

Israel and Morocco Deepen a Security Partnership Built on Stability and Trust

Five years after the Abraham Accords opened the door to open relations between Israel and several Arab states, Israel and Morocco are showing how normalization can produce concrete and lasting results. [Last week \(https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy/artc-israel-and-morocco-strengthen-military-ties-5-years-after-abraham-accords\)](https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy/artc-israel-and-morocco-strengthen-military-ties-5-years-after-abraham-accords), senior military officials from both countries met in Tel Aviv for the third session of the Israel Morocco Joint Military Committee, marking a major step in strengthening security cooperation. The meeting concluded with the signing of a joint action plan for 2026, signaling confidence, continuity, and shared purpose. For supporters of regional cooperation, this moment reflects how pragmatic diplomacy can translate into real-world coordination that benefits both nations and the wider region.

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Key Takeaways

- Israel and Morocco held their third Joint Military Committee meeting in Tel Aviv.
- A joint action plan for 2026 was signed, formalizing future defense cooperation.
- Talks focused on long-term military planning, training, and readiness.
- The partnership is widely viewed as a contributor to regional stability.
- The meeting highlights the practical success of the Abraham Accords.

A Growing Partnership Since

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Normalization

The [Abraham Accords](https://paxpoint.org/abraham-accords/) (<https://paxpoint.org/abraham-accords/>), signed in 2020, reshaped diplomatic relationships across the Middle East and North Africa. For Israel and Morocco, normalization moved quickly from symbolism to substance. Diplomatic ties were restored, trade and tourism expanded, and security dialogue began in earnest.

Morocco has long held a unique position in the Arab world, maintaining historical ties with Jewish communities and pursuing a measured foreign policy. Since normalization, Rabat and Jerusalem have steadily built trust, particularly in the defense and security sphere. The Joint Military Committee serves as a formal channel for that cooperation, ensuring consistent communication and shared planning.

Inside the Joint Military Committee Meeting

The latest meeting took place in Tel Aviv and was organized under the Israel Defense Forces Planning and Foreign Relations Directorates. Senior officers from both sides participated in detailed professional discussions. The Israeli army spokesperson confirmed that the sessions included visits to IDF units, defense industries, and key security organizations.

These visits allowed Moroccan officials to gain firsthand insight into Israeli defense practices and technologies. At the same time, Israeli officials emphasized mutual learning and respect, noting Morocco's experience and stabilizing role in North Africa and beyond.

Focus on Long-Term Security Planning

At the center of the visit was a strategic forum dedicated to long-term military capacity building and coordination. Discussions addressed strategic planning, operational readiness, technological development, and joint training initiatives. Officials described the talks as forward-looking and practical, aimed at preparing both forces for shared regional challenges.

Rather than focusing on any single threat, the dialogue emphasized preparedness, coordination, and resilience. This approach reflects a shared understanding that security partnerships work best when built on planning and professionalism rather than crisis response alone.

A Milestone for Regional Stability

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Israeli authorities described the meeting as another milestone in a partnership seen as central to regional stability. That assessment reflects broader regional dynamics. Cooperation between Israel and Morocco links the eastern Mediterranean with North Africa, creating new lines of communication between moderate, responsible actors.

Morocco is widely regarded as one of Israel's most important partners in the Arab world. Its participation in open security cooperation sends a signal that engagement with Israel strengthens national interests rather than undermines them. For Israel, the partnership underscores growing acceptance and integration within the region.

Proof of the Abraham Accords' Practical Value

Critics of normalization once argued that agreements like the Abraham Accords would remain largely symbolic. The steady expansion of Israel Morocco cooperation tells a different story. Five years on, military coordination, intelligence dialogue, and defense planning have become routine rather than exceptional.

The signing of a joint action plan for 2026 highlights long-term commitment rather than short-term diplomacy. It reflects confidence that relations will continue to deepen, regardless of regional turbulence.

Conclusion

The third meeting of the Israel Morocco Joint Military Committee stands as a clear example of what constructive regional engagement can achieve. Through open dialogue, shared planning, and mutual respect, Israel and Morocco are building a security partnership rooted in stability and trust. Five years after normalization began, the relationship continues to grow in meaningful ways. For observers across the region and in the United States, this cooperation offers a positive model of how diplomacy, when grounded in realism and shared interests, can deliver lasting benefits.

