a bribe. The EU is charged before **Yahweh:** align your conduct with your stated legal commitments, or bear the covenant consequence of complicity.

III. THE UNITED NATIONS — YESHAYAHU 1:17

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 1:17:

| *"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."*

No institutional design exempts a body from this standard. If the institution cannot deliver justice because its design permits one party to veto it, the institution must be reformed. **Yahweh** does not accept structural excuses. The standard is righteous judgment, and every body that claims to administer justice among the nations stands accountable to it.

PART FOUR: THE PROPHETIC RECORD

I. AMOS 1 — THE COVENANT CHARGES AGAINST THE NATIONS

The prophet **Amos** in chapter one delivers covenant charges against the surrounding nations — not against Yisra'el but against the *goyim* (nations). The charges are legal: mass displacement, destruction of populations, violation of treaty obligations, perpetual military aggression. They apply to every nation. They apply now.

NATION	COVENANT CHARGE — AMOS 1	MODERN PARALLEL
Aram — Amos 1:3	Threshed Gilead with iron threshing sledges	Systematic destruction of civilian territory

Gaza — Amos 1:6	Carried a whole people into exile	Mass displacement of civilian populations
Tyre — Amos 1:9	Did not remember the covenant of brotherhood	Nations that facilitate displacement while claiming alliance
Edom — Amos 1:11	Pursued his brother with the sword; his anger tore perpetually	Sustained military campaigns with documented civilian harm

II. YIRMEYAHU 22 — THE CHARGE AGAINST THE KING WHO DOES NOT PRACTICE JUSTICE

Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 22:3:

"Thus says Yahweh: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place."

"But if you will not obey these words, I swear by Myself, declares Yahweh, that this house shall become a desolation." (Yirmeyahu 22:5)

The leadership that refuses to *deliver from the hand of the oppressor who has been robbed* — that watches the robbery of inheritance and enables it — is told that its own house will become a desolation. This is the word of **Yahweh**. It is not a commentary. It is covenant law with attached consequences.

III. YECHEZKEL 34 — THE SHEPHERDS WHO RULE WITH FORCE AND HARSHNESS

Yechezkel (Ezekiel) 34:4:

"The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them."

This is the covenant indictment of every government that has possessed the power to protect civilian populations and has chosen instead to protect the strategic interests of allies. The 'force and harshness' includes the violence of veto, the violence of silence, and the violence of continued weapons supply in the face of documented civilian death.

PART FIVE: SEVEN COVENANT DECLARATIONS

Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution hereby enters the following seven covenant declarations into the living record of Yahweh, witnessed before Judaism, Christianity, and Islam simultaneously, in accordance with the two-or-three-witness standard of Devarim 19:15.

COVENANT DECLARATION ONE: ON SOVEREIGNTY

Yahweh, the Elohim of Yisra'el, is the Sovereign of every nation on earth. The United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and every government that exercises power over human lives does so under His jurisdiction and will give account to Him. No national charter, no treaty, and no military superiority exempts any nation from this accountability.

COVENANT DECLARATION TWO: ON THE SEIZURE OF INHERITANCE

The systematic seizure of land, the destruction of agricultural heritage, the forced displacement of civilian populations, and the killing of non-combatants constitute violations of the nachalah (inheritance) doctrine established in Vayikra (Leviticus) 25:23 and confirmed through the Vineyard of Navot (Melachim Aleph (I Kings) 21). These violations are recorded in the covenant record of Yahweh regardless of which nation commits them and regardless of which nations use their power to block accountability.

COVENANT DECLARATION THREE: ON SELECTIVE JUSTICE

The application of one standard of law to adversaries and another standard to allies is explicitly prohibited by the covenant of Yahweh. Devarim (Deuteronomy) 16:19 prohibits showing partiality — judging by the face of the party before you. Every government, institution, or judge that imposes consequences on one party for actions it shields another party from committing has violated the covenant standard of Tzedek tzedek tirdof — Justice, justice shall you pursue.

