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Policy and Updates on the US and Israel Alliance

## A Strategic Power Move: How a US Nuclear Project in Israel Signals a Deeper Alliance

February 4, 2026 • Allyvia

A quiet but consequential development is unfolding in the US-Israel relationship. The United States is moving forward with [construction of a nuclear power facility on Israeli soil to support data centers and artificial intelligence infrastructure](#). The decision reflects more than an energy calculation. It signals how Washington and Jerusalem are aligning their long-term economic and security interests around technology, energy resilience, and trusted partnerships. In doing so, it reveals the depth of a bilateral alliance that increasingly treats Israel not as a regional client but as a core node in America's global technological strategy.

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## Key takeaways

- The US is building a nuclear power plant on Israeli soil under American sovereignty.
- The project complies with US nonproliferation law because no technology is transferred to Israel.
- The reactor will power Israeli data centers tied to AI and advanced computing.
- The move reflects deep strategic coordination between Washington and Jerusalem.
- Nuclear energy addresses Israel's long-term power constraints while serving US interests.

## Why this is legally possible

Israel never signed the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). As a result, US law generally bars the transfer of nuclear technology to Israel.

The current project avoids that barrier by design. The reactor will be owned, operated, and governed by the United States. It will sit on Israeli territory but fall under American legal jurisdiction, similar to a US military base or embassy compound. No nuclear material, design, or operational control is being transferred to Israeli authorities.

From a legal standpoint, this makes the facility no different than a reactor located inside the United States. Its output will supply power to Israeli-based data centers serving American and allied technology interests. The arrangement satisfies US law while meeting Israeli energy needs.

## Energy and artificial intelligence

[Israel has built one of the world's most dense concentrations of advanced computing talent](#). Its role in cybersecurity, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence already ties it closely to American firms and defense planners. The limiting factor has never been talent. It has been power.

Israel lacks large domestic energy reserves. Offshore natural gas discoveries in the Mediterranean improved the picture, but not enough to sustain the electricity demands of large-scale AI infrastructure. Advanced data centers require stable, high-output baseload power that intermittent sources cannot reliably provide.

Nuclear energy solves that problem. It provides continuous output without dependence on fuel imports from hostile regions. For Israel, this supports economic growth and technological relevance. For the United States, it secures a trusted location for computing infrastructure outside American territory but within an allied legal and security framework.

## The broader US strategy

This project fits within a wider American effort to secure advanced manufacturing and computing through a trusted circle of partners. That network includes countries such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. The goal is to reduce dependence on adversarial supply chains while keeping critical technology within politically reliable systems.

Israel's inclusion is not incidental. Its technical workforce, research culture, and defense integration with the United States make it uniquely valuable. Data centers and AI systems located in Israel operate within a security environment shaped by close US cooperation and shared intelligence standards.

This arrangement also spreads risk. It allows American firms and agencies to distribute computing capacity across multiple allied locations rather than concentrating it inside the continental United States.

## Leadership-level coordination

The idea did not emerge in isolation. Nuclear energy as a solution to Israel's long-term power needs was discussed during a [meeting between Benjamin Netanyahu and Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago in December](#). That discussion reflected a shared view that energy security and technological capacity now sit at the center of national power.

Trump's broader policy record adds context. His administration reduced US participation in multilateral institutions it viewed as ineffective or compromised, while favoring bilateral arrangements with clear accountability. A US-owned nuclear facility in Israel fits that pattern. It rests on direct state-to-state cooperation rather than international oversight bodies with diluted authority.

## Mutual benefit without dependency

This project does not place Israel in a position of dependency. It strengthens Israeli infrastructure while preserving US control over sensitive technology. It also gives Washington a stake in Israel's long-term stability as a technological hub.

For Israel, hosting American sovereign infrastructure deepens deterrence and integration. For the United States, it anchors advanced computing capacity in a country that shares security priorities and legal norms.

## Conclusion

The US decision to build a nuclear power plant in Israel is neither a loophole nor a provocation. It is a deliberate expression of alliance. By aligning energy production with advanced computing and placing both under American sovereignty, Washington and Jerusalem are tying their futures together in concrete terms. The project addresses Israel's power constraints while advancing US technological and strategic goals. In an era where energy and data define national strength, this move shows what a true alliance looks like when it is translated into infrastructure rather than rhetoric.

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# Why Israel Aligns With American Values More Than Any Other Nation in the Middle East

Published February 2026

Americans often judge other countries by a familiar set of standards. These include free elections, equal voting rights, an independent press, and freedom of speech. When Americans look across the Middle East and nearby regions through this lens, one country stands apart. Israel operates under a value system that closely mirrors core American civic principles. Support for Israel, viewed strictly through shared values, reflects a natural alignment between two democratic societies.

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## Key Takeaways

- Israel is the only full democracy in the Middle East with competitive national elections and universal suffrage.
- All Israeli citizens, including minorities, vote, hold office, and participate in public life.
- Israel maintains a free press and robust protections for speech and assembly.
- Shared democratic norms explain strong American public support for Israel.

## A Region Without Comparable Democratic Standards

The Middle East includes monarchies, military regimes, and authoritarian systems where citizens lack meaningful political power. In most countries in the region, leaders rule without competitive elections, political opposition faces legal penalties, and journalists operate under heavy censorship. Independent courts rarely exist, and government criticism often carries personal risk.

