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E1 Is Not What Killed the Two-State Solution

**AUGUST 31, 2026**

For more than three decades, the international community has repeatedly announced the imminent death of the two-state solution. Almost invariably, the alleged culprit is Israel.

The latest supposed point of no return is E1, a small area east of Jerusalem between the capital and Ma'ale Adumim where Israel has sought to build for decades. After plans approved in 2025 moved forward with construction tenders, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Canada issued a joint condemnation warning that development would undermine Palestinian territorial contiguity and threaten the possibility of two states. Britain has threatened further sanctions, while other European governments are considering punitive measures.

Information" link.

The language creates the impression that Israel has suddenly discovered a piece of land whose development will make Palestinian statehood geographically impossible. The reality is considerably more complicated.

E1 covers fewer than five square miles. It lies in Area C, which under the Oslo framework remains under full Israeli civil and security control pending a final-status agreement. Israeli governments from across the political spectrum have supported retaining Ma'ale Adumim as part of Israel under a future agreement, and the idea of developing E1 dates back decades. Yitzhak Rabin's government was already advancing plans for the area in the 1990s.



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Most importantly, building in E1 does not physically make Palestinian territorial continuity impossible. A Palestinian transportation corridor can run around the area, just as territorial connections and bypass routes have featured in previous peace proposals.

One can oppose construction in E1. One can argue that it is politically unwise, unnecessarily provocative or damaging to prospects for negotiations. But declaring that a few square miles outside Jerusalem have suddenly "killed" the two-state solution requires ignoring the much larger history of why Israelis and Palestinians do not already have two states.

That history cannot be reduced to Israeli housing.

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Key Takeaways

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- E1^[1] is a small area east of Jerusalem between the city and Ma'ale Adumim, not a vast territory stretching across the entire West Bank.

- Plans for Israeli construction^[2] there are decades old and were advanced under governments long before today's Israeli right came to power.

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- Ma'ale Adumim has generally been expected by Israelis to remain part of Israel under a negotiated agreement^[3] involving territorial adjustments.

- Critics argue E1 would severely complicate Palestinian territorial contiguity and separate East Jerusalem from the West Bank, but transportation solutions around the area are geographically possible.
- The two-state solution has survived wars, terrorism, failed negotiations and repeated Palestinian rejection of statehood proposals. It is difficult to argue that E1 alone suddenly renders it geographically impossible.
- European governments frequently treat Israeli settlement (<https://factsignal.org/disinformation-media-analysis/israeli-settlements-exploring-their-history-legality-and-impact>) decisions as the central obstacle to peace while devoting considerably less political attention to Palestinian rejectionism, terrorism, incitement and failures of governance.
- Israel (<https://factsignal.org/disinformation-media-analysis/navigating-competing-narratives-finding-truth-about-israel>) should confront illegal settler violence and maintain the possibility of future political arrangements, but doing so does not require accepting the proposition that Jews building in every disputed area automatically destroys peace.
- The real obstacle to two states remains political (<https://factsignal.org/disinformation-media-analysis/exploring-pay-for-slay-perspectives-on-a-controversial-policy>) rather than geographical: neither side currently believes it has a credible partner with whom a sustainable final agreement can be reached.

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Five Square Miles That Apparently

Determine the Future of the Middle East

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clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link. Listen to the international reaction and one might imagine E1 as a vast Israeli project stretching across the entire West Bank.

It isn't.

The area is fewer than five square miles and sits immediately east of Jerusalem, adjacent to Ma'ale Adumim. Israel views the latter not as an isolated hilltop outpost but as a substantial city of roughly 40,000 residents that would almost certainly be incorporated into Israel in any agreement acceptable to a broad Israeli political consensus.



The significance of E1 derives from its location. Palestinians and their supporters argue that Israeli construction there would impede movement between the northern and southern West Bank and make it more difficult to connect a future Palestinian state to East Jerusalem.

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That concern should not simply be dismissed. Geography matters in any eventual peace agreement.

But "more difficult" and "impossible" are not synonyms.

Palestinian traffic could bypass E1 to the east, and transportation infrastructure can provide north-south continuity without requiring Palestinian traffic to pass through Israeli population centers. Israel itself has advanced road plans intended to separate Israeli and Palestinian traffic while maintaining Palestinian connectivity.

This may not be the map Palestinian leaders prefer. That is what negotiations are for.

It does not mean Palestinian statehood has become geographically impossible.

E1 Was Not Invented by Bezalel Smotrich

There is also a historical problem with portraying E1 as the creation of Israel's present government.

The concept long predates it.

The planning history reaches back to the Rabin era, and successive Israeli governments have valued the area as strategically important because of its proximity to Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim.

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can opt out of automatically making information available to third parties. Governments can pursue longstanding policies that deserve criticism.

Information" link.