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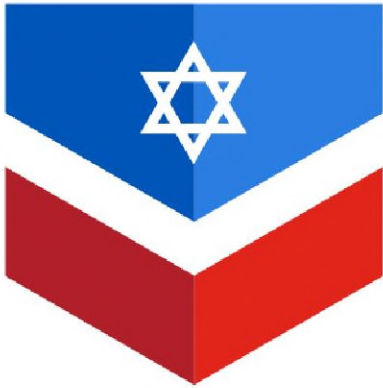
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Policy and Updates on the US and Israel Alliance

Senator Graham Reaffirms the U.S.-Israel Alliance at a Defining Moment

January 19, 2026 • Allyvia

At a time of heightened regional tension and global uncertainty, senior American leaders are publicly reaffirming the strength of the U.S.-Israel relationship. Following a meeting in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Senator Lindsey Graham [stated](#) that the United States “has no better friend than the State of Israel.” His remarks reflect a long-standing bipartisan view in Washington that Israel remains America’s most trusted ally in the Middle East. The visit, framed as timely and consequential, underscored shared security interests, political trust, and continued cooperation at the highest levels of government.

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Key Takeaways

- Senator Lindsey Graham reaffirmed Israel as America's closest ally following meetings in Jerusalem.
- Graham described his visit as occurring at a highly consequential moment for both nations.
- The senator praised the Trump-Netanyahu partnership as one of the strongest in U.S.-Israel history.
- Israeli leaders publicly recognized Graham's long record of support.
- The meetings focused on regional security and broader global challenges.

A Message Delivered From Jerusalem

Lindsey Graham arrived in Israel on January 16 for a visit centered on regional security and diplomatic coordination. Shortly after landing, Graham described Israel as "America's strongest ally and friend since its founding." The statement was not a rhetorical flourish. Graham has spent decades backing military aid, joint defense programs, and diplomatic support for Israel across multiple administrations.

After meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, Graham posted on X that the discussion was "great" and took place "at one of the most consequential moments in recent memory." His remarks reflected ongoing concerns about Iran, regional instability, and the need for close coordination between democratic allies.

The Trump-Netanyahu Partnership

Graham tied his visit to what he described as momentum created by President Donald Trump's leadership, particularly regarding Iran. He credited Trump with policies that challenged Iran's ruling clerical leadership while standing with the Iranian people. Graham argued that this approach strengthened Israel's security and reinforced American credibility in the region.

"The Trump-Netanyahu alliance has thus far been one of the strongest partnerships in the history of the U.S.-Israel relationship," Graham said. He added that he hoped the relationship would produce tangible results in the near future. For supporters of Israel, the alliance represented a period of close alignment on intelligence sharing, sanctions enforcement, and diplomatic recognition of Israel's security needs.

Shared Security and Strategic Outlook

The meeting between Graham and Netanyahu took place against a backdrop of ongoing regional threats. Israel continues to face challenges from Iran-backed groups and instability across its borders. American lawmakers like Graham argue that Israel's security directly affects U.S. interests, particularly in counterterrorism, missile defense, and intelligence cooperation.

Israel remains the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign military assistance, a reflection of congressional consensus that Israel's defense capabilities strengthen American strategic posture. Joint programs such as missile defense cooperation and battlefield technology development have long served both nations.

Recognition From Israeli Leadership

Israeli officials responded warmly to Graham's visit. Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar hosted the senator for what he described as a wide-ranging discussion on regional and global challenges. After the meeting, Sa'ar praised Graham as "a true friend of Israel" and credited him with making a unique contribution to strengthening ties between the two countries.

Sa'ar's comments reflected a broader Israeli view that Graham has consistently translated words into action, whether through legislative support, public advocacy, or behind-the-scenes diplomacy in Washington.

A Relationship Rooted in Trust

The U.S.-Israel alliance rests on shared democratic systems, military cooperation, and mutual confidence built over decades. For many Americans, Israel represents a stable partner in a volatile region, one that shares intelligence, tests defense systems jointly, and aligns closely with U.S. interests on the global stage.

Graham's visit served as a public reminder that this relationship remains strong even during periods of political change. His remarks reinforced the idea that support for Israel is not situational or symbolic, but grounded in long-standing national interest and shared values.

Conclusion

Senator Lindsey Graham's visit to Jerusalem and his meetings with Israel's senior leadership sent a clear message. At a moment marked by regional threats and global uncertainty, the bond between the United States and Israel remains firm. Public affirmations from both American and Israeli leaders signal continuity, trust, and a shared commitment to security and cooperation. For supporters on both sides, the visit reinforced a simple conclusion. When it comes to reliable allies in the Middle East, the United States has no closer partner than Israel.