Faith & Heritage (</faith-heritage/>) Israel stands alone in this environment. Arts & Culture (</arts-and-cultural-exchange/>) Functions as a parliamentary democracy with regular elections, peaceful transfers of power, and active opposition parties. According to Freedom House (<https://freedomhouse.org/country/israel/>), Israel is rated "Free," a classification shared with the United States and other established democracies. No neighboring country receives the same rating. Education (</education-and-exchange/>)

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Get Involved (<https://culturavia.org/get-involved/>) American democracy rests on the principle that every citizen has a vote. Israel follows the same rule. All Israeli citizens are eligible to vote in national elections (<https://m.knesset.gov.il/en/about/lexicon/pages/electoralsystem.aspx>), regardless of religion, ethnicity, or gender. Arab citizens of Israel vote, form political parties, and serve in the Knesset, Israel's parliament. Arab judges sit on Israel's Supreme Court (<https://www.timesofisrael.com/khaled-kabub-sworn-in-as-supreme-courts-first-muslim-justice/>), and Arab diplomats represent the country abroad.

Faith & Heritage (</faith-heritage/>) Women in Israel vote, run for office, and serve every level of government. Israel elected a female prime minister decades before many Western nations. These facts reflect legal equality that Americans recognize as foundational to democratic life. Arts & Culture (</arts-and-cultural-exchange/>) Education (</education-and-exchange/>)

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Get Involved (<https://culturavia.org/get-involved/>) Freedom of speech and a free press define American civic culture. Israel shares these traits. Israel newspapers publish sharp criticism of government leaders, military decisions, and public policy on a daily basis. Television and radio hosts question officials directly, and protests against government actions occur regularly with legal protection. Independent courts operate independently, not as arms of the state. Court rulings protect reporters, activists, and private citizens who speak against those in power. This open debate often produces loud and contentious politics, a familiar feature to American observers.

## Independent Courts That Limit Government Power

The American system relies on courts to check elected officials. Israel's judiciary plays a similar role. The Israeli Supreme Court reviews government actions, blocks laws that violate civil rights, and hears petitions from citizens, NGOs, and minority groups. The court has ruled against sitting governments many times, including on security and religious matters.

This judicial independence distinguishes Israel sharply from surrounding states where courts answer to rulers rather than law. Americans who value constitutional limits recognize this structure as a shared democratic safeguard.

## Pluralism in Daily Life

Israel's public life reflects pluralism that Americans recognize. Different religions maintain legal autonomy over internal affairs. Citizens practice faith freely or choose no religion at all. Peaceful protest is legal, common, and protected by law.

No other country in the region protects this level of personal liberty through enforceable law. These freedoms exist not by tolerance from leaders but by legal right, a distinction Americans understand well.

## Why Shared Values Matter to Americans

American foreign support often flows toward nations that resemble the United States in structure and principle. Israel fits that pattern. Its democracy may be imperfect and contested, like all democracies, yet its foundations remain familiar to Americans. Elections decide leadership. Courts restrain power. Citizens speak freely. Journalists investigate authority.

Support for Israel does not require agreement with every policy choice. It rests on recognition that Israel operates within the same moral and civic framework Americans expect of themselves.

### Conclusion

When Americans evaluate the Middle East through the lens of democratic values, the conclusion is clear. Israel stands as the only nation in the region that reflects core American principles in law and practice. Shared commitments to voting rights, free speech, a free press, and independent courts form the basis of a cultural alliance. For Americans who support democracy abroad because it mirrors their own civic system, support for Israel follows as a matter of shared values and mutual understanding.



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Supports the connection between the people of the United States and Israel by celebrating shared heritage, strengthening cultural and faith-based ties, and expanding opportunities for meaningful engagement. We empower students, communities, and leaders to experience Israel firsthand, explore the stories that shaped both nations, and build lasting relationships rooted in respect, learning, and a shared commitment to freedom.

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### Why Israel Aligns With American Values More Than Any Other Nation in the Middle East

Israel is the only full Middle East democracy with universal suffrage, free press, and independent courts, reflecting core American civic values more than any regional nation.

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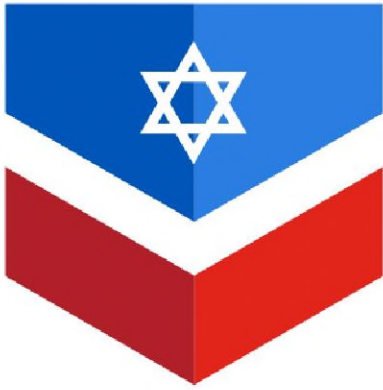
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# ALLYVIA

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## Why Israel's Integration Into CENTCOM Reshaped Regional Security

February 3, 2026 • Allyvia

Israel's full integration into the United States Central Command in 2022 marked a turning point in the country's strategic posture. While not a formal defense treaty, the move placed Israel inside the core American military framework for the Middle East, delivering many of the practical benefits of an alliance without surrendering Israeli independence.

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## Key Takeaways

- Israel joined the U.S. Central Command structure in 2022 after decades under European Command.
- The change followed the Abraham Accords and the collapse of Arab opposition to open military coordination with Israel.
- CENTCOM integration enables coordinated defense, intelligence sharing, and joint operations with U.S. and Arab partners.
- The system proved its value during Iranian missile and drone attacks in 2024 and 2025.
- Israel retains freedom of action while gaining strategic depth and deterrence.

## How U.S. Regional Commands Shape Power

The United States organizes its overseas military presence through geographic combatant commands. Each command is led by a four-star general reporting directly to civilian leadership. These commands are the backbone of American global strategy, integrating allies, intelligence, logistics, training, and operational planning.

The Middle East falls under United States Central Command, commonly known as [CENTCOM](#). For political reasons, Israel spent decades assigned to United States European Command. Arab states opposed serving in the same regional framework as Israel, and Washington accommodated that resistance to preserve broader partnerships.

## The Abraham Accords Ended the Old Veto

That arrangement became outdated after the [Abraham Accords](#) in 2020. Once the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and later Morocco normalized relations with Israel, the regional objection collapsed. In 2021, the United States announced Israel's transfer to CENTCOM, with full operational integration completed in 2022.

This change embedded Israel inside the U.S.-led regional security architecture aimed at containing Iran. Intelligence coordination, maritime security, missile defense, and operational planning now occur within a shared framework rather than through ad hoc bilateral channels.

## From Symbolism to Daily Military Practice

CENTCOM integration quickly moved beyond paperwork. Israel began participating in large-scale regional exercises alongside Arab militaries. [IMX-2022](#) brought Israeli naval forces into a U.S.-led maritime drill across the Red Sea and Persian Gulf. [Juniper Oak 2023](#) became the largest U.S.–Israel exercise ever conducted, involving strategic bombers, fighter aircraft, naval forces, special operations units, and integrated intelligence platforms.

These activities institutionalized routine cooperation at a high tempo. They also familiarized regional partners with Israeli capabilities and procedures, reducing friction in real-world contingencies.

## October 7 and the Strategic Umbrella

The full significance of CENTCOM integration emerged after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack. The United States responded with rapid deployment of aircraft carriers, missile defense ships, intelligence assets, and electronic warfare platforms. This deployment sent a clear signal to Hezbollah and Iran that escalation would carry immediate costs.

This was not symbolic support. It materially reduced the risk of a multi-front war and strengthened Israeli deterrence at a moment of extreme vulnerability.

## A Working Regional Defense Network

The Iranian missile and drone barrages of 2024 and 2025 tested the system. For the first time, CENTCOM activated a multinational defensive network in real combat conditions. U.S. aircraft intercepted drones over Iraq and the Red Sea. American, British, and French naval vessels shot down cruise missiles. Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE shared airspace access and tactical intelligence.

Israel synchronized its Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow systems with U.S. command elements. The result was a largely neutralized attack that could have caused massive civilian harm. A long-discussed concept became an operational reality.

## Postwar Gaza and the Joint Command Center

After the October 2025 ceasefire under [President Donald Trump's 20-point plan](#), the U.S. and Israel established a joint command center in Kiryat Gat near Gaza. This hub supports real-time intelligence sharing, access to American reconnaissance, humanitarian coordination, and operational deconfliction.

American officers working alongside Israeli commanders gained firsthand exposure to Hamas tactics, including human shields and aid diversion. This has narrowed gaps in understanding rather than widened them.

## Autonomy Without a Treaty

For decades, Israel debated a formal defense treaty with the United States. The concern was loss of freedom of action. The CENTCOM model delivers many alliance benefits without legal constraints. Israel gains deterrence, intelligence depth, and operational support while retaining independent decision-making.

Some risks exist. Political differences can arise. Yet Israeli defense officials note that no decisions contrary to Israel's core security needs have been imposed.

## Conclusion

Israel's integration into CENTCOM did not weaken Israeli sovereignty. It strengthened Israel's strategic position by embedding it within a regional defense framework that amplifies Israeli power and deters shared adversaries. Far from losing control, Israel gained strategic depth, operational reach, and stronger coordination with both the United States and pragmatic Arab partners. Over time, the advantages of this arrangement are likely to shape Israel's security environment for decades to come.

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# Why the Gaza Peace Council Cannot Succeed Without the Disarmament of Hamas

The announcement of [President Donald Trump's new peace council for Gaza](https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2026/01/president-trump-ratifies-board-of-peace-in-historic-ceremony-opening-path-to-hope-and-dignity-for-gazans/) (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2026/01/president-trump-ratifies-board-of-peace-in-historic-ceremony-opening-path-to-hope-and-dignity-for-gazans/>) has renewed discussion about diplomatic pathways for ending the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Diplomatic structures, advisory boards, and international engagement can help frame postwar arrangements, yet they cannot substitute for addressing the core obstacle to stability. As recent analysis makes clear, everything rests on one non-negotiable condition: the complete disarmament of Hamas. Without removing Hamas as an armed actor, no peace framework, regardless of who sponsors it, can deliver security for Israel or a stable future for Gaza.

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7. The Risk of Repeating Past Failures
8. Conclusion

## Key Takeaways

- Hamas remains committed to armed conflict and rejects coexistence with Israel.
- Past ceasefires and diplomatic initiatives allowed Hamas to rearm rather than moderate.
- Humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts have repeatedly been diverted to military rebuilding

- Hamas leadership inside and outside Gaza continues to call for Israel's

destruction.

(<https://paxpoint.org>)

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• Any peace council that avoids disarmament risks repeating the failures of the

## A Council Cannot Replace Security Reality

President Donald Trump has framed the peace council as a mechanism to coordinate international efforts and chart a postwar political horizon. Such initiatives can help align allies and set expectations, yet they operate in the realm of diplomacy rather than enforcement.

The central reality remains unchanged. As long as Hamas retains weapons, command structures, and fighters, it will continue to function as a military organization dedicated to Israel's destruction. No council, plan, or declaration can override that fact.

## Hamas Has Not Changed Its Goals

Analysis of Hamas statements and behavior shows ideological continuity, not evolution. Hamas has not abandoned its foundational commitment to armed struggle (<https://ukraine.wilsoncenter.org/article/hamas-crossroads-pragmatism-isolation-and-uncertain-path-ahead>). Its leaders continue to describe violence as a permanent strategy, not a temporary response to circumstances.

Even after devastating military losses, Hamas messaging focuses on survival, regrouping, and future confrontation. There is no evidence that the organization views diplomacy as a substitute for violence. Any peace structure that assumes Hamas will gradually moderate while remaining armed ignores its own words and record.

## The Pattern of Rearmament After Ceasefires

History provides repeated warnings. Previous pauses in fighting and international reconstruction efforts did not weaken Hamas. They strengthened it. Cement, fuel, and financial aid intended for civilian recovery were diverted to tunnel networks, weapons production, and military training.

Each cycle followed the same pattern. Fighting ended. International actors rushed to stabilize conditions. Hamas used the breathing space to rebuild its arsenal. The next confrontation then proved more destructive than the last. A peace council that does

# Leadership Abroad, Violence at Home

Hamas leadership operating outside Gaza has played a decisive role in sustaining the conflict. [Senior figures living comfortably abroad continue to issue statements rejecting peace and praising violence](https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/israel-at-war/all-articles/pulling-the-strings-senior-hamas-leaders-who-direct-terrorism-in-gaza-without-living-in-it/) (<https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/israel-at-war/all-articles/pulling-the-strings-senior-hamas-leaders-who-direct-terrorism-in-gaza-without-living-in-it/>). Their distance from the civilian cost inside Gaza has not moderated their stance.

This leadership structure makes partial solutions unworkable. Even if local conditions improve, Hamas's external command has both the incentive and the ability to restart violence as long as its military infrastructure survives.

## Disarmament as the Foundation for Any Plan

From Israel's perspective, security is not an abstract concept. It is measured in whether civilians can live without the threat of rockets, tunnels, and mass attacks. A peace council that leaves Hamas armed cannot provide those guarantees.

Disarmament does not mean rhetorical commitments or symbolic supervision. It requires dismantling weapons stockpiles, command systems, and the capacity to wage war. Without this step, any political arrangement rests on hope rather than evidence.

## The Risk of Repeating Past Failures

International efforts often fail when they prioritize process over outcomes. A council that focuses on governance models, economic aid, or diplomatic recognition without first neutralizing Hamas repeats earlier mistakes under a new name.

The analysis makes clear that Hamas views survival with weapons intact as victory. Allowing that outcome would validate violence and set the stage for renewed conflict, regardless of diplomatic structures layered on top.

## Conclusion

Trump's peace council may offer a forum for coordination and long-term planning, but it cannot substitute for the hard requirement of security. The central lesson from years of conflict is consistent and unavoidable. As long as Hamas remains armed,

peace remains unattainable. Disarmament is not a secondary issue or a future phase.

it is the foundation on which any serious peace effort must rest. Without it, councils will come and go, and the cycle of violence will continue.

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# Israeli Researchers Create Light-Activated Plastic That Stays Liquid Until Needed

February 3, 2026(<https://innovascope.org/2026/02/03/>)

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Scientists at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev have reported a new type of plastic-like material that behaves in an unexpected and useful way (<https://www.jpost.com/science/article-883897>). The material remains a stable liquid for weeks and turns solid only when activated by light or mild heat. This approach addresses

long-standing problems in manufacturing, printing, and repair processes where plastics often harden too quickly, create waste, or require constant monitoring.

The research was published last month in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Chemistry* and introduces what the authors describe as a new class of latent monomers. These are liquid building blocks that stay inactive until deliberately triggered. The work highlights how Israeli academic research continues to contribute practical advances to materials science with clear industrial relevance.

## Key Takeaways

- Ben-Gurion University researchers developed liquid plastic building blocks that harden only when triggered.
- The material stays stable for weeks, allowing safer storage and transport.
- Activation occurs through light or gentle heating rather than constant chemical control.
- The discovery may reduce waste in manufacturing and improve control in 3D printing and repairs.
- The research was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Chemistry*.

## A new idea in polymer design

The study was led by researchers at Ben-Gurion University (<https://www.bgu.ac.il/en/>) of the Negev in collaboration with scientists from the Weizmann Institute of Science (<https://www.weizmann.ac.il/>). Rather than relying on complex dormant catalysts, which have been used in industry for decades and often prove fragile or costly, the team took a different route. They placed the on and off mechanism directly into the molecular building blocks of the plastic itself.

This shift matters because catalysts often require precise conditions to remain stable. By contrast, the new approach allows manufacturers to work with a ready-made liquid that does nothing until a trigger is applied. According to the researchers, this could simplify production lines and reduce the need for repeated mixing or constant heating.

## How the material works

The liquid formulation contains three main components. The first is a set of small molecules that can link together into long chains to form a solid plastic-like material. The second is a standard industrial catalyst that drives this chain-forming reaction. The third is a small amount of gold nanoparticles that act as tiny heat sources when exposed to near-infrared light.

The key building blocks are based on molecules known as norbornadienes. Using a common method called ring-opening metathesis polymerization, or ROMP, these molecules can link together into long chains. Under ultraviolet light, norbornadienes change into a different form called quadricyclane. In this form, they remain inactive and do not form chains.

When the material is later exposed to gentle heat, the quadricyclane switches back into its active form. At that point, polymerization begins and the liquid solidifies. The gold nanoparticles make it possible to apply this heat locally using light, which gives precise control over where and when the material hardens.

# Practical benefits for industry

Because nothing happens until activation, manufacturers could store and ship the liquid for extended periods without worrying about premature hardening. Parts could be filled, coated, or printed first, and curing could then be triggered only in selected areas using light patterns or masks. This level of control may prove useful in 3D printing, electronics assembly, and repair work, where timing and precision matter.

The researchers also showed that the concept goes beyond simply turning a reaction on and off. By mixing building blocks that are active from the start with others that remain inactive until heated, they created materials with two distinct sections in the same plastic chain. This allows a single product to combine different physical properties.

For example, a manufacturer could first form a soft material that is easy to shape and later convert part of it into a tougher, more durable solid. All of this can occur within one continuous process, without replacing materials or adding new chemical steps.

## Voices from the research team

PhD student Nir Lemcoff, one of the lead authors, said the work points to a broader shift in thinking within polymer science. He noted that the study encourages scientists to rethink how common challenges are addressed rather than relying on inherited assumptions.

Prof. Yossi Weizmann, who led the study, explained that the goal was to move away from the idea of a sleeping catalyst and instead design sleeping building blocks. He emphasized that the mixture can sit unchanged for weeks and then rapidly form a solid when light or heat is applied.

## Conclusion

This research from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev demonstrates how careful molecular design can address practical problems in manufacturing and materials use. By creating liquid building blocks that remain inactive until deliberately triggered, the team opened new possibilities for safer handling, better control, and lower waste. The study also reflects the strength of Israel's scientific institutions and their role in advancing applied research with global relevance. For industries that rely on plastics and coatings, the findings offer a promising direction for future development and real-world use.

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# Selective Outrage: How Human Rights Advocacy Goes Silent on Iran While Targeting Israel

International human rights groups claim to speak in the name of universal moral standards. In practice, their attention often follows political fashion rather than human suffering. A new data-driven analysis highlights this contradiction with unusual clarity. While Israel faced relentless scrutiny for their attack on Hamas after the October 7 massacre, many of the same organizations largely ignored or downplayed the Iranian regime's violent suppression of its own people, including mass executions on a staggering scale ([https://jewishonliner.org/p/the-silence-on-iran-a-data-driven?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://jewishonliner.org/p/the-silence-on-iran-a-data-driven?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)).

The findings raise uncomfortable questions about credibility, consistency, and whether "human rights" has become a selective language applied to some states and quietly suspended for others.

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## Key Takeaways

- A review of 181,561 social media posts shows extreme imbalance in human rights advocacy.
- Israel received sustained condemnation after October 7, 2023.
- Iran’s execution of an estimated 12,000–20,000 protesters drew minimal public response.
- Only three of twenty major organizations explicitly criticized Iranian conduct.
- The UN’s leading human rights body delayed meaningful comment on Iran for over a week.

## What the data examined

The analysis was conducted by Jewish Onliner in cooperation with an independent third party specializing in large-scale data processing. Researchers collected and reviewed 181,561 posts, retweets, and quote posts published on X between October 7, 2023, and January 14, 2026.

The study focused on the official accounts of 20 prominent organizations, including UN Human Rights Council, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam, Save the Children, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and several activist coalitions and advocacy groups.

X was chosen because it remains the main platform for real-time political messaging by NGOs, journalists, and multilateral institutions, making it suitable for large-scale comparison over time.

## Israel under a microscope

Following Hamas’s October 7 massacre, which killed about 1,200 people and involved the kidnapping of roughly 250 civilians, Israel became a constant subject of public condemnation. The dataset shows thousands of posts addressing Israeli military actions, many using the most extreme language available in international discourse, including repeated accusations of genocide.

Scrutiny of Israel is not unusual, nor is criticism inherently illegitimate. The issue exposed by the data lies in comparison. The intensity and frequency of commentary about Israel dwarfed coverage of other crises, even those involving far higher civilian death tolls caused by authoritarian regimes against their own populations.

## **Iran and the silence that followed**

During the same period, protests spread across Iran, challenging clerical rule. According to reports cited by critics of the regime, Iranian security forces executed between 12,000 and 20,000 protesters. Mass arrests, disappearances, and public hangings were documented by activists and exile groups.

Despite the scale of the violence, the data shows that only three of the twenty organizations examined issued clear public criticism of Iran's conduct. Several others mentioned Iran only in passing or framed events in neutral terms that avoided direct condemnation. The UN Human Rights Council, often quick to convene special sessions on Israel, waited more than a week before issuing substantive criticism of Tehran.

This pattern stands in sharp contrast to the immediate and sustained focus placed on Israel.

## **What selective advocacy reveals**

The disparity exposed by the analysis points to a deeper problem. Many organizations that claim to defend universal human rights appear guided by political narratives rather than consistent moral standards. Democratic states that allow media access and public criticism face relentless attention. Closed regimes that jail or execute dissenters often receive silence, delay, or careful phrasing designed to avoid confrontation.

This approach carries real consequences. It signals to authoritarian governments that mass repression may be tolerated if they occupy the "right" geopolitical category. It also cheapens the language of human rights by turning it into a tool of selective pressure rather than a defense of life and liberty.

## **The cost to credibility**

When major NGOs and UN bodies focus obsessively on Israel while minimizing or ignoring Iran's killing of its own citizens, they erode their own authority. Audiences notice the imbalance. Victims notice it most of all.

For Iranians risking death in the streets, the message was unmistakable. Their suffering did not merit the same outrage, urgency, or institutional energy. For Israelis, the message was equally clear. Their country would be judged by standards not applied elsewhere.

# Conclusion

The data drawn from 181,561 social media posts exposes a stark double standard in modern human rights advocacy. Israel faced nonstop condemnation after October 7, 2023. Iran's execution of thousands of protesters drew little response from the same institutions. This gap between rhetoric and practice undermines trust in organizations that claim moral authority on global justice. If human rights are to mean anything beyond politics, they must apply to all victims, not only those who fit a preferred narrative.

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# HAMAS CONTROL OVER NGOS IN GAZA REVEALS MAJOR HUMANITARIAN AND POLICY CONCERNS

The question of how humanitarian aid operates in conflict zones is vital for both policymakers and the public. A new investigative report by [NGO Monitor](https://ngo-monitor.org/reports/puppet-regime-hamas-ngo-gaza/) (<https://ngo-monitor.org/reports/puppet-regime-hamas-ngo-gaza/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPaFG5leHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFFcWpVYXZKNDFkWG52Q1c3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5M>)

presents detailed evidence that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Gaza Strip do not function independently of Hamas, the governing authority and recognized terrorist organization in the territory. The report, *Puppet Regime: Hamas' Coercive Grip on Aid and NGO Operations in Gaza*, is based on internal Hamas documents obtained from the area. These materials show how Hamas tightly supervises, controls, and influences foreign NGOs' activities, personnel, and even projects. The findings raise serious questions about the integrity of humanitarian operations and underscore the need for greater transparency and oversight by donors and governments.

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## Key Takeaways

- Internal Hamas documents show that the group exerts formal control over foreign NGOs operating in Gaza.
- A system of appointed local "guarantors" embeds Hamas influence within NGO leadership and decision-making.
- Hamas security authorities require ongoing coordination for NGO activity, limiting independence.
- Surveillance, data collection, and classification of NGO staff are part of Hamas control structures.
- The report challenges assumptions that humanitarian aid in Gaza is delivered neutrally and independently.

## The Foundation of the Report

The [NGO Monitor report](https://ngo-monitor.org/pdf/NGOM_Guarantors2025.pdf) ([https://ngo-monitor.org/pdf/NGOM\\_Guarantors2025.pdf](https://ngo-monitor.org/pdf/NGOM_Guarantors2025.pdf)) is rooted in primary source materials from Hamas' administrative and security authorities between 2018 and 2022. These documents were obtained within Gaza and later circulated internally by Hamas. They reveal detailed directives, organizational charts, and strategies governing how NGOs must operate under



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Hamas oversight. According to the analysis, Hamas' approach goes far beyond general regulation. Instead, it amounts to formal supervision that affects virtually every aspect of NGO work in Gaza.

This information has significant implications for Western governments and private donors who provide funding to international NGOs for humanitarian purposes. If NGOs cannot operate independently, questions arise about who actually controls aid delivery and whether donor funds are used according to stated humanitarian goals.

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## The "Guarantor" Structure

One of the most striking discoveries detailed in the report is what Hamas calls the **"guarantor" system**. Under this mechanism, local figures approved by Hamas authorities serve as official liaisons between NGO operations and the governing security apparatus. In practice, these guarantors are often placed in leadership roles within the same organizations they are meant to oversee.

Guarantors are described in the internal documents as holding positions such as directors, board chairs, or senior managers, giving Hamas an institutional foothold within NGOs. By placing these individuals in key roles, Hamas ensures it has direct influence over how projects are designed, staffed, and executed. The report argues that this undermines the principle of neutrality that is supposed to guide humanitarian assistance.

## Supervision by Security and Civil Authorities

The documents also make clear that NGOs must maintain continual contact with Hamas' Ministry of Interior and National Security (MoINS) and Ministry of Social Development (MoSD). These authorities review and approve NGO proposals, monitor activities, and exercise a form of regulatory oversight that, in other contexts, would be carried out by independent civil agencies. In Gaza, however, those agencies are subordinate to Hamas' political and security leadership.

This regulatory environment means that NGOs must navigate a complex web of requirements that can restrict their mobility, project implementation, and staffing choices. The report notes that approvals are conditioned not on humanitarian need alone, but on political considerations tied to Hamas' priorities.

## Surveillance and Data Collection

Hamas' control mechanisms extend beyond formal oversight. According to the internal paperwork, the group maintained detailed records on NGO personnel. These records were used to profile staffers, track their affiliations, and assess their ideological loyalty. In some cases, the information went beyond professional resumes to include personal data and social information.

NGO Monitor frames this as a form of surveillance that places foreign staff and local employees under constant scrutiny. Such measures blur the line between legitimate regulatory oversight and security monitoring. The practice also raises questions about the safety of aid workers and the ethical implications of participating in a system where personal information is used for political classification.

## Alignment of Aid With Political and Military Objectives

Perhaps the most sensitive finding in the report is the indication that some NGO projects were described in Hamas documents not as humanitarian efforts, but as opportunities to serve "resistance activity." An example cited involves water and agriculture projects near sensitive border areas. According to the documents, these were framed in internal Hamas records as contributing indirectly to strategic goals.

While the NGOs themselves may not have intended such outcomes, the existence of records portraying projects in this way suggests that Hamas views humanitarian infrastructure as relevant to its broader political and security agenda. This runs



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contrary to widely accepted humanitarian norms that emphasize aid must be delivered without advancing the aims of armed groups.

# Implications for Policy and Donor Oversight

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The findings in the report challenge widely held assumptions that international humanitarian actors always operate independently in areas controlled by authoritarian or terrorist groups. For governments, particularly those in the West that provide significant funding to aid organizations, the report underscores the need for rigorous oversight, auditing, and accountability mechanisms.

Donors must ensure that funds are used for their stated purposes and are not indirectly facilitating coercion or control by armed groups. Transparency in reporting and on-site monitoring can help clarify how aid is delivered and who ultimately benefits from its distribution.

## Conclusion

The NGO Monitor report *Puppet Regime: Hamas' Coercive Grip on Aid and NGO Operations in Gaza* ([https://ngo-monitor.org/pdf/NGOM\\_Guarantors2025.pdf](https://ngo-monitor.org/pdf/NGOM_Guarantors2025.pdf)) presents compelling documentary evidence that Hamas exerts deep and systematic control over NGOs operating in the Gaza Strip. The structure it describes, built around appointed guarantors, security supervision, and surveillance of personnel, places serious limits on the independence of humanitarian organizations. Policymakers and donors need to confront these realities to ensure that international aid serves its intended humanitarian purpose. The findings highlight the importance of strong accountability standards for aid delivery in conflict zones, especially where terrorist groups hold governing power.

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# Israeli Drone Software Is Helping the US Military Maintain a Technological Edge

February 4, 2026(<https://innovascope.org/2026/02/04/>)

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As modern battlefields grow more complex, the United States military is placing greater emphasis on systems that allow fewer soldiers to control more assets with greater precision. A new cooperation between an iconic American defense program and an Israeli drone company shows how Israeli technology is playing a direct role

in giving US forces an operational edge against peer adversaries across the globe.

Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works division and the Israeli firm XTEND have announced an expanded partnership that integrates XTEND's operating system into Skunk Works' autonomy framework. The result is a unified command-and-control capability designed to improve how US forces manage unmanned aircraft in contested environments.

## Key takeaways

- Israeli software is being integrated into US autonomy systems used by the military.
- A single operator will be able to control multiple drone classes at once.
- The cooperation supports US Joint All-Domain Command and Control goals.
- Israeli battlefield experience is shaping US unmanned operations.
- The technology reduces manpower demands while improving mission control.

## A partnership with strategic impact

The collaboration brings together Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works (<https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/who-we-are/business-areas/aeronautics/skunkworks.html>) program and XTEND (<https://www.xtend.me/>), a Tel Aviv-based firm that focuses on human-guided autonomous drone systems. XTEND's operating system, known as XOS (<https://www.xtend.me/xos>), is being integrated into Skunk Works' MDCX autonomy environment.

This integration allows one operator to command and control several types of unmanned aerial systems at the same time. Previously, larger drones often required handing control of smaller systems to separate operators using tools like first-person-view interfaces. With XOS inside the Skunk Works system, those handoffs are no longer necessary.

The change supports US efforts to maintain operational superiority while reducing cognitive and logistical strain on soldiers.

## Why this matters for US forces

Skunk Works, Lockheed Martin's advanced development division, has a long record of shaping American airpower. It has been responsible for major leaps in aircraft design and command-and-control systems since the 1950s. According to company representatives, most of its work remains classified, with only a small portion visible to the public.

XTEND brings a different but complementary background. Its drone command-and-control systems are already used by militaries worldwide and are built to function in harsh conditions, including environments where GPS signals are disrupted or communications are jammed. That experience aligns closely with the challenges facing US forces in future conflicts.

The combined system allows operators to manage lower-level missions directly within Joint All-Domain Command and Control scenarios. This means faster decisions, fewer personnel exposed to danger, and tighter coordination between air, land, sea, space, and cyber operations.

# Israeli experience shaping US capability

XTEND's leadership points to real-world operational use as a key reason the partnership matters. CEO Aviv Shapira has said that Israeli systems have been tested in active conflict zones, which shapes how they are designed and refined. Remote operation, he noted, saves lives by keeping soldiers farther from direct danger.

One of the central goals of the project is to create a single control interface rather than forcing soldiers to manage multiple devices. From an engineering standpoint, this is a difficult task, but the payoff is significant. Fewer operators can control more systems, easing manpower shortages and lowering training demands.

This approach reflects lessons learned by Israeli forces, where rapid adaptation and efficient use of personnel are often necessities rather than preferences.

## Supporting US Joint All-Domain Command and Control

The integration also fits squarely within the US Department of Defense's Joint All-Domain Command and Control initiative, known as JADC2 (<https://media.defense.gov/2022/Mar/17/2002958406/-1/-1/1/SUMMARY-OF-THE-JOINT-ALL-DOMAIN-COMMAND-AND-CONTROL-STRATEGY.PDF>). This effort seeks to link sensors, shooters, and decision-makers across every branch of the military.

In a recent demonstration, Skunk Works and XTEND showed a multi-class workstation supporting a so-called marsupial drone mission. In the test, a larger unmanned aircraft deployed a smaller drone to perform a close-range task, with both systems controlled by a single operator. This model reduces friction and shortens response times during operations.

Senior Lockheed Martin technologists involved in the project have described the combined command-and-control system as one of the most mature efforts of its kind. By merging experience with large and small unmanned platforms, the partnership closes gaps that previously limited coordination.

## Looking ahead

Both companies say they are now preparing to move from demonstrations toward operational use. Feedback from soldiers and operators will shape the next phase, with the goal of transitioning the system into active service.

For the United States, this cooperation highlights a broader pattern. Israeli technology, shaped by constant security demands, is helping American forces retain a technological edge while reducing risks to personnel. As unmanned systems take on more roles in intelligence, strike missions, and defense, software-driven control will matter as much as hardware.

# Conclusion

The expanded cooperation between Lockheed Martin Skunk Works and XTEND shows how Israeli drone technology strengthens US military capability. By allowing one operator to control multiple unmanned systems across domains, the partnership addresses manpower limits and operational complexity. In a world where future conflicts will be fast, dispersed, and contested, Israeli-developed software is helping ensure that US forces remain better prepared than their adversaries.

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# Wikipedia's Quiet Crisis: How Activism and Authoritarian Influence Distort the World's Largest Encyclopedia

Imagine relying on a reference book that millions trust as neutral, only to learn that parts of it are quietly shaped by foreign governments, paid lobbyists, and ideological activists. This is not a hypothetical exercise. It is the reality of how [Wikipedia](https://honestreporting.com/wikipedia-qatar-and-the-future-of-knowledge/) (<https://honestreporting.com/wikipedia-qatar-and-the-future-of-knowledge/>) operates today. As one of the most visited websites on earth and a primary source for journalists, students, policymakers, and artificial intelligence systems, Wikipedia holds extraordinary power over public understanding. That power is increasingly being exploited.

Wikipedia's open, crowdsourced model created an unmatched repository of information. Yet the same openness has left it vulnerable to manipulation by autocratic states, political campaigns, and coordinated activist networks. The result is not random error but systematic distortion, particularly visible in coverage of Israel and the Middle East.

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## Key takeaways

- Wikipedia's open editing system allows coordinated manipulation at scale.
- Qatar employed a public relations firm to quietly reshape its Wikipedia image.
- Israel-related articles are dominated by small activist networks.
- False or misleading claims often persist despite being disproven.
- Wikipedia content feeds search engines and AI systems worldwide.

## Qatar's image makeover, one edit at a time

The case of Qatar illustrates how reputation management works inside Wikipedia. After being awarded the 2022 World Cup, Qatar hired Portland Communications to manage its global image. According to investigative reporting, Portland coordinated a network of subcontractors from 2013 to 2024 to edit Wikipedia pages related to Qatari human rights, political leadership, and business figures accused of corruption.

These edits were not dramatic rewrites. They were small, incremental changes designed to avoid detection. Over time, they softened criticism, removed damaging context, and reframed controversial issues. Anyone researching Qatar on Wikipedia during this period encountered a curated narrative rather than a full account of labor abuse, repression, and political control.

This influence extends beyond Wikipedia. Analyst [Eitan Fischberger](https://x.com/EFischberger/status/2012567027353833648) (<https://x.com/EFischberger/status/2012567027353833648>) has pointed to investments by the Qatar Investment Authority in xAI, founded by Elon Musk. As AI systems increasingly rely on large knowledge bases, financial influence over platforms risks shaping how entire countries are presented to future audiences.

## Israel and organized narrative control

If Qatar shows how states polish their image, Israel shows how activist networks can dominate a topic entirely. In 2024, [investigative journalist Ashley Rindsberg](https://honestreporting.com/wikipedia-qatar-and-the-) documented a coordinated group of roughly 40 editors who had shaped Israel-related content since 2020 (<https://honestreporting.com/wikipedia-qatar-and-the->

[future-of-knowledge/](#)). According to his findings, this group produced about 90 percent of the content on dozens of Israel-related pages and made more than two million edits across Wikipedia.

The impact has been profound. Zionism is increasingly described as inherently immoral. The violent Islamist ideology of Hamas is softened or obscured. Iranian human rights abuses are downplayed. The Jewish historical connection to the Land of Israel is frequently questioned or erased.

Another coordinated group, Tech for Palestine, emerged during the Israel-Hamas war and openly described Wikipedia as a priority because its content “influences public perception.” This was not accidental activism. It was a declared information campaign.

## When false claims become permanent

Independent journalist David Collier recently examined a Wikipedia claim that the Israeli town of Ofakim was built on a depopulated Bedouin village (<https://david-collier.com/the-lie-beneath-the-tree-from-wikipedia-fiction-to-witch-hunt/>). Collier found that the sources cited did not support the claim at all. Maps and books were misrepresented to manufacture evidence.

Despite this, the claim remains on Wikipedia. It was upheld by an editor with a documented anti-Israel record. Once embedded, such claims do not stay confined to one website. They are absorbed by AI systems, cited by journalists, and repeated as fact. Misinformation becomes infrastructure.

## Why this affects everyone

Wikipedia reports nearly 300 billion page views annually. It functions as a default reference layer for the modern internet. Google search results, voice assistants like Alexa and Siri, and large language models all draw from Wikipedia. Even users who never visit the site are shaped by its content.

To mark its 25th anniversary, Wikipedia entered formal partnerships with major technology companies, including Meta, Microsoft, Amazon, Perplexity, and Mistral AI. This means Wikipedia’s biases do not remain static. They are amplified and automated.

Most Wikipedia editors are volunteers acting in good faith. The problem lies with small, disciplined groups that exploit the system’s trust and procedural rules. Wikipedia presents itself as neutral, yet offers ordinary readers no reliable way to distinguish between balanced scholarship and ideological manipulation.

# Conclusion

Wikipedia's scale is not its greatest danger. Its credibility is. When governments and activists learn they can quietly shape narratives without accountability, truth becomes negotiable. The evidence from Qatar and Israel shows that this is no longer theoretical. Wikipedia has become a contested space where information warfare occurs under the cover of neutrality. Until transparency and enforcement catch up with reality, readers should treat Wikipedia not as an authority, but as a starting point that demands verification.

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