

Please Note:

This week we are getting ready for a big family time and the news will be less detailed with fewer highlighted areas and comments and more referrals to the Article resource sites for your further perusal. RDB

Scoop: Trump told MBS he expects Saudi-Israel deal with Gaza war over

- [Barak Ravid](#) Nov 13, 2025 - [World](#)



Trump with MBS in Riyadh in May. Photo: Win McNamee/Getty Images

President Trump told Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) in a phone call last month that, with the Gaza war ending, he expects Saudi Arabia to move toward normalization with Israel, two U.S. officials told Axios.

Why it matters: U.S. officials have told the Saudis they're hoping for progress on that issue around the Trump-MBS meeting next week at the

White House, though they acknowledge the gaps between the Saudis and Israelis remain wide, the U.S. officials said.

Behind the scenes: The call between Trump and MBS, which was not previously made public, took place after the [Gaza peace summit](#) in Egypt last month.

- A U.S. official with direct knowledge of the call said **Trump told MBS he'd managed to end the war in Gaza, and now wanted the crown prince to move toward normalization with Israel.**
- **MBS said he was willing to work on it with the Trump administration,** the U.S. official said.
- The **Saudi embassy in Washington didn't respond to requests for comment.**

State of play: The war was one major obstacle to normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia, but far from the only one.

- However, **U.S. officials contend that some of the other Saudi demands for moving toward normalization have now been met.**
- The **Saudis wanted a defense pact with Washington, and they are expected to get a security pledge from Trump during MBS' visit.** While it's not a full-fledged defense treaty, it could serve as the platform for one.
- The **Saudis also want an irreversible path to a Palestinian state** as part of a normalization deal. The White House believes the final two clauses of Trump's Gaza peace plan put Palestinian statehood on the table.

Friction point: Israeli Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#), a fierce opponent of the two-state solution, disagrees. Netanyahu has also taken hardline positions on the implementation of Trump's peace plan that U.S. officials have found unhelpful.

- **Trump's advisers are urging Netanyahu to look at the bigger picture** — that by proceeding with Trump's plan he could secure a peace deal with Saudi Arabia.

Between the lines: The Trump plan says that if the Palestinian Authority "faithfully" conducts reforms during the reconstruction of Gaza, "the conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood, which we recognize as the aspiration of the Palestinian people."

- The **Trump plan also says the U.S. will establish a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians** to agree on a "political horizon for peaceful and prosperous co-existence."
- **Former U.S. officials and Arab diplomats doubt that language meets the Saudi bar for a "credible, irreversible and time-bound path"** for Palestinian statehood.
- **A former U.S. official who is close to Saudi leadership said MBS needs much stronger commitments directly from Israel,** with tangible steps on the ground, in order to sell normalization to the Saudi public, which has become much more anti-Israeli during the Gaza war.

What they're saying: "Our message to the Saudis is: 'We did all the things you asked for. Now, there are things President Trump wants, like normalization with Israel. So how are you guys going to move now in this direction?'" a senior U.S. official said.

Zoom in: Netanyahu has given the Saudi normalization file to his close confidant Ron Dermer, who will continue as special envoy despite resigning his ministerial post this week.

- During a recent visit to Washington, Dermer told Vice President Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio that he would continue his work on potential agreements with Syria and Saudi Arabia, sources said.

What to watch: U.S. officials say the discussions are ongoing, though they don't know if any breakthrough around normalization will be possible during MBS' visit. <https://www.axios.com/2025/11/13/trump-mbs-israel-normalization-call-saudi>

US says its plan for postwar management of Gaza offers pathway to Palestinian statehood

Statement backed by regional powers urges UN to approve resolution on forming stabilization force; Witkoff said planning to meet soon with Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya

By [Jacob Magid](#),

[Tol Staff](#) and [Agencies](#) 14 November 2025, 10:08 pm



A photograph shows a displacement camp in Gaza City on November 14, 2025 (Omar AL-QATTAA / AFP)

In a joint statement arranged by the US on Friday, multiple countries working toward an end to the Gaza conflict voiced backing for Washington's UN Security Council resolution to establish an International Stabilization Force in Gaza, amid pushback from Russia and China.

The statement, supported by Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan and Turkey, noted that the process "offers a pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood."

"We emphasize that this is a sincere effort, and the Plan provides a viable path towards peace and stability, not only between the Israelis and the Palestinians, but for the entire region," the joint statement continued. We are looking forward to this resolution's swift adoption."

US President Donald Trump's [20-point plan](#) states that the conditions "may" be in place for "a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood" while "Gaza re-development advances and when the PA reform program is faithfully carried out."

Friday's joint statement appeared to go further than the text of the plan by not leaving the question of a political horizon up for debate, possibly meeting a demand by signatories to the statement.



Despite the language of the 20-point plan, Trump has gone on the record in recent weeks saying that he hasn't even decided whether he'll back a two-state solution. Israel is vehemently opposed to the two-state framework.

Palestinians drive down a muddy road after the first winter rainfall on a displacement camp in Gaza City on November 14, 2025 (Omar AL-QATTAA / AFP)

Thursday saw Washington publicly call on fellow members of the UN Security Council to back Washington's resolution to establish an International Stabilization Force in Gaza. But the US proposal is facing opposition from Russia and China, which have expressed

unease about a yet-to-be-established board that would temporarily govern the territory, and the lack of any transitional role for the Palestinian Authority.

The Chinese and the Russians — two veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council — have called for

a “Board of Peace” specified in Trump’s 20-point plan to be removed from the resolution entirely, according to four UN diplomats briefed on the matter who spoke to the Associated Press.

Friday’s statement also came as the US was said to be [pressing](#) Saudi Arabia to normalize ties with Israel. As a condition for moving forward on establishing official relations, Riyadh has insisted that Israel commit to Palestinian statehood.



US President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman shake hands after exchanging documents during a signing ceremony at the Royal Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, May 13, 2025. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

The Palestinian Authority welcomed the joint statement, which it said “affirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, the establishment of their independent Palestinian state and the pursuit of peace, security and stability between Palestinians and Israelis, and stresses that this should be in accordance with international law.”

“The State of Palestine reaffirms its readiness to assume its full responsibilities in the Gaza Strip, within the framework of unity of the land, people and institutions, which considers

the Strip an integral part of the State of Palestine,” the PA added.

Meanwhile, The New York Times [reported](#) that US special envoy Steve Witkoff is planning to meet with senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya in the near future to discuss the ongoing Gaza ceasefire.

It would be Witkoff’s second meeting with Hayya after the US envoy met with senior members of Hamas’s ceasefire negotiating team, along with fellow Trump adviser Jared Kushner, hours before an agreement was inked in Egypt on October 9.

A date has not yet been finalized for the meeting.

The imminent meeting highlights Washington’s desire to maintain a direct line of communication with the terror group after it long used intermediaries such as Egypt, Qatar and Turkey. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-says-its-plan-for-postwar-management-of-gaza-offers-pathway-to-palestinian-statehood/> **Trump might want to read the Prophet Joel first. rdb**

Next phase of Trump’s Gaza plan in jeopardy as UN support stalls and ‘Palestinian double game’ alleged

Washington struggles to secure a Security Council majority for its Gaza stabilization force as Russia and China object, Algeria hesitates, and Israeli officials warn Palestinians are backing the US draft publicly while undermining it privately

[Itamar Eichner, Lior Ben Ari](#) | 17:54

A month and a half after U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled his Gaza plan, and just over a month after the cease-fire took effect, the next phase remains out of reach. Facing diplomatic obstacles in the UN Security Council to approve a resolution establishing an international stabilization force in Gaza, the United States and eight Muslim and Arab countries issued a joint statement Friday expressing full support for the American draft.

The declaration, initiated by the U.S. mission to [the UN](#), was intended to push the resolution forward and underscore regional commitment to Trump’s comprehensive Gaza proposal while Russia seeks to block it.



U.S. President Donald Trump (Photo: AP/ Alex Brandon, Reuters/Amir Cohen)

In the statement, the United States, Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan and Turkey voiced support for the draft resolution now under discussion. Washington says the text was crafted “after consultations and cooperation with Council members and regional partners.” The statement highlights that the decision endorses the “historic comprehensive plan to end the conflict in Gaza,”

announced on Sept. 29 and adopted at the Sharm el-Sheikh “peace summit.”

“We issue this statement to propel a process that offers a path to Palestinian independence and statehood,” the countries wrote. “We stress that this is a genuine effort, and the plan provides a sustainable route to peace and stability not only between Israelis and Palestinians but across the region.” The countries said they expect “swift approval” of the resolution.

Western diplomats described the move as “a calculated U.S. step to preserve support” for its draft. They said Washington needs nine votes in the Security Council, a task made difficult by opposition from Russia and China and by Moscow’s competing proposal. Pakistan, a non-permanent member, has now formally joined the supporters, easing U.S. efforts. Algeria, another non-permanent member, remains “on the fence” and may ultimately decide the outcome.

In Israel, officials welcomed the statement but warned of “a Palestinian double game.” “They publicly back the American draft, but behind the scenes they’re working to undermine it,” a senior Israeli official said.



UN Security Council (Photo: Reuters/Eduardo Munoz)

The joint statement comes at a critical moment as the process moves toward the second stage of Trump’s plan. The stabilization force, composed of international troops, is intended to replace the Israel Defense Forces in Gaza and assist reconstruction under international supervision. Announced in September, the broader plan includes a cease-fire, Gaza’s rehabilitation, disarmament of Hamas and demilitarization of the strip, but it has faced resistance from countries

including Russia.

U.S. diplomats expect the vote to take place as early as next week, though success hinges on convincing Algeria and containing other objections.

Four diplomats told The New York Times on Friday that several disputes remain over the resolutions under discussion. China wants references to Trump’s entire peace plan removed. Russia, Algeria, France and others want explicit language supporting a Palestinian state. China, Russia and several European countries have asked for clarifications on the composition and role of the proposed governing body, the “peace council,” which would oversee implementation of Trump’s plan. Some states have also said the resolution should clearly define the Palestinian Authority’s role in Gaza’s “transitional administration.”

Indonesia: 'We have already trained 20,000 soldiers'

Meanwhile, after Arab states rejected participating in the stabilization force over concerns about a potential military clash with Hamas, Indonesia’s defense minister, Syafrie Syamsuddin, announced Saturday that his country has trained 20,000 soldiers for “health and construction missions as part of the peacekeeping operation” in Gaza.



Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto (Photo: Bay Ismoyo/ AFP)

Indonesia, the world’s largest Muslim-majority country — which is reportedly exploring normalization talks with Israel — is among the few states that have confirmed they will send troops to the force, expected to include Azerbaijan, Egypt, Qatar and others.

Still, the Indonesian minister said no decision has been made on when or how the forces would deploy or what their mandate would be, given the difficulties in passing the UN resolution and persuading countries to join. He stressed that the

troops’ training focused on “health and construction” tasks. “We are waiting for further decisions regarding peace operations in Gaza,” he said.

Qatar’s Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported Saturday that Indonesia and Jordan are establishing a joint committee for intelligence sharing on Gaza. The initiative was agreed during a meeting in Jakarta between the Indonesian defense minister and the chairman of Jordan’s joint chiefs of staff, who told reporters that Jordan’s geographic

proximity to Gaza provides “strategic value for better understanding the situation on the ground.”

Meanwhile, EU foreign ministers will discuss a proposal next week for the European Union to lead the training of 3,000 Palestinian police officers, who could later be deployed in Gaza, according to a document obtained Saturday by Reuters.

The document, prepared by the EU’s diplomatic service ahead of Thursday’s ministerial meeting, outlines ways the bloc could help implement Trump’s 20-point plan — though it remains unclear how the plan would ultimately be guaranteed. The paper describes options for expanding two existing EU civilian missions in the region focused on border support and Palestinian Authority reform.

According to the document, the EU could “take the lead in training Gaza’s Palestinian police force through direct training and support for roughly 3,000 PA-employed officers, with the intention of eventually training the full 13,000-strong police force.”

Russia challenges Washington as the US draft is revised

Russia on Friday submitted its own draft resolution on Gaza, directly challenging the American effort. Moscow’s move disrupted Washington’s plan to bring its agreements with Arab states to a vote the same day — something that did not happen because the Russian proposal, though unlikely to pass, is expected to delay proceedings.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (Photo: Alexander Shcherbak/ AFP)

The Russian draft excludes Trump’s “peace council.” It asserts that “the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories constitutes a threat to regional peace,” reiterates the need to comply with international law, calls on the UN secretary-general to explore options for an international stabilization force in Gaza, demands full and unhindered humanitarian access, rejects demographic or territorial changes in Gaza, and reaffirms support for a two-state solution and the territorial continuity of Gaza and

the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority.

Israeli officials say the updated U.S. draft includes elements “uncomfortable for Israel,” among them not only the pathway to a Palestinian state but also a clause removing Israel’s veto over which countries may contribute troops to the stabilization force. Still, they say the proposal maintains the framework of the cease-fire agreement approved in Jerusalem, even if it is “less favorable.”

Key changes in the revised US proposal

- Section 1: A sentence was added that strengthens the call for full implementation “in all circumstances,” stating: “... calls on all parties to implement it in full, including upholding the cease-fire, in good faith and without delay.”
- Section 2: Expanded language on Palestinian self-determination was added: “After the Palestinian Authority’s reform plan is credibly implemented and Gaza’s development advances, conditions may be met for a reliable pathway to Palestinian self-determination and the establishment of a state.” This aligns closely with French President Emmanuel Macron’s recent plan, tied to PA reforms, and his announcement with Mahmoud Abbas on forming a committee to draft a Palestinian constitution. The section also states that “the United States will conduct dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a political horizon for peaceful and prosperous coexistence.”
- The term “transitional administration” was replaced with “transitional directorate” to match the terminology of Trump’s 20-point plan. The peace council would serve as this “transitional directorate” in Gaza.
- According to Saudi outlet Asharq, Section 3 removes a paragraph barring any organization that misuses aid from receiving future or ongoing support, a deletion described as one of the more significant changes.
- Asharq also reported a revision to Section 7 addressing Israel’s withdrawal, now stating that the pullout will occur “once the international force achieves control and stability.” The amended text reads: “As the international force in Gaza establishes control and stability, the Israeli military will withdraw from the Gaza Strip based on criteria and timelines related to disarmament, agreed between the Israeli military, the international force, the guarantor states and the United States, except for a security presence around Gaza that will remain until the strip is adequately secured so that it does not become a source of new terrorist threats.”

<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjredvsgzg>

US plans for long-term division of Gaza with territories controlled by Israel - report

The zones where Israeli and international forces would be placed are going to be part of the reconstruction efforts, while Red Zones, not controlled by either, would remain in ruins.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 14, 2025 21:49 Updated: NOVEMBER 14, 2025 21:51



Displaced Palestinians carry food parcels and supplies from aid trucks near the Zikim border crossing between Israel and Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip, August 18, 2025. (photo credit: Khalil Kahlout/ Flash90)

The United States has reportedly made plans for the long-term division of the [Gaza Strip](#), which will include zones controlled by Israel and an international military, according to an exclusive published by the Guardian on Friday, citing planning documents and informed sources.

The Israeli and internationally controlled zones, called [Green Zones](#) in the report, would be where reconstruction efforts would focus, while

Red Zones, not controlled by either, would remain in ruins.

Foreign military forces would reportedly be deployed alongside the IDF in the east of Gaza, with the Yellow Line dividing where the [reconstruction](#) would take place, according to US military planning documents seen by the Guardian and sources briefed on American plans.

“Ideally, you would want to make it all whole, right? But that’s aspirational,” an anonymous US official told the British newspaper. “It’s going to take some time. It’s not going to be easy.”

“As things progress and you create conditions for there to be significant progress on reconstruction, you [will] have Gazan civilians moving there beginning to thrive,” the US official said. “People will say ‘hey we want that’, and so it evolves in that direction. No one’s talking about a military operation to force it.”



People gather and shop at a local market, in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip, November 13, 2025. (credit: REUTERS/Mahmoud Issa)

Quickly evolving US plans for the future of Gaza

The new American plan reportedly comes after the US decided against fenced Alternative Safe Communities (ASC), which would see sporadic reconstructive efforts in the Gaza Strip isolated from potential terrorists.

“That’s a snapshot of a concept that was put forth at a certain time,” the US official said. “They’ve already moved on from that.”

Humanitarian organizations denied on Friday being told of the change of plans, the Guardian reported.

“The US has been very clear they want to set the

vision and not pay for it,” said one diplomatic source, noting the US’s reluctance to contribute to the reconstruction efforts.

Another document reviewed by the paper outlined plans for crossing zones, which would divide Israeli-controlled and Hamas-controlled territory as the terror group appears to dig its heels in and remain in control. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-873888>

US said considering forgoing Hamas disarmament to begin reconstruction, as talks stall

Israeli TV says Trump team pushing 'interim solutions, unacceptable to Israel'; ahead of imminent UN vote, Israel said readying for deployment of foreign troops; PM speaks to Putin

By [Tol Staff](#) 15 November 2025, 11:02 pm



Palestinians clean the streets of Gaza City on November 15, 2025. (Omar AL-QATTAA / AFP)

The Trump administration is looking to forgo the stage in its peace plan calling for the deployment of a stabilization force to Gaza to disarm Hamas, so that it can move ahead with starting to rebuild the enclave, according to an Israeli television report Saturday.

The current ceasefire, which has been in place since early October, is still only in its first phase, as talks on further steps have stalled over the details of Hamas's demilitarization and the future governance of the Gaza Strip.

However, the potential change in the White House's direction is causing talks with Israel on Gaza's future to "deadlock," a source told Channel 13 news.

An Israeli security source said that since the White House is having trouble getting commitments from third-party countries to participate in disarming Hamas, it has since begun pursuing "interim solutions, which are currently unacceptable to Israel."

"This interim situation is the worst there is," a senior Israeli source told the outlet. "Hamas has been strengthening in recent weeks since the end of the war."

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"There can be no rehabilitation before demilitarization. It is contrary to Trump's plan. Gaza must be demilitarized," a security official said.

US President Donald Trump speaks to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Palm Beach, Florida, on November 14, 2025 (Jim WATSON / AFP)

The US, which has acted as the guarantor of the agreement, is pushing a resolution to a vote at the UN Security Council on Monday, a [draft](#) of which was obtained and verified by The Times of Israel last week. The draft included the entirety of US President Donald Trump's [20-point plan](#), which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also endorsed in a joint press conference with the president in September.

The draft authorized member states to "establish a temporary International Stabilization Force," and indicated the

mandate would run through 2027. Countries that expressed willingness to contribute troops have said they would need a UN resolution enshrining the force.

According to a report published Saturday by the Kan public broadcaster, Israel in recent days has begun initial preparations for the influx of thousands of foreign soldiers into Gaza, anticipating that the UN Security Council will pass the resolution.

Israel is looking for the foreign forces to be given broad powers to disarm Hamas, the report said, though most countries that have expressed interest in participating in the ISF have said they would not be willing to enforce the disarmament of terror groups in the Strip, and would only act as a peacekeeping force.

In a joint statement arranged by the US on Friday, multiple countries working toward an end to the Gaza conflict voiced backing for Washington's UN Security Council resolution.

The statement, supported by Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan and Turkey, noted that the process "offers a pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood."

Meanwhile, Russia — a veto-wielding member of the Security Council — circulated a competing draft resolution to council members that does not authorize the creation of a board of peace or the immediate deployment of an international force in Gaza, according to the text seen Friday by AFP.



The Russian version welcomes “the initiative that led to the ceasefire,” but does not name Trump. It also only calls on the UN secretary-general to submit a report that addresses the possibilities of deploying an international stabilization force in war-ravaged Gaza.

Ahead of the vote, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Netanyahu held a phone call Saturday evening, the Kremlin said, adding that the two discussed the situation in the Middle East, including developments in Gaza, Iran’s nuclear program, and Syria.

Putin initiated the phone conversation with Netanyahu, according to the Israeli readout.

The call was the latest in a series of recent conversations, according to Netanyahu’s office. The calls “dealt with regional issues,” the PMO added, without elaborating. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-said-considering-forgoing-hamas-disarmament-to-begin-reconstruction-as-talks-stall/> **Bad Ideal rdb**

Trump says he’s weighing Saudi request to purchase F-35s: ‘They wanna buy a lot of jets’ US president also says he hopes Riyadh will normalize ties with Israel as part of Abraham Accords, as Saudi crown prince set to visit White House

By [Reuters](#) Today, 3:20 am



US President Donald Trump boards Air Force One on November 14, 2025, at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. (Roberto Schmidt/Getty Images/AFP)

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Friday said that he was considering agreeing to a deal to supply Saudi Arabia with F-35 stealth fighter jets, which are made by Lockheed Martin.

“They wanna buy a lot of jets,” Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

“I’m looking at that. They’ve asked me to look at it. They want to buy a lot of ‘35’ — but they want to buy actually more than that, fighter jets.”

The potential sale comes as Trump plans to host Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the White House next week, when they are expected to sign economic and defense agreements.

Asked about the talks, Trump told reporters it’s “more than meeting, we’re honoring” Saudi Arabia.



He repeated that he hopes Saudi Arabia will soon join the Abraham Accords, which have normalized relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations. Riyadh has resisted such a step absent agreement on a roadmap to Palestinian statehood.

A squadron US Air Force F-35 Lightning II aircraft flyover at the White House, September 3, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

A Pentagon intelligence report has raised concerns over the potential F-35 deal, warning that China could acquire the aircraft’s technology if the sale proceeds, the New York Times [reported](#) on Thursday, citing people familiar with the assessment.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-says-hes-weighing-saudi-request-to-purchase-f-35s-they-wanna-buy-a-lot-of-jets/>

PM’s far-right allies up in arms over US plan’s offer of path to Palestinian statehood



As Washington weighs selling F-35s to Riyadh, Israel said insisting sale be conditioned on normalization; politicians, settler leaders oppose two-state solution as part of deal

By [Sam Sokol](#)

15 November 2025, 11:24 pm

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks with National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir during a ‘40-signature’ debate at the Knesset in Jerusalem, on November 10, 2025. (Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

The revival of diplomatic efforts to secure a normalization deal with Saudi Arabia has triggered intense criticism from Israel’s far-right

ministers and West Bank settlement authorities, who pressured Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday evening to reject any proposal perceived as advancing Palestinian statehood.

Two of Netanyahu's right-wing allies called on him to make an unequivocal public declaration that Israel will never accept the establishment of a Palestinian state, following the release of a US-organized [joint statement](#) by several nations asserting that President Donald Trump's 20-point Gaza plan "offers a pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood."

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich accused Netanyahu of "silence and diplomatic disgrace" on the issue, arguing that the prime minister had failed to respond forcefully to recent unilateral recognitions of a Palestinian state by several countries.

Smotrich demanded that Netanyahu "immediately formulate an appropriate and decisive response that will make it clear to the entire world [that] a Palestinian state will never be established on the territory of our homeland."

Last month, Smotrich [declared that he wouldn't agree](#) to a normalization agreement if it meant the establishment of a Palestinian state, disparagingly saying the Saudis could "keep riding camels."

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National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir joined the pressure campaign, declaring that "there is no such thing as a 'Palestinian people'" and insisting that "they certainly do not deserve a reward for the terror, murder and atrocities they have sown everywhere."



Left: National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, January 16, 2025; Right: Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, January 13, 2025. (Both photos by Yonatan Sindel/Flash90)

"The only real solution in Gaza is to encourage voluntary emigration," he said, adding that his Otzma Yehudit party "will not be part of any government that agrees" to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Ben Gvir called on Netanyahu to make clear that Israel "will not allow a Palestinian state in any form."

Ben Gvir has previously issued ultimatums to Netanyahu, at times threatening to bring down the government. In October, he said he [gave the prime minister](#) a deadline to dismantle Hamas and implement the death penalty for terrorists, warning that his party would quit the coalition if the demands were not met. A month later, Otzma Yehudit MK Yitzhak Kroizer [walked back those claims](#), stating that the faction was not actively seeking to topple the government.

Culture Minister Miki Zohar of Netanyahu's Likud party also expressed opposition to Palestinian statehood on Saturday, calling for normalization with Saudi Arabia "without recognizing a Palestinian state that would endanger our security." He said such an agreement would "change the future of the Middle East for generations to come" if reached on terms Israel finds acceptable.

Unlike Smotrich, Ben Gvir and Zohar, who refrained from mentioning Trump in their statements, erstwhile far-right coalition MK Avi Maoz accused the US president of "advancing a Palestinian terror state" in the West Bank.

Additionally, the Yesha Council — the umbrella group representing local authorities in West Bank settlements — sharply criticized the notion of Palestinian statehood being linked to diplomacy with Saudi Arabia.

The organization accused the government of effectively accepting the creation of a Palestinian state in exchange for normalization with Riyadh and warned that silence over recent European recognitions was enabling its de facto establishment.

The council reiterated its longstanding position that "it's either [Israeli] sovereignty or a Palestinian state," and urged Netanyahu to publicly reaffirm that no Palestinian state would ever be established — a position he has consistently maintained.

The far-right backlash erupted after the US-organized joint statement — backed by Qatar, Egypt, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan and Turkey — endorsed an American-led UN Security Council resolution establishing an International Stabilization Force in Gaza. The joint declaration stressed that Washington's plan "offers a pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood" and urged its "swift adoption," despite

pushback from Russia and China.

'It takes minutes for a F-35 to fly from Saudi Arabia to Israel'

The political storm in Israel came as a separate report indicated progress in parallel US-Saudi-Israeli discussions over advanced weapons and normalization. According to Channel 12 and Axios, Israel does not object in principle to the United States supplying Saudi Arabia with F-35 stealth fighter jets, but insists that any sale must be conditioned on Riyadh normalizing relations with Jerusalem.

"We told the Trump administration that the supply of F-35s to Saudi Arabia needs to be subject to Saudi normalization with Israel," Axios quoted an Israeli official as saying, warning that approving such a sale without diplomatic progress would be "counterproductive."

A second Israeli official said Jerusalem views Saudi Arabia obtaining the jets differently than other regional states, such as Turkey. "Unlike the supply of F-35s to Turkey that we strongly oppose, we are less concerned... if it's part of regional security cooperation under the Abraham Accords," the official said.

Israel has long been wary of advanced arms sales to neighboring countries due to its desire to preserve its qualitative military edge. It is currently the only state in the Middle East operating F-35s, with 45 in service and 30 more ordered. One official told Axios that Israel would require any Saudi F-35s not to be stationed in the kingdom's western region, noting, "It takes minutes for a F-35 to fly from Saudi Arabia to Israel."

On Friday, [Trump said](#) he was considering approving the sale ahead of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's upcoming visit to Washington, during which economic and defense agreements are expected to be signed.

He reiterated that he hopes Saudi Arabia will soon join the Abraham Accords, though Riyadh has made clear that it will not normalize relations without a roadmap toward Palestinian statehood, which Netanyahu has expressed opposition to in the past.

According to Axios, Trump urged bin Salman [in a phone call](#) last month to normalize relations with Israel following the October 9 Gaza ceasefire deal.

Normalization, once seen as within reach before the Gaza war, has since faltered amid Saudi insistence on statehood guarantees — a demand the Israeli public is even less likely to accept following two years of conflict triggered by Hamas's October 7, 2023, massacre. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pms-far-right-allies-up-in-arms-over-us-plans-offer-of-path-to-palestinian-statehood/>

Two wounded in serious condition after shooting in Herzliya

Police opened an investigation into the incident and began searching for suspects, noting that the background of the incident is likely criminal.

By JERUSALEM POST STAFF NOVEMBER 15, 2025 00:45 Updated: NOVEMBER 15, 2025 02:36



Incident in Herzliya where two men were seriously wounded on November 14, 2025. (photo credit: ISRAEL POLICE)

A 25-year-old man and a 29-year-old man were seriously wounded in a shooting incident on Rimonim Street in Herzliya on Friday night, Israeli media reported.

MDA paramedics who arrived at the scene to treat the victims said that they "suffered serious penetrating injuries to their bodies." They also rushed the two to Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba for further treatment, Ynet reported.

Police opened an investigation into the incident and began searching for suspects, noting that the background of the incident is likely criminal.

Police discovered during the investigation that the two victims of the [shooting attack](#) are also known criminals to them.

Violent incident in Bat Yam hours earlier

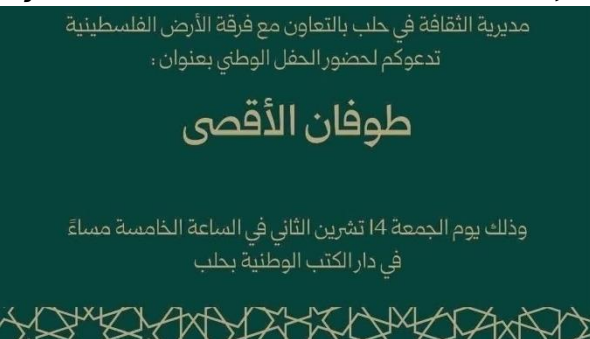


Hours before the Herzliya incident, a 30-year-old man was seriously wounded in a stabbing attack on Ehud Manor Street in [Bat Yam](#), Israeli media reported, an incident that local police in their investigation also considered to have a criminal background . *Sourasky Medical Center, Tel Aviv, 2024 (credit: AVSHALOM SASSONI)* The man was evacuated for treatment at the [Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center](#) by MDA paramedics. The police's search for the suspect is still ongoing. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/crime-in-israel/article-873893>

Israeli Foreign Ministry condemns Syrian Culture Ministry's musical celebration of October 7

The event was set to be held at 5 p.m. on Friday at the Aleppo Library.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) NOVEMBER 14, 2025 19:05



Syrian Culture Ministry hosts event celebrating October 7. (photo credit: SCREENSHOT/X)

Israel's Foreign Ministry condemned on Friday an event hosted by [Syria](#)'s new Culture Ministry, which appeared to celebrate Hamas's October 7 massacre.

"The President of Syria al-Julani [[Ahmed al-Shara'a](#)] talks about a 'new Syria,' yet his Ministry of Culture invites the public to a national party celebrating the October 7 massacre – the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust (celebrated as "The Flood of al-Aqsa")," the ministry wrote on X. "Anyone who celebrates a massacre seeks more [massacres](#), not change."

The event was set to be held at 5 p.m. on Friday at the Aleppo Library.

Journalist Ahmed Quarashi reported on X that the event was cancelled.

Hamas's October 7 massacre

Hamas invaded Israel on October 7, 2023, violating an existing ceasefire, and massacred some 1200 people, including children, civilians, and foreign nationals.

During their rampage through Israel's South, the terror group also abducted some 250 people, kickstarting a two-year conflict. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-873886>

'We ain't fleeing': Demand for firearms said to rise among NYC Jews after Mamdani elected Gun shop owners and instructors see surge in applications; some Jewish groups have called for structured approach to security, warning of risks if firearm-carrying isn't coordinated

By [Tol Staff](#) 15 November 2025, 11:55 pm



Illustrative: A man prepares to load bullets in his 9mm semi-automatic handgun for a shooting demonstration at his gun range, June 23, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

Jewish gun owners, firearms instructors and security professionals in New York City say demand for firearms training and concealed-carry permits has surged since the election of mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, with many citing concerns about safety and a perceived shift in the city's political climate, according to a Saturday [New York Post report](#).

At Samson Armory, a recently opened gun shop in Brooklyn, owner Michael Bergida said interest rose sharply immediately after Mamdani's victory. Bergida, 30, an NRA-certified firearms instructor and Orthodox Jew, said

many of his new customers are older Jewish residents, clergy members and others who fear rising antisemitism.

“We’re probably the only gun store to have a minyan,” Bergida said. He described growing anxiety within Orthodox communities and predicted “chaos” under the new administration. “The NYPD is all retiring – we have to fight for ourselves. People are freaking out over Mamdani – anyone who has any Christian-Judeo values,” he stated.

Bergida said he works closely with synagogues on preparedness. “It’s like doomsday prepping – people are loading up ammo,” he said. “I have a passion to prep Jews.”

Despite the concerns he cited, Bergida said he has no plans to leave the city. “We ain’t fleeing — we’re here to stay.



Other firearms instructors reported similar spikes.

Armed members of the Jewish community stand guard at a celebration in Monsey, New York, December 29, 2019, a day after a machete-wielding man stormed into a rabbi’s home and stabbed multiple people as they celebrated Hanukkah in the Orthodox Jewish community. (AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey)

“It’s getting busy because of him,” said Lance Dashefsky, a gun safety instructor who teaches the mandatory state concealed-carry curriculum. He said many students explicitly cite the mayor-elect when asked why they want a gun license.

Brooklyn instructor Ross Den said the trend now includes Jewish doctors, lawyers, plumbers and even rabbis.

“There are plenty of rabbis who carry — shul is where the greatest threat is,” he said. Den added that bringing a concealed weapon to a synagogue is legal if the congregant is designated by the house of worship’s leadership as a security volunteer.

A group of over 1,000 rabbis and cantors from across the United States signed onto a letter voicing their opposition to Mamdani and the “political normalization” of anti-Zionism ahead of the election, citing his defense of the phrase “Globalize the Intifada,” which he has since said he would “discourage”; his refusal to acknowledge Israel’s existence as a Jewish state; and his repeated accusations against Israel of genocide in Gaza. Mamdani has also vowed to arrest Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he visits New York.



Zohran Mamdani speaks during a victory speech at a mayoral election night watch party, November 4, 2025, in New York. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

According to NYPD licensing data, concealed-carry applications rose from 620 in June — when Mamdani won the Democratic primary — to 706 in August, a 14 percent increase. Approvals typically take six months to a year and require completion of a state-mandated 18-hour course.

National Jewish security experts, however, have urged caution. In September, the Secure Community Network (SCN) — the official security body for North American Jewish institutions — [released a detailed report](#) warning that ad-hoc or informal carrying of firearms in

synagogues poses “grave risks — to safety, to legal liability, and to communal trust.”

The report emphasized that any decision to introduce weapons should be limited to structured, synagogue-

approved security teams with defined roles, extensive training, and coordination with law enforcement.

The report also stressed that “not allowing firearms at all is a perfectly viable policy,” and highlighted alternatives, including non-lethal tools, structural upgrades, volunteer training and professional security services.

Jewish men pass New York City police guarding a Brooklyn synagogue prior to a funeral for Mosche Deutsch, a rabbinical student from Brooklyn who was killed in a shooting at a Jersey City, New Jersey kosher market, December 11, 2019. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)



SCN noted that if synagogues do opt for armed protection, it recommends hiring on-duty, off-duty or recently retired police officers over civilian volunteers.

The increase in gun-carrying activity among some Jewish New Yorkers follows years of debate over firearms in houses of worship. In 2022, several [Jewish gun owners sued New York State](#) after the implementation of the Concealed Carry Improvement Act, which prohibited firearms in “sensitive locations,” including places of worship like synagogues.

The plaintiffs argued the law infringed on their ability to freely practice their religion while facing persistent antisemitic threats, violating the First Amendment’s protection of the free exercise of religion, and the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right to bear arms. New York passed the law after the US Supreme Court invalidated a previous state law restricting concealed carry permits, ruling that the requirement for applicants to demonstrate “proper cause” violated the Second Amendment. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/we-aint-fleeing-demand-for-firearms-said-to-rise-among-nyc-jews-after-mamdani-elected/>

United Kingdom growing increasingly hostile to Jews, Israel Advocacy Movement founder tells 'Post'

DIASPORA AFFAIRS: Israel Advocacy Movement founder Joseph Cohen speaks to the 'Post' on his choice to move to Israel and leave the UK, where "the streets are already soaked with Jewish blood."

Joseph Cohen: On antisemitism, politics, and Israel

By [MICHAEL STARR](#) NOVEMBER 14, 2025 19:00 Updated: NOVEMBER 14, 2025 19:38

Israel Advocacy Movement founder Joseph Cohen left the United Kingdom in the wake of the October 7 massacre, after enduring death threats, violence, and the authorities' indifference to antisemitism, and sought refuge in Israel among Zionist peers, finding opportunities for his family and future, he explained in an interview with The Jerusalem Post.

Cohen recalled how he had founded the IAM in 2014 after leaving another organization he had co-founded, Campaign Against Antisemitism.

[Antisemitism is at a record high. We're keeping our eyes on it >>](#)

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“When the Gaza war in 2014 finished, the antisemites almost disappeared. But what persisted was, ‘I don’t hate Jews. I just hate Israelis. I don’t hate Judaism. I just hate Zionism.’ And I realized this was the true battle,” said Cohen. “Opposition to the existence of a Jewish state posed the greatest threat to Jewish survival.”

Cohen launched social media channels exposing radical sentiment in the UK, documenting protests, or interviewing and filming activists in Hyde Park. During this enterprise, he was threatened, attacked, and constantly verbally harassed.

“I’ve had a knife pulled on me because I was wearing a jumper that said Zionist on it and wearing a kippah with tzitzit. I’ve been jumped on multiple occasions by [gangs of Muslims in the UK](#),” said Cohen. “On multiple occasions, I’ve been assaulted, usually by more than one person. It’s usually a pack of people attacking.”



Protesters wave flags and hold placards during a demonstration organized by the Campaign Against Antisemitism outside Downing Street in London last month, to mark one week since the attack on a synagogue in Manchester. (credit: Chris J Ratcliffe/AFP via Getty Images)

UK antisemitism skyrocketed after October 7

Antisemitism escalated again after the October 7 massacre, and had snowballed, “rolling down a hill,” getting “bigger and bigger, picking up every single form of antisemitism. And every single antisemitic community clammers on board. So you have the far Right getting involved. You have the Islamic fundamentalists getting involved. You have everybody bringing in traditional antisemitic tropes. They say it’s about Israel, they say it’s about Gaza – but then they start talking about the Talmud.

So it’s completely interwoven. It’s antisemitism.”

There was not a day that went by that he didn’t receive a death threat, Cohen said. After so many violent

and verbal attacks, he thought that the writing is on the wall, and it is only a matter of time before something terrible happens to British Jews. Cohen left the country, saying that he had to take his children's future into account.

The current generation of UK Jews may be fine, according to Cohen, but he believes the UK to be on an unsustainable path, providing a fertile path for radicalism.

"I wanted to get ahead of the curve and move to a place where I felt that the police, the government, have my family's interests at heart, will actually do everything they can to eliminate bigotry," said Cohen. "I'd rather not stick around, particularly for my children. I don't want to set them up to exist in a country that is growing increasingly hostile, when they can grow up in a country where there are incredible opportunities."

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The October 2 Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation terrorist attack proved him right about the eventuality of violence against UK Jews, and Cohen doesn't believe that such antisemitic murders will be the last seen by Britain. The Yom Kippur attack, which claimed the lives of three congregants, occurred not far from where Cohen lived. He urges his father to leave the country. His message is the same for the rest of British Jewry.

"The streets are already soaked with Jewish blood," said Cohen. "Leave while you still can."

Cohen believes that the trajectory of Britain, which forced out Jews like himself, is propelled by a vast influx of radical Islamic migrants and a complacent government that is more concerned about not being seen as racist than taking a stand.

"The government, the institutions, are not capable of dealing with the threat that radical Islam poses. The UK has welcomed in millions of migrants from the Muslim world. Many of them come from countries that are deeply antisemitic, and they haven't done anything to tackle that problem.

"And that problem will only get worse because immigration isn't slowing in the UK. More and more people are moving there every year, and many of those people have hostile views to Jews. And just to really put that in context, they're coming from countries that used to have very large Jewish communities. And when those governments [adopted anti-Zionist policies](#), the outcome was the Jews were either forced to flee, or they were pushed out by the state itself," said Cohen. "And I think Britain is on a trajectory to that same outcome."

Cohen had worked earlier in activism promoting an initiative that emphasized commonalities between Judaism and Islam, in the hopes of fostering tolerance of one another, but by gaining access to the British Muslim community he saw how extensive the problems of antisemitism and Islam are. During his conversations at Hyde Park, he also experienced the UK police's apathy and unwillingness to confront the problem.

A positive dialogue about a peaceful resolution to the Israel-Hamas War collapsed when groups of foreign Muslim men and youths began to heckle him and threaten to beat him. Two police officers allegedly witnessed the incident, but took no action to intervene. In another instance, when a gang of Kurdish Muslims jumped him, Cohen said, a policewoman turned and ran from the scuffle.

"I don't blame her. She's a little policewoman. What is she going to do against a gang of thugs? She needed more support, but she turned and ran," said Cohen.

There were other examples of willing blindness beyond attacks on Cohen. He filmed activists waving a jihadist flag at a protest, shouting in Arabic that Allah should curse the Jews, and shared the video with the Metropolitan Police. The police responded that they had consulted with their experts, who assured that the flag was a declaration of faith, and the other remarks were ignored. After some backlash, they had to bring an activist in for questioning, but Cohen doubted that anything further happened.

The police were afraid to confront the mobs, and it was easier to detain and push aside the victims than to address the problem. At one protest, a few days after October 7, Cohen attended a protest outside the Israeli Embassy. Protesters realized he was Jewish, and was "interfering with their celebration of the massacre" by filming. The mob started to come for him, but the police evacuated him and held the mob back.

"That's a lot of police resources for one person," said Cohen. "They tried to get me out safely before I was attacked. But nine times out of 10, it's easier for them to move me than the mob. So they did; they got me out safely in that instance."

However, in other instances, such as the Aston Villa and Maccabi Tel Aviv soccer match last Thursday, it was decided that Israeli fans would be banned from attending rather than risk antagonizing radicals. Cohen also referred to an August 29 incident in which a Jewish lawyer was allegedly arrested for antagonizing others by wearing a Star of David necklace when attending an anti-Israel protest.

The systemic problems extended into the Crown Prosecution Service and court system, Cohen related. He

noted the 2021 event in which a [convoy of cars](#) drove from a Muslim community into a Jewish London community, calling out on loudspeakers for the rape of Jewish mothers and daughters. The men were charged, but the CPS dropped the charges because they didn't think there would be a possibility for conviction. Last January, a man entered a Golders Green supermarket and tried to stab staff and patrons while demanding to know their position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The 34-year-old was given two suspended sentences.

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Cohen said that a great motivator for authorities not to act is the concern of being accused of racism. He noted that the cultural fear extends to civilian security sectors, where one security guard at the Manchester Arena didn't approach the 2017 Ariane Grande concert bomber because he believed he'd be accused of racism. The fear of being labeled a racist led to situations like those in which the Jewish lawyer was detained for supposed antagonism.

"The British police and the prosecution service are so concerned and worried about being perceived as racist that they'll fall into classical antisemitism without even realizing it," said Cohen. "At the governmental level and the institutional level, the police force, the prosecution service, there almost needs to be a complete reeducation as to what antisemitism is, how do you recognize it, how does it manifest, because you can't have a situation where Jews are being told that their presence is antagonistic."

Cohen doesn't have faith in the government, which includes "members of Parliament who were elected solely on an anti-Israel platform."

"I live in Israel, so Israel is obviously fundamental to my existence, my identity," said Cohen. "But if you're an Englishman living in a village in Northumberland or Bradford or wherever you may well be, why on earth do you care about a conflict 2,000 miles away? It's got nothing to do with your existence."

The catalyst for much of the antisemitism, according to Cohen, is opposition to Jews "living as free people" rather than under an Islamic state or Western democracy.

A few days after October 7, Cohen realized how much that freedom resonated with him and created a separation between him and his colleagues.

He returned to work at his technology firm job, still coming to terms with "the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust." Logging into Zoom, all the meetings resumed as normal, and he saw no reason that it shouldn't be so for his peers. When massacres occur in other countries, he wouldn't be expected to pause his life. Yet the dissonance between acting out a normal life while living with the grief of October 7 made him feel like an alien in his own country.

"I have a great relationship with my colleagues, total respect for them. But I just didn't feel like I belonged there at that moment. And so, going through that trauma, I realized that for thousands of years, 2,000 years, our ancestors have prayed and dreamed of living in this land. And I have the opportunity to. And so it would be foolish not to capitalize on that opportunity, and at least try to live in this country," said Cohen.

Living in Israel is not easy, he shared, and his family is still learning the language. Yet the opportunities for Jews are greater, Cohen asserted.

"The quality of life here in Israel is incomparable to the UK," said Cohen. "There's an incredible country here waiting for you, where you cannot just watch Jewish history pass you by, but play an active role in the course of Jewish history. You can shape Jewish history, and you can move to Israel." <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-873820>

Columbia University investment committee rejects demands to divest from Israel



Advisory board denies divestment calls, a focus of the anti-Israel protest movement, citing opposition on campus and infeasibility of the move

By [Luke Tress](#)

Today, 1:28 am

Anti-Israel activists protest outside Columbia University, January 21, 2025.
([Luke Tress/Times of Israel](#))

NEW YORK — A Columbia University investment committee on Friday rejected demands to divest from Israel, a focus of the

anti-Israel protests that rocked the campus after the October 2023 Hamas invasion of Israel.

The campus coalition of anti-Israel activist groups, Columbia University Apartheid Divest, had repeatedly called on the university to divest its massive endowment from Israel, similar to demands from protesters at other US universities.

“Full financial divestment from Zionist occupation, apartheid and genocide,” the group [listed](#) as its first demand in a missive earlier this year. Protesters regularly chanted “Disclose, divest, we will not stop, we will not rest,” at rallies on and around the Manhattan campus.

Following up on those demands, activists filed three proposals calling on Columbia to divest last year.

The proposals called on the university to divest from entities that violate human rights; to demand that companies the university has a stake in “cease any activities that are complicit in human rights violations against Palestinians”; and to divest from Israel and all entities connected to “violations of human rights and international law in Palestine.”

The university’s Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI), a group that advises the university on ethical and social issues related to endowment investments, rejected the proposals, according to documents posted on the university website on Friday.

The committee said it had three criteria for evaluating the proposals — a broad consensus in the university community, that the “merits of the dispute must lie clearly on one side,” and that divestment is more viable than engaging with management of the targeted companies.



A group of pro-Palestinian protesters march away from Columbia University on May 21, 2025, in New York. (AP Photo/Heather Khalifa)

For the first demand — divesting from companies that violate human rights — ACSRI [said](#) the first two criteria had been met, but that the demand was too vague.

“The proposal would imply no end to the list of companies that could be categorized as violating human rights,” the committee said. “The proposal could potentially encompass much of the stock market, making any investment activity difficult.”

For the second and third proposals, focused on divesting from Israel, the committee said there was not

adequate consensus.

The consensus is a “high bar,” requiring broad agreement from the university’s hundreds of thousands of students, faculty and alumni. The test for the consensus is whether there is “strong opposition” to the measure, the committee said.

The committee [said](#) that there was opposition to divestment from both Jewish and pro-Israel students, faculty and alumni, citing pro-Israel protests and letters to the Columbia community.

The demands were also not financially viable, the committee said.

The proposals had [demanded](#) the university divest from major companies, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Caterpillar, General Dynamics, Microsoft, Alphabet and Amazon, due to their links to Israel.

Further complicating divestment, the companies, making up a major portion of the US stock market, are included in exchange-traded funds and other investment vehicles that bundle stocks together.

A university spokesperson declined to comment.

Columbia’s endowment is managed by the Columbia Investment Management Company, a subsidiary of the university that is overseen by a board from the university’s trustees and other university officials.

ACSRI’s decisions are non-binding, meaning the committee does not have the final say in investments, but its rulings influence decisions related to socially responsible investing, so it is unlikely that the university will make any divestments based on the proposals.

The university’s endowment was \$14.8 billion last year. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/columbia-university-investment-committee-rejects-demands-to-divest-from-israel/>

OPED

The Iranian Regime Is Preparing Its Next War — Prevent It Now

by [Majid Rafizadeh](#)

November 15, 2025 at 5:00 am



Since its inception, the current Iranian regime has not been built on peace, but on the sword. The revolutionary slogans of the regime are not about coexistence or mutual respect; they are about domination, erasing enemies, and building an empire under the flag of the Supreme Leader. The regime has never sought to win influence by persuasion or diplomacy, but through nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, and global assassinations.

Pictured: Iran's Supreme Guide Ali Khamenei gives a speech on November 1, 2023, televised on Iran's Channel 1. (Image source: MEMRI)

Since its inception, the current Iranian regime has not been built on peace, but on the sword. From the very first day of their 1979 revolution, the Ayatollahs established a theocracy whose core mission was not just to govern, but to export its revolution across the world and impose its radical Shia Islamist doctrine on others. The regime's founding ideology is built on conquering people and lands through terror, deception and force.

The [revolutionary slogans](#) of the regime are not about coexistence or mutual respect; they are about domination, erasing enemies, and building an empire under the flag of the Supreme Leader. The Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution actually [mandates](#) exporting the revolution. Spreading its ideology beyond its borders is not an option, it is a structural principle of the state itself. The regime has never sought to win influence by persuasion or diplomacy, but through nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, and global assassinations.

Today, Iran's revolutionary ambitions are cloaked in a modern arsenal of advanced weaponry and covert operations. While the regime continues to brandish religious slogans and [revolutionary](#) rhetoric, its true instrument of influence is violence. The regime uses its nuclear weapons program and ballistic missiles as both a shield and a spear — a way to protect its power domestically and threaten its adversaries abroad. It funds and arms militias across the Middle East — Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, the militias in Iraq — and deploys them as extensions of its will. It [carries out](#) assassinations and terror attacks across continents, sending its operatives to strike against Jews, Christians, dissidents, and Western officials.

For the Ayatollahs, peace is not a divine goal; it is a temporary illusion to be exploited -- before the next strike. The regime views every confrontation not as an end but as a step toward a greater conflict that it believes will [fulfill](#) its revolutionary and apocalyptic vision.

The West must not fall into the dangerous delusion that the regime has become rational, restrained, or pragmatic -- one of the most perilous illusions in international politics today.

Iran's regime is already plotting its next war: 2,000 missiles pointed at Israel to [swarm it all at once](#) and overwhelm its interceptors.

The country's president has openly [declared](#) that its nuclear weapons program will continue at warp speed. Iran is [refusing](#) to cooperate with international inspectors, leaving the world uncertain about the fate of [large quantities of enriched uranium](#) that have mysteriously disappeared from declared facilities. No one truly knows where this material is or how close the regime is to achieving a weaponized form of it.

Behind closed doors, Tehran continues to [strengthen](#) its partnerships with dangerous, anti-Western states — China, Russia and North Korea. Each of these countries continues to provide either direct support, technical assistance, economic or political cover to Tehran's ambitions. China fuels Iran's economy by purchasing its oil despite international sanctions. Together, they form a protective shield that enables the Iranian regime to pursue its nuclear dream, its destiny.

The Supreme Leader and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps most likely see missiles and nuclear weapons as divine tools that will allow them to destroy the state of Israel, which they have openly vowed to wipe off the map. Achieving that goal would [fulfill](#) one of the regime's long-standing prophecies: the destruction of Israel, the "Little Satan," and the creation of a world order led by the Shia clerical system. The regime does not hide this [vision](#).

The regime's targets will not be limited to Israel or the Gulf states. Europe and the United States, the "Great Satan," are in its crosshairs. Amir Hayat-Moqaddam, a member of Iran parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, recently [boasted](#) that Iran's ballistic missiles can hit European capitals and American cities. The regime recently issued threats, [warning](#) the West that its enemies should be afraid of Iran's growing missile power.

These statements are not mere bluster; they are a window into the mindset of a leadership that sees confrontation as inevitable and perhaps even desirable. The Islamic Republic's rulers are not content just with survival; they want victory — one achieved through intimidation, terror, and eventual destruction of their perceived enemies.

In the meantime, while preparing for a larger confrontation, the regime has already begun [reactivating](#) its global terror networks in Australia, Germany and Greece. The regime's agents are already working to [assassinate](#) and terrorize Jews, Christians, and Western targets across the world. A foiled plot was recently foiled to [assassinate](#) Israel's ambassador in Mexico, underscoring the global reach of Iran's Quds Force and its intelligence apparatus. Israel's intelligence agency, the Mossad, has [identified](#) operatives connected to Iranian networks behind multiple terror attacks and plots against Jewish individuals and institutions. These incidents, not isolated, are coordinated campaigns aimed at spreading fear, creating chaos, and sending a message that Iran's enemies are never beyond its reach. Western intelligence agencies should assume that Tehran is planning more — and more sophisticated — assassination attempts, possibly targeting top officials in Israel and, as several years ago, in the [United States](#). The regime understands that once former officials leave office and are private citizens again, their security is weaker.

There needs to be an unmistakable ultimatum delivered to the regime: either it halts its nuclear program, dismantles its ballistic missile program, and ends its global assassination and terror operations — or it will face a new military campaign. The West cannot allow Tehran once again to buy time, deceive inspectors, and hide behind diplomatic jargon. Economic and political pressure alone will fail if not accompanied by credible enforcement. President Trump's approach of cutting off *all* financial lifelines, including secondary sanctions, to the regime remains one of the most effective strategies. Every dollar that flows into Tehran through oil sales or trade is a dollar that funds missiles and militias.

The Chinese Communist Party must be held accountable for purchasing Iranian oil: they are directly [violating](#) international sanctions and empowering the regime to finance its military and nuclear projects.

Europe must also stop treating the regime as a legitimate diplomatic partner. Iranian consulates and embassies across European capitals have often been [used](#) as centers for intelligence gathering and operational planning. Many of the regime's terror plots have been conceived or coordinated from within these diplomatic compounds. The European Union should immediately close Iranian consulates and expel their staff. Diplomatic immunity must not be allowed to shield assassins and plotters from justice. If Europe continues to provide Tehran with the privilege of diplomacy, it will continue to suffer the consequences of the regime's duplicity.

The Iranian regime is not reforming; it is regrouping. It is not moderating; it is militarizing. The West cannot afford to fall asleep while Tehran quietly prepares for the next great war. The stakes are higher than ever — for Israel, for Europe, for the United States, and for every nation that values stability and peace. If the West does not keep pressure on the regime, the next conflict will not just be another regional flare-up. It will be catastrophic.

The Iranian regime interprets silence as weakness and hesitation as surrender. To prevent another devastating war, the West must sustain military and economic pressure, and act before the regime's ambitions create a reality that it will be dark and costly to reverse. Tehran is plotting its next war. The only way to prevent it is to confront the regime now, with unity, strength and resolve.

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh, is a political scientist, Harvard-educated analyst, and board member of Harvard International Review. He has [authored](#) several books on the US foreign policy.

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/22049/iran-preparing-next-war>



BS"D

STEP BY STEP

STEP BY STEP: Good news is that many friends and supporters of Lev U'Neshama (Heart and Soul) donated towards the Education Fund project to provide basic school supplies for actually 350 children within our Lev U'Neshama families.

We are grateful that the school supply part of our effort has been successful.

According to the Israel Population and Statistics office, Tzfat's population is about 40,000, and one third live at the poverty level. We do what we can so at least the children within our struggling LUN families can get the things they need.

Every week we are providing new sport shoes and eye exams/eyeglasses to the children on our request list. However, previous donations are rapidly dwindling. I am reaching out now before the fund has been emptied and we will have to say "no" to additional requests.

We work with two local shoe merchants who give Lev U'Neshama a discount but they advised us the cost of the shoes has increased. Also, we work with an accredited optician in town who also gives us a discount but his cost is stable.

Lev U'Neshama is an Israeli registered non-profit charity organization, volunteer run, no business expenses whatsoever and every \$ goes into our programs.

Shoes: \$45 per pair regular and \$60 for First Steps, baby shoes.

Eye Exam/Eyeglasses: \$60 per child.

Your support is urgently requested.

Or use the Zelle US to US bank transfer system (contact me at mortsmo@aol.com for bank information).

US Donors may also send checks made payable to

Simcha Smolensky, my son, who is also a volunteer. Send to:

Rabbi Simcha Smolensky, 6739 N Mozart St Chicago IL 60645

Your support will be appreciated.

Yaffa Smolensky