But it does expose something misleading about the current international narrative. E1 is frequently presented as though an unprecedented far-right Israeli government suddenly decided to seize territory that everyone previously understood would become part of Palestine.

That is not an accurate description of the dispute.

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For decades, Israeli negotiators have generally assumed that major settlement blocs



close to Jerusalem would remain Israeli under a final agreement, with Palestinians receiving territorial compensation elsewhere. (https://factsignal.org)



This principle of land swaps was once considered an ordinary part of serious two-state diplomacy. Disinformation & Media Analysis 89 (/disinformation-media-analysis) Iran 30 (/iran)

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Today, the international debate increasingly behaves as though the 1949 armistice line is an inviolable international border across which not one Israeli home may exist.

That was never how the most serious negotiations worked.

If E1 Kills Two States, How Did Two States Survive Everything Else?

There is a larger historical absurdity in declaring E1 the death of the two-state solution.

Apparently the idea survived Palestinian rejection of partition in 1947.

It survived the 1948 war.

It survived decades in which the West Bank was controlled by Jordan without a Palestinian state being established there.

It survived the Six Day War.

It survived the First Intifada.

It survived the Second Intifada and its suicide bombings.

It survived the collapse of negotiations at Camp David.

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It survived the failure to reach an agreement following the Clinton Parameters.

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It survived subsequent negotiations under Ehud Olmert.

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It survived Hamas's takeover of Gaza.

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It survived thousands of rockets fired at Israel.

It survived October 7.

Yet we are repeatedly told that several thousand Israeli apartments outside Jerusalem will finally make the entire concept impossible.

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Perhaps the real obstacle has never primarily been geography.
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Perhaps it is politics.



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The Palestinian State That Wasn't

This is the part of the history European statements rarely emphasize.

The Palestinians have had multiple opportunities to negotiate statehood.

At Camp David in 2000 and during the subsequent Clinton Parameters and Taba discussions, extraordinarily far-reaching proposals were discussed. In 2008, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert offered Mahmoud Abbas a Palestinian state based on almost all of the West Bank, with territorial swaps, arrangements for Jerusalem and a connection between Gaza and the West Bank.

No agreement resulted.

There are legitimate arguments about why each negotiating round failed, and reducing every failure exclusively to Palestinian rejectionism would also oversimplify history. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators disagreed over borders, refugees, Jerusalem, security and mutual confidence, while domestic politics constrained leaders on both sides.

But the repeated failure to reach Palestinian statehood cannot honestly be explained by settlements alone.

Political decisions mattered.

Palestinian decisions mattered.

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Terrorism mattered.

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The Second Intifada mattered.
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Hammas mattered.
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October 7 matters.

Yet when European governments discuss the disappearance of the two-state solution, these factors somehow receive dramatically less emphasis than another Israeli planning decision.

Europe Keeps Treating Palestinians as Spectators in Their Own History



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There is something strangely patronizing about this approach.



Palestinians are repeatedly presented as though they possess almost no agency. **Disinformation & Media Analysis** ⁸⁹ (/disinformation-media-analysis) ³⁰ (/iran) **Verifi**

If peace fails, Israel did something.

If negotiations collapse, Israel built something.

If Palestinian statehood becomes less likely, Israel approved something.

Palestinian leaders become spectators to a conflict in which their own decisions somehow play a secondary role.

That is not serious diplomacy.

A successful Palestinian state requires Palestinian political choices just as much as Israeli ones. It requires leadership capable of accepting a permanent settlement with Israel. It requires institutions capable of governing effectively. It requires confronting terrorism and incitement. It requires accepting that Palestinian national fulfillment will exist alongside Jewish national fulfillment rather than replacing it.

None of those questions disappears because Israel freezes construction.

October 7 Changed the Debate

This is particularly important after October 7.

Europe continues speaking about Palestinian statehood largely in territorial terms, as though finding the correct map will solve the conflict.

Israelis increasingly see the problem through the prism of security.

They will draw every permanent settlement and a soldier from inside Gaza in 2005. The result was no Palestinian Singapore living peacefully alongside Israel. Hamas seized power, constructed tunnels, accumulated rockets and ultimately launched the worst massacre in Israel's history.

Whatever one's opinion of settlements, that experience fundamentally changed Israeli attitudes toward territorial withdrawal.

When Europeans demand Israeli concessions today, Israelis naturally ask what will happen the following morning.

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Who controls the territory?
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Who prevents Hamas or another terrorist organization from taking power?

Who stops weapons entering? (/disinformation-media-analysis)



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Who prevents another October 7 from being launched from hills overlooking Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion Airport?

Those questions cannot be answered by drawing a more contiguous Palestinian map.

Israel Still Has Responsibilities

None of this means every Israeli action in Judea and Samaria is wise or defensible.

Illegal settler violence is wrong and should be prosecuted vigorously. Palestinians should not be attacked or intimidated by extremists. Unauthorized outposts should not automatically receive retroactive legitimacy simply because settlers establish them.

Israel should also think strategically about construction rather than treating every available piece of land as though building upon it carries no diplomatic consequences.

There is a legitimate debate within Israel about whether developing E1 now serves the country's broader interests.

But that debate is entirely different from declaring that E1 uniquely destroys the possibility of peace.

Israel can combat settler lawlessness while still insisting that Ma'ale Adumim and the Jerusalem envelope are not equivalent to isolated settlements deep inside heavily Palestinian areas.

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Serious diplomacy requires distinctions.

Contiguity Has Never Meant a Perfectly Uninterrupted State



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There is another geographical inconsistency in the argument.



Any two-state solution already requires creative thinking about contiguity because the proposed Palestinian state itself consists of two territories separated by Israel: ⁸⁹ (/disinformation-media-analysis) ³⁰ (/iran)

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Gaza and the West Bank.

Every serious proposal therefore requires some form of transportation connection.

Israel itself is geographically narrow and irregular. At its narrowest point inside the pre-1967 lines, the country is only a few miles wide.

States do not require perfectly shaped territory to function.

Roads, tunnels, bridges and transportation corridors exist precisely because political geography is rarely neat.

If Israelis and Palestinians eventually agree to peace, engineers will not be the people preventing it.

They can design transportation solutions.

The obstacle will be whether political leaders and populations are prepared to accept the compromises necessary to use them.

Stop Declaring Peace Dead Every Time Israel Builds Something

This is ultimately the problem with the international reaction.

The phrase "death of the two-state solution" has been used so frequently that it has almost lost meaning.

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Every settlement announcement becomes the final blow.

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Every Israeli election becomes the last opportunity.

Every planning decision becomes irreversible.

Yet the two-state solution somehow remains the international community's preferred policy decades later.

Perhaps it would be more productive to stop announcing its death and begin asking what would actually be necessary to make it viable.

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Israel would need confidence that withdrawal would not create another terrorist state on its border. (https://factsignal.org)



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Palestinian leaders would need to confront rejectionism and terrorism.

Israel would need to make difficult decisions about settlements outside areas it expects to retain.

Arab states would need to support a final settlement rather than merely demand Israeli concessions.

And Western governments would need to stop pretending that pressure on Israel can substitute for Palestinian political transformation.

Those are difficult issues.

Condemning an apartment tender is much easier.

Conclusion

E1 may be controversial. Building there may carry diplomatic costs, and reasonable Israelis can disagree about whether proceeding now is strategically wise.

But E1 did not create the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and preventing construction there will not resolve it.

The two-state solution was not destroyed by five square miles outside Jerusalem. It has been repeatedly undermined by a much deeper failure to create the political conditions in which Israelis and Palestinians believe separating into two states will actually make them safer rather than produce another war.

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For Israelis after October 7, that question is no longer theoretical.

Territory surrendered without security can become territory from which Israelis are attacked. Gaza demonstrated that in the most horrific possible way.

Europe is entitled to criticize Israeli policy. But if European governments genuinely want two states, they need to demand more than restraint from Israel. They need to confront Palestinian rejectionism, terrorism, incitement and failed governance with

the same determination they bring to settlement construction.

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Peace will require compromises from Israel.



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It will require compromises from Palestinians.



It will require territorial creativity, security guarantees, responsible leadership and eventually a verifiable transformation in how both societies understand the conflict.

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What it does not require is pretending that one housing development is the single geographical switch determining whether peace lives or dies.

The map has always been negotiable.

The far harder question is whether the people living on it are prepared to make peace.

FOOTNOTES

¹ <https://jcfa.org/understanding-israeli-interests-in-the-e1-area/>
(<https://jcfa.org/understanding-israeli-interests-in-the-e1-area/>) ↑

² https://www.wsj.com/opinion/israel-e1-land-jerusalem-palestinians-west-bank-europe-53cbba94?mod=opinion_lead_pos4
(https://www.wsj.com/opinion/israel-e1-land-jerusalem-palestinians-west-bank-europe-53cbba94?mod=opinion_lead_pos4) ↑

³ <https://www.ipost.com/opinion/article-906526>

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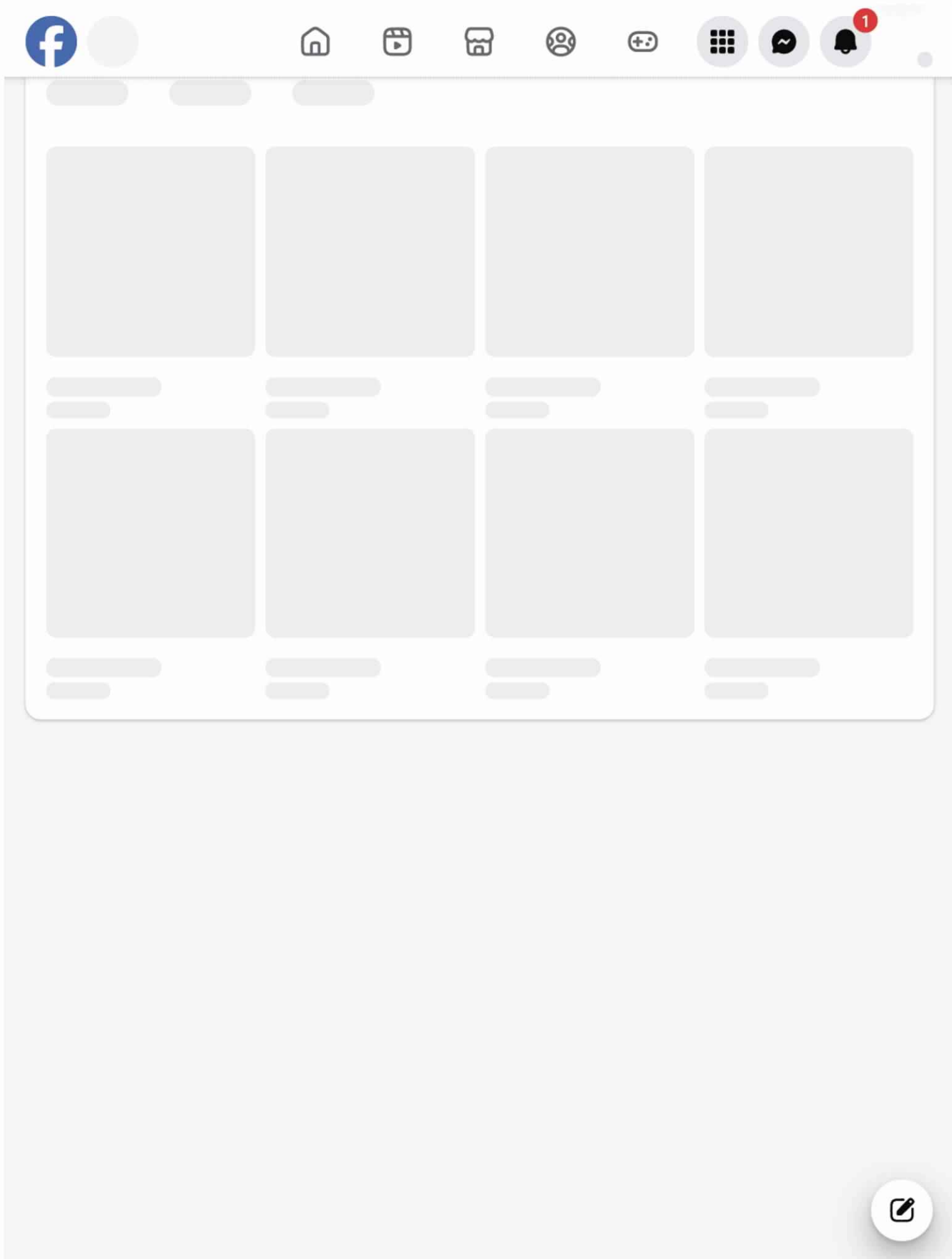


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When Iran Calls America and Israel the Enemy, We Should Listen

When the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran tells the world who his enemies are, it is worth listening carefully.

In a message marking Islamic Unity Week, Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei called upon Muslim governments to unite and recognize their "real enemy." He identified that enemy explicitly: the United States and Israel.

Those words should matter far beyond Jerusalem.

For years, much of the international discussion surrounding Iran has treated its confrontation with Israel as essentially another Middle Eastern conflict, driven by competing regional interests, the Palestinian question or Israeli policies. According to this interpretation, Israel sits at the center of the confrontation while the United States becomes involved primarily because of its alliance with the Jewish state.

Iran is telling us something very different.

The Islamic Republic does not describe Israel alone as its enemy. It places Israel and America together. Both stand in the way of the revolutionary order Tehran has spent nearly half a century attempting to construct across the Middle East.

This distinction matters because it changes the way the Iranian threat should be understood. Israel is not dragging America into an Israeli war with Iran. Israel and the United States are confronting different dimensions of the same ideological and strategic challenge.

For Tehran, Israel may be the frontline enemy.

America is the ultimate one.

Key Takeaways

- Iran's Supreme Leader has explicitly^[1] identified both the United States and Israel as enemies and urged Muslim governments to organize themselves accordingly.
- This demonstrates that Tehran's confrontation^[2] is not simply a response to Israeli policies toward Palestinians or a bilateral Israeli-Iranian dispute.
- Hostility toward America has been embedded^[3] in the Islamic Republic's revolutionary ideology since 1979, long before many of today's disputes with Israel.
- Israel and the United States are targeted^[4] together because both obstruct Iran's attempt to become the dominant revolutionary power in the Middle East.
- Tehran's proxy^[5] network has targeted Americans as well as Israelis, while Iranian-backed groups have attacked U.S. forces, interests and allies across the region.
- Israel's struggle against Iran therefore intersects directly with American strategic interests. Weakening Iran's military and proxy network also reduces threats to Americans and U.S. allies.
- The Iranian regime^[6] seeks to persuade Muslim countries that America and Israel are their enemies even though many of those same countries depend upon the United States for security and increasingly cooperate with Israel.
- Western^[7] policymakers should take the regime's stated worldview seriously rather than continually assuming its hostility can be explained primarily by Israeli actions.

Iran Is Telling Us This Is Not Just About Israel

There is a tendency in Western analysis to explain Iranian hostility toward Israel through the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

If Israel changed its policies, the argument goes, regional tensions might ease. Resolve the Palestinian question and Iran would lose much of its justification for confrontation. Reduce Israeli military activity and the temperature could be lowered further.

There is some truth in the proposition that the Palestinian conflict gives Iran a powerful propaganda tool. Tehran exploits Palestinian suffering relentlessly to build legitimacy across the Muslim world.

But Khamenei's language exposes the limitations of interpreting Iran primarily through Israel.

The United States does not occupy the West Bank (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-us-states-are-moving-to-recognize-judea-and-samaria-by-their-historic-name/>).

America does not build settlements.

Washington is not involved in the territorial dispute between Israelis and Palestinians.

Yet America stands beside Israel in Tehran's definition of the enemy.

That tells us something fundamental about the nature of the conflict.

"Death to America" Was Never a Metaphor

Hostility toward the United States did not emerge because America supported Israel during the Gaza war. It has been embedded within the identity of the Islamic Republic since its birth.

The seizure of the American embassy in Tehran in 1979 and the detention of American diplomats for 444 days occurred at the beginning of the revolutionary regime.

"Death to America" became one of its defining slogans.

The United States was branded the "Great Satan," while Israel became the "Little Satan."

These were not marketing slogans invented in response to contemporary Israeli governments. They reflected the revolutionary worldview of the new Iranian state.

America represented the dominant Western power, the guarantor of a regional order Tehran wanted to overturn and the principal external protector of governments the revolutionaries considered illegitimate.

Israel represented something different but related: a Western-aligned democratic military power that Iran's rulers rejected ideologically and strategically.

The two became linked from the beginning.

That linkage remains intact today.

Why America Is the Bigger Prize

Iran's confrontation with Israel receives enormous attention because Israel sits physically close to the Iranian proxy network.

Hezbollah amassed its arsenal on Israel's northern border. Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (<https://allyvia.org/blog/blog-syrias-new-partnership-with-palestinian-islamic-jihad-reveals-the-true-face-of-the-al-sharaa-government/>) received Iranian support. Iranian forces and affiliated groups operated in Syria. Tehran developed missiles and drones capable of reaching Israeli territory.

Israel therefore encounters the Iranian project directly.

America confronts it at a different level.

The United States underwrites much of the security architecture that prevents Tehran from dominating the Middle East. American military power protects important regional partners. American forces safeguard strategic waterways. Washington maintains relationships with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Jordan and other governments Iran would prefer to draw away from the Western security system.

American economic power also makes sanctions meaningful.

Without Washington, Iran would face a dramatically weaker coalition opposing its regional ambitions.

This is why the Islamic Republic's problem with America cannot be solved simply by Washington adjusting its policy toward Israel.

The American presence itself is the obstacle.

Look at Who Iran's Proxies Have Been Killing

The practical history reinforces the ideological one.

Iranian-backed organizations have not limited themselves to attacking Israelis.

Americans have repeatedly been targets.

Iran-backed militias in Iraq and Syria have launched attacks against U.S. personnel and facilities. Hezbollah's history includes attacks against American targets, most notoriously the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, in which 241 American service personnel were killed.

The Houthis have targeted international shipping and confronted American naval forces.

Iran has also been accused by American authorities of plotting assassinations against former U.S. officials on American soil.

These are not actions directed at Israel.

They are actions directed at America.

The distinction is crucial because it dismantles the comforting theory that the United States is exposed to Iranian hostility principally because Washington chooses to support Israel.

Tehran's own behavior suggests otherwise.

Israel Is the Front Line, Not the End of the Line

This is perhaps the most important implication of Khamenei's words.

Israel is often presented as though it were the source of America's Iran problem.

A more accurate interpretation may be that Israel is confronting the same Iranian project earlier and at closer range.

Hezbollah's missiles point primarily toward Israel because Israel is geographically accessible.

Iranian weapons flow toward groups surrounding Israel because the Jewish state is the immediate target.

But the political vision behind that network extends far beyond Israel.

Tehran seeks a Middle East in which American influence is dramatically reduced, U.S.-aligned governments are weakened and Iran exercises greater strategic power through states and armed movements aligned with its revolutionary project.

Israel stands directly in the path of that ambition.

So does America.

Why Israel's Fight Matters to Americans

This has practical consequences for how the U.S.-Israel alliance should be understood.

American support for Israel is frequently described as though Washington were doing Israel a favor, spending resources to help a small ally fight its enemies.

That interpretation misses the strategic overlap.

When Israel destroys Iranian missile infrastructure, it is weakening capabilities belonging to a regime that explicitly identifies America as an enemy.

When Israel degrades Hezbollah, it weakens an organization with a history of killing Americans.

When Israel disrupts Iranian weapons transfers to regional proxies, it is reducing the capabilities of the same network that threatens American forces and allies.

When Israeli intelligence exposes Iranian operations, the benefits do not stop at Israel's borders.

Israel is certainly acting first and foremost in its own national interest.

That is what countries do.

The important point is that Israeli and American interests converge because Tehran itself has chosen to make both countries enemies.

The Islamic Republic Wants to Reorganize Muslim Loyalties

Khamenei's appeal is also notable because it was directed toward Muslim governments.

He is effectively telling Arab and Muslim leaders that they misunderstand their own interests.

Do not view Iran as the threat, he argues.

America and Israel are the threat.

That message is essential to Tehran because the facts of Middle Eastern geopolitics increasingly point in the opposite direction.

Many Arab governments maintain close relationships with Washington precisely because they fear regional threats, including Iran.

Several have established relations with Israel.

Others cooperate with Israel quietly.

The Abraham Accords (<https://allyvia.org/blog/why-israels-integration-into-centcom-reshaped-regional-security/>) demonstrated that Arab governments could disagree profoundly with Israel over the Palestinians while simultaneously deciding that permanent confrontation with the Jewish state did not serve their national interests.

This is dangerous for Iran.

A Muslim world that does not regard America and Israel as enemies is considerably harder for Tehran to mobilize behind its revolutionary project.

Iran's "Islamic Unity" Has a Peculiar Definition

There is also an obvious contradiction in Tehran's appeal for Muslim unity.

Iran has supported armed organizations operating across Muslim-majority countries. Its regional strategy has contributed to conflicts in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Iranian-backed groups have challenged Arab governments and created armed structures beyond the control of sovereign states.

Muslims have repeatedly paid the price.

The Islamic Republic nevertheless asks those same societies to view America and Israel as the "real enemy."

This reveals what Tehran means by unity.

It does not mean Muslim countries peacefully pursuing their own interests.

It means Muslim countries accepting Iran's definition of those interests.

A Gulf state cooperating with Washington is behaving incorrectly.

An Arab government normalizing relations with Israel is betraying the cause.

A Lebanese government attempting to assert sovereignty over Hezbollah's weapons is threatening the "resistance."

Iranian unity therefore requires ideological conformity.

That is not unity.

It is leadership under Tehran.

This Is Why the Palestinian Issue Matters So Much to Iran

The Palestinian cause remains indispensable to this strategy because it provides Iran with the strongest available mechanism for transforming its geopolitical ambitions into a supposedly universal Muslim struggle.

Tehran wants a Sunni Muslim in Morocco, a Shiite in Lebanon and an Arab in the Gulf to see Israel not simply as another country but as a common civilizational enemy.

Once that proposition is accepted, Iran can present itself as the leader of resistance regardless of the fact that it is Persian, Shiite and governed by a revolutionary system rejected by many Arab states.

The Palestinians provide ideological glue.

This does not mean Palestinian grievances are invented or that every expression of solidarity with Palestinians somehow serves Iran.

It means Tehran has an enormous strategic interest in ensuring that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is never allowed to become simply a dispute between Israelis and Palestinians.

It must remain a conflict between Israel and the Muslim world.

Khamenei's statement makes that objective remarkably explicit.

Believe Your Enemy When He Defines You as His Enemy

Western governments have often struggled with ideological adversaries because they instinctively translate revolutionary rhetoric into conventional geopolitical language.

Perhaps the slogans are intended for domestic consumption.

Perhaps the hostility is negotiating leverage.

Perhaps behavior will moderate if the correct incentives are offered.

Sometimes those interpretations are correct. Governments routinely employ rhetoric more extreme than their actual objectives.

But policy becomes dangerous when every ideological statement is automatically dismissed as theater.

The Islamic Republic has been remarkably consistent about the identity of its principal enemies for nearly half a century.

America.

Israel.

The terminology has barely changed.

Its methods have changed. Its presidents have changed. Its military capabilities have changed. Regional circumstances have changed.

The enemies have remained the same.

That continuity deserves to be taken seriously.

This Is Not a War Against Iranians or Muslims

Recognizing the ideological nature of the regime does not mean transforming the confrontation into a civilizational war.

Quite the opposite.

The Iranian people are not America's enemy.

They are not Israel's enemy.

Millions of Iranians have demonstrated repeatedly that they do not share the worldview imposed upon them by their rulers.

Nor are Muslims the enemy.

Israel maintains relations with Muslim countries, while America has alliances and partnerships throughout the Muslim world.

This distinction is essential because the Islamic Republic wants precisely the opposite narrative.

It wants Muslims to believe America and Israel are at war with them.

They are not.

The confrontation is with a revolutionary regime attempting to persuade nearly two billion Muslims that they should inherit Tehran's enemies.

Conclusion

Mojtaba Khamenei has done the United States and Israel a favor.

He has stated the issue plainly.

The "real enemy," he says, is America and Israel.

Western policymakers should resist the temptation to explain those words away.

Iran's confrontation with Israel is not simply a dispute over Palestinians, borders or the policies of a particular Israeli government. Its confrontation with America is not merely collateral damage from Washington's alliance with Jerusalem.

Both countries obstruct the regional order the Islamic Republic seeks to create.

Israel prevents Iranian military dominance at the eastern Mediterranean frontier.

America prevents Iranian strategic dominance across the wider Middle East.

That is why Tehran targets both.

Understanding this should also change the way Americans view Israel's struggle with Iran. Israel is not asking the United States to adopt an Israeli enemy. The Islamic Republic made its choice decades ago.

It chose both.

America and Israel should continue debating tactics, diplomacy, military action and the appropriate approach toward Iran. Allies need not agree on every policy.

But they should begin with an accurate understanding of the adversary confronting them.

For nearly half a century, Tehran has told the world what it believes.

It has called America the Great Satan.

It has called Israel the Little Satan.

It has built armed organizations across the Middle East.

It has targeted Americans and Israelis.

And now its Supreme Leader is again calling upon the Muslim world to unite against both countries as its common enemies.

The question is no longer whether Iran has made its intentions clear.

The question is why, after nearly half a century of being told exactly who the Islamic Republic considers its enemies, so many in the West still refuse to believe it.

Footnotes & Scientific Citations

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Israel's Enemies Can Disrupt Its Economy. They Have Never Understood Its Ability to Rebuild

When Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, and Hezbollah subsequently opened another front from Lebanon, and another by Iran, the damage was not confined to battlefields.

Businesses closed. Tourism collapsed. Construction sites fell silent. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis were displaced or called into military reserve duty. Agricultural communities lost workers. Companies struggled with disrupted supply chains. Hotels went from full occupancy to empty rooms almost overnight, while entire communities along Israel's borders were evacuated.

For a country of Israel's size, the economic shock was enormous.

Yet something else happened during the years that followed. Israeli businesses began adapting.

A dessert company evacuated from northern Israel changed the way it sold its products and is now preparing for industrial-scale production.

A construction company facing acute labor shortages introduced drones, robotic painting and automated ordering. A hotel chain

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These are small examples within an economy containing hundreds of thousands of businesses. They should not be romanticized, nor should they obscure the genuine economic damage Israel has suffered.

But collectively they illuminate something important about Israel that its enemies have repeatedly misunderstood.

Israel's resilience is not simply the ability of its military to absorb an attack and respond.

It is the ability of Israeli society to absorb disruption, adapt to it and frequently emerge from the experience having solved problems that existed before the crisis began.

That characteristic has helped Israel survive for nearly eight decades.

It may prove just as important to Israel's future as any weapons system.

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Key Takeaways

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- The wars since October 7 imposed^[1] severe costs on the Israeli economy, particularly tourism, construction, agriculture and businesses in evacuated northern and southern communities.
- Small businesses are especially important to regional recovery. (<https://econora.org/blog/how-u-s-israel-trade-growth-in-2025-strengthened-both-economies-and-created-american-jobs>)

because they provide the jobs and services necessary for displaced populations to return permanently.

- Israeli businesses have responded to labor shortages and wartime disruption by accelerating automation, digitization and technological^[2] adoption.
- One construction process that previously required engineers approximately 18 hours can now reportedly be completed within minutes following automation.
- Economic resilience (<https://econora.org/trade-and-investment/technology-innovation-exchange>) should not be confused with economic invulnerability. Wars impose real costs, and government policy, investment and international partnerships remain essential.
- Israel's broader advantage (<https://econora.org/blog/the-business-case-for-israel-why-the-jewish-state-is-a-long-term-investment-in-the-future>) is cultural: repeated crises have created unusually strong incentives to improvise, innovate and adapt rapidly.
- Long-term victory therefore requires more than defeating Israel's enemies militarily. It requires ensuring that the communities and businesses they attempted to destroy ultimately emerge stronger.

The War Was Also an Attack on an Economy

It is easy to measure war through military statistics.

Missiles intercepted. Targets destroyed. Soldiers mobilized. Territory evacuated.

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A restaurant loses customers. A hotel loses bookings. A building site cannot find workers. An agricultural business cannot reach its fields. A factory loses employees to reserve duty. An entrepreneur who spent ten years building a company suddenly discovers that the market upon which the business depended has disappeared.

This happened throughout Israel after October 7.

The impact was particularly acute in the North.

In the Western Galilee, small businesses account for more than 90 percent of enterprises and more than half of employment. According to figures cited by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, more than 70 percent of businesses located within three miles of the northern border reported declining revenues following October 7.

Those numbers matter for reasons extending beyond GDP.

If businesses disappear, residents have fewer reasons to return.

A community cannot survive indefinitely on government compensation. Families need jobs. Towns need restaurants, shops, tradespeople, factories, hotels and services. Young people need reasons to believe they can build a future there.

Rebuilding Israel's border communities therefore requires rebuilding their economies.

A Dessert Shop Explains Something About Israel

Before the war, Liron Birenzweig had built a successful dessert business near Kibbutz Dafna.

What began as a small malabi stand developed into a shop, catering business and food truck.

Then he was evacuated.

Birenzweig described the experience as one of helplessness and uncertainty, estimating that evacuation set his business back five years.

The obvious response would have been to wait.

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Wait for compensation. Wait for security to return. Wait for customers to come back.

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Operations shifted south. Products capable of being ordered in advance and delivered became more important. Corporate-event offerings expanded. Later, through a business-growth initiative, management systems were consolidated and modernized.

A company that had been managing leads, payments and revenue through six or seven different Excel spreadsheets moved the information into a unified system, reportedly saving its owner four to five hours every week.

Now Birenzweig is preparing for a production facility capable of producing thousands of units daily.

His story is not important because malabi will transform the Israeli economy.

It is important because the instinct behind his response is repeated throughout it.

When circumstances change, change the model.

Necessity Has Always Been Israel's Innovation Policy

Israel's reputation as the "Startup Nation" is usually explained through universities, military technology units, venture capital, immigration and an entrepreneurial culture.

All are important.

There is another factor.

Necessity.

Israel has spent its entire existence solving problems it could not afford to leave unsolved.

Water scarcity contributed to innovations in desalination and irrigation.

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Security threats accelerated developments in cybersecurity, missile defense, drones and intelligence technologies. This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by

clicking on the "Do not sell or share my personal information" link. We shall do our best to make sure that Israeli companies to think internationally almost from inception.

The wars since October 7 have created another wave of necessities.

One of the most important is labor.

When the Workers Disappeared, Technology Had to Arrive

Construction provides a remarkable example.

For years, much of Israel's construction industry depended heavily upon manual processes and Palestinian labor. October 7 exposed the vulnerability of that model almost overnight.

Palestinian workers were no longer available in the same numbers. Recruiting workers from countries such as India and China took time. Reserve duty removed Israelis from the workforce. Missile attacks disrupted sites.

Construction slowed dramatically.

But necessity also created pressure for modernization.

Civil engineer Daniel Mirman joined an innovation-management program and subsequently created an innovation role for himself within the Minrav Group. Technologies introduced included drone-based monitoring, robotic painting and automated steel-ordering.

One ordering process that previously required engineers to spend approximately 18 hours preparing manually can now reportedly be completed in minutes.

Consider what that means.

A war created a labor shortage.

The labor shortage exposed an inefficient process.

The inefficient process created demand for technology.

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Technology permanently increased productivity.
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It means the economic damage inflicted by war can create adaptations whose benefits survive after the war ends.

That is resilience in its most useful form.

Israel Should Not Simply Rebuild What Existed Before October 7

This should become a guiding principle of Israel's national recovery.

The objective cannot be restoring October 6, 2023.

Israel should build something better.

If a business previously depended upon inefficient manual systems, reconstruction should help digitize it.

If an industry depended dangerously upon one source of foreign labor, it should diversify or automate.

If communities in the periphery struggled to attract investment before the war, recovery programs should not merely restore the old economic imbalance.

The North and South should become national development priorities.

This is particularly important because rebuilding communities requires more than constructing houses.

A beautifully reconstructed home is of limited value if its owner cannot find employment nearby.

Economic resilience is therefore national security.

(<https://econora.org/blog/operation-epic-fury-and-the-2025-u-s-national-security-strategy-strategic-impact-on-iran-china-and-russia>).

Technology Does Not Simply Mean Fewer Workers

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Automation inevitably produces anxiety about employment. This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You

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Auren Renford experienced extraordinary volatility during his years with the Domus hotel chain. Conflict could transform hotels from full occupancy to almost empty within days.

Through a business mentoring program, Domus connected smart locks with an AI-enabled WhatsApp system and hotel-management software. Guests could reserve rooms, make payments and gain access through their phones.

The system eliminated 16 daily front-desk shifts across eight hotels while adding four shifts more focused on guest experience.

That is an uncomfortable statistic if considered solely in terms of the jobs removed.

But productivity growth has never been simply about preserving every existing task.

It is about allowing human beings to concentrate on work where