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UN Silence on Iran's Bloodshed and the Double Standard Applied to Israel

The United Nations presents itself as a guardian of universal human rights, yet its record often tells a different story. A report released by [UN Watch](https://unwatch.org/report-un-experts-silent-on-iran/) (<https://unwatch.org/report-un-experts-silent-on-iran/>) highlights a stark disparity in how UN human rights experts respond to global crises. While Iran's regime carried out a lethal crackdown on mass civilian protests beginning in late December 2025, most UN Special Procedures remained silent. This restraint stands in sharp contrast to the speed and intensity with which the same officials routinely condemn Israel and the United States, raising serious questions about credibility and bias.

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Key Takeaways

- Large-scale protests erupted across Iran during December, followed by an exceptionally violent state response.
- Credible reports estimate at least 12,000 protesters killed within weeks, alongside mass arrests and executions.
- Out of 87 UN Special Procedures, only five issued or endorsed a formal statement condemning Iran's actions.
- Many experts with clear mandate relevance remained silent despite evidence of torture, executions, and disappearances.
- The muted response to Iran contrasts sharply with rapid, collective condemnations directed at Israel and the United States.

Background to the Iranian Protests

On December 28, 2025, protests broke out across Iran, driven by economic collapse, soaring inflation, and deep public frustration with corruption and religious and political repression. Sharp increases in food prices served as the immediate spark, yet the demonstrations quickly broadened into demands for dignity, accountability, and basic freedoms.

Women played a visible role despite women's rights not being the initial trigger. Acts of protest included rejecting compulsory hijab rules, burning portraits of senior clerics, and public defiance of strict social codes. Just weeks earlier, authorities had arrested Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi, placing her in solitary confinement along with other activists.

The Regime's Violent Response

The Iranian government answered the protests with extreme force. Security services carried out mass arrests, staged unfair trials, extracted forced confessions, and imposed executions. On January 8, 2026, the regime cut internet and phone services

By January 13, credible reports estimated that at least 12,000 protesters had been killed. Thousands more were injured, detained, or forcibly disappeared. Makeshift morgues overflowed as families struggled to locate loved ones. These actions meet the threshold of grave human rights violations by any standard.

A Muted UN Reaction

Despite the scale of the violence, the UN response was strikingly limited. Of 87 Special Procedures, only five issued or endorsed a joint statement on January 13, 2026, more than two weeks after the killings began. The signatories included Mai Sato, Morris Tidball-Binz, Irene Khan, Gina Romero, and endorsement by Richard Bennet.

Beyond this single statement and a handful of social media posts, most experts remained inactive. This silence included rapporteurs whose mandates directly involve torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, violence against women, and judicial independence. Their lack of public engagement cannot be explained by lack of jurisdiction or information.

Selective Engagement and Mandate Overreach

The restraint shown on Iran is not a product of institutional limits. UN experts frequently issue statements far outside their mandate areas. In August 2025, forty-seven Special Procedures signed a broad declaration on gender equality, despite many having no mandate connection to the subject.

That willingness to speak collectively on ideological issues makes the reluctance to confront mass killing in Iran more difficult to justify. It points to selective engagement shaped by politics rather than principle.

The Contrast With Israel and the United States

The double standard becomes clearer when compared with reactions to Israel and the United States. UN experts often mobilize within days when those countries act. In January 2026, nineteen experts condemned a U.S. arrest operation within four days. In 2020, twenty-seven experts issued a statement on U.S. policing less than two weeks after the death of George Floyd.

Israel receives even faster and broader attention. UN experts issued joint condemnations within days of Israeli military actions in 2024 and 2025, even when investigations were ongoing. Many signatories held mandates unrelated to Israel or armed conflict. After the October 7, 2023 massacre by **Hamas**, fifty experts issued a statement that drew moral equivalence between Israeli self-defense and terrorist violence.

What the Silence Reveals

The contrast between these responses undermines confidence in the UN human rights system. When mass killings in Iran draw limited comment, while Israel faces immediate and sweeping denunciations, the message is clear to victims and observers alike. Accountability appears to depend on the identity of the perpetrator rather than the severity of the abuse.

Conclusion

The findings presented by UN Watch expose a serious credibility problem within the UN human rights apparatus. Iran's violent suppression of civilian protests represents one of the most severe human rights crises in recent years, yet it prompted minimal engagement from officials tasked with addressing exactly such abuses. At the same time, Israel and the United States continue to face rapid, coordinated condemnation. For the UN to maintain moral authority, its experts must apply standards consistently. Silence in the face of mass killing, paired with relentless scrutiny of democratic states, weakens the very principles the UN claims to defend.