COVENANT DECLARATION FOUR: ON THE PROTECTION OF THE STRANGER

Palestinian and Lebanese civilian populations are entitled to the full protection of the covenant law governing the ger (stranger/sojourner). Shemot (Exodus) 22:20 and Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:33-34 establish this without qualification. No military or political justification removes this covenant protection. The obligation to protect the weak, the widow, the fatherless, and the stranger before Yahweh is not contingent on their political affiliation.

COVENANT DECLARATION FIVE: ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE SHIELD-BEARER

The nation that uses its power — its veto, its weapons supply, its diplomatic cover — to shield another nation from the consequences of documented atrocities bears the same covenant accountability as the nation committing the atrocities. Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:18-19 establishes that the false witness receives the same judgment the accused would have received. The covenant does not distinguish between the hand that commits the act and the hand that prevents accountability for it.

COVENANT DECLARATION SIX: ON THE COVENANT ANSWER TO MARC BOTENGA'S QUESTION

The answer to the question 'Is the United States still bound by international law?' is, from the covenant record of Yahweh: No nation has ever been above the law of Yahweh. International law, at its best, is a pale reflection of the covenant standard Yahweh established millennia before the UN Charter was written. Every nation is bound by the law of Yahweh, and every act of empire, every seizure of inheritance, every deployment of partial justice, is recorded in that covenant record. The word of Yahweh through Yeshayahu 10, Amos 1, Yirmeyahu 22, and Yechezkel 34 stands. No nation is exempt.

COVENANT DECLARATION SEVEN: ON THE COVENANT CALL TO REPENTANCE

This document is not a declaration of political allegiance to any party, movement, or ideology. It is issued as a covenant witness — a standing declaration of the law of Yahweh before Judaism, Christianity, and Islam simultaneously. The call is simple: Return to righteous judgment. Pursue justice for the weak and the strong equally. Cease the seizure of inheritance. Protect the stranger. Remove the false witness from the place of power. The law of Yahweh is the only law that will stand when every empire, every treaty organization, and every political institution of this age has passed from the earth.

CONCLUSION

Marc Botenga asked the right question. He directed it to the US Ambassador in the European Parliament. This document directs it to a higher tribunal: **the covenant record of Yahweh.** The answer the covenant returns is not partisan. It favors the standard **Yahweh** established before any of these nations existed: righteous judgment, protection of the stranger, prohibition of inheritance seizure, equal application of law, and the absolute accountability of every empire that has ever said — in any language, in any century — *"We are not bound."*

History's answer to that declaration is written in the ruins of Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Persia, Greece, and Rome. **Yahweh does not cancel His covenant law for the powerful. He waits for them to return to it. And He has appointed witnesses to stand before the nations and declare: *"The law exists. It applies to you. And it will be answered."***

This is the covenant witness of **Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution** — issued June 12, 2026, for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam simultaneously, in accordance with the authority of the Written Tanakh alone.

PRIMARY TANAKH SOURCES CITED

REFERENCE	SUBJECT
Devarim 10:14	Yahweh's ownership of earth and all nations
Tehillim 24:1	The earth is Yahweh's — all who dwell in it
Vayikra 25:23	The land cannot be sold in perpetuity — nachalah doctrine
Melachim Aleph 21	Vineyard of Navot — seizure of inheritance, covenant judgment
Shemot 22:20	Do not wrong or oppress the stranger
Vayikra 19:33-34	The stranger shall be as the native among you
Devarim 16:18-20	Appoint righteous judges; do not show partiality; Tzedek tzedek tirdof
Devarim 19:15-21	Two or three witnesses; false witness bears the penalty of the accused
Shemu'el Aleph 8:14-17	The king who takes fields, vineyards — imperial expropriation pattern
Yeshayahu 10:12-14	Judgment on the empire that removes the boundaries of peoples
Yirmeyahu 22:3-5	Do justice — deliver from the oppressor — or the house becomes desolation
Amos 1:3-11	Covenant charges against the nations for mass displacement and destruction
Yechezkel 34:4	Shepherds who rule with force and harshness — covenant indictment
Devarim 27:25	Cursed is he who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood

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