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The Political Invention of a Palestinian Entity

The modern Palestinian national movement is often presented as an ancient and organic struggle rooted deep in the past. Declassified United States government records tell a different story, one grounded in Cold War politics and coordinated Arab state policy aimed at weakening Israel. A U.S. State Department [telegram](https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1961-63v17/d34) (https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1961-63v17/d34) from 1960 reveals how Arab League leaders openly discussed creating a Palestinian political body as a strategic tool rather than recognizing an existing national movement. This record sheds light on how regional politics and Soviet involvement shaped what later became the Palestine Liberation Organization.

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Key Takeaways

- A 1960 Arab League meeting discussed creating a Palestinian entity to undermine Israel rather than to establish statehood.
- U.S. diplomatic records show the effort focused on political warfare at the United Nations and future armed action.

- Soviet support for Arab states played a central role in turning the plan into an organized movement.
- The Palestine Liberation Organization was founded in 1964 as a product of state-led strategy, not a pre-1948 national uprising.
- Cold War rivalry strongly influenced the framing and direction of modern Palestinian nationalism.

The 1960 Arab League Meeting and U.S. Documentation

In August 1960, senior representatives of the Arab League met in Lebanon to discuss their ongoing conflict with Israel. A declassified U.S. State Department telegram summarized the conversation with notable clarity. Arab officials spoke about the need to form a Palestinian entity that could act as a political and military instrument against Israel. The stated purpose was not peaceful coexistence or self-rule but sustained pressure through international forums and future conflict.

American diplomats viewed this discussion as significant because it treated Palestinian identity as a tactical construct. The telegram described how Arab states believed such an entity could be used to manipulate voting patterns and resolutions at the United Nations. This approach aligned with broader regional efforts to isolate Israel diplomatically during its early years as a state.

Strategy at the United Nations and Beyond

The Arab League discussion emphasized political warfare. Leaders recognized that direct military confrontation with Israel carried high costs. International institutions offered another path. By presenting the conflict through a newly defined Palestinian cause, Arab states aimed to reframe Israel as an aggressor and gain moral standing in global forums.

This plan relied on coordination among governments rather than grassroots organization. The Palestinian entity was envisioned as a representative body whose leadership would align with Arab state goals. This approach placed control in the hands of regional powers while presenting an image of popular resistance.

Soviet Involvement and Cold War Calculations

The Cold War formed the backdrop for these developments. The Soviet Union actively supported Arab states as part of its effort to counter Western influence in the Middle East. Israel's close ties with the United States and Europe made it a natural target within this rivalry.

Soviet diplomatic, political, and military assistance helped Arab governments move from discussion to implementation. Support included training, funding, and international backing. This relationship strengthened the push to form an organized Palestinian body that could serve as a proxy in the broader struggle between East and West.

The Founding of the PLO in 1964

By 1964, these plans took concrete form with the creation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-plo>). The PLO was established under the sponsorship of Arab states, particularly Egypt, and operated in line with the strategy outlined years earlier. Its original charter rejected Israel's existence outright and framed armed struggle as a central objective.

At the time of the PLO's founding, Gaza was controlled by Egypt and the West Bank by Jordan. No Arab state moved to create an independent Palestinian state in those territories. This fact underscores that the primary aim was opposition to Israel rather than self-determination.

Rethinking Claims of Ancient Nationalism

The declassified telegram challenges common narratives about Palestinian nationalism. Prior to 1948, the term Palestinian largely referred to geography rather than a distinct national identity, or to Jews. Local Arab leaders typically identified as part of broader Arab or Syrian causes. The shift toward a separate Palestinian political identity occurred after Israel's independence and was driven by external political needs.

This does not deny the presence of Arab communities in the land. It does show that the organized nationalist movement emerged in response to Israel's survival and success. Understanding this context helps explain why early Palestinian leadership focused on elimination of Israel rather than state-building.

Conclusion

Declassified U.S. records provide clear evidence that the modern Palestinian political movement was shaped by Arab state strategy and Cold War alliances. The 1960 Arab League meeting outlined a plan to create a Palestinian entity as a weapon against Israel in diplomatic and military arenas. Soviet backing helped turn that plan into reality with the founding of the PLO in 1964. For readers seeking clarity on today's conflict, these documents offer an important reminder that modern Palestinian nationalism developed primarily as an anti-Israel project within a larger geopolitical struggle. A careful reading of historical records remains essential for understanding present debates and future policy choices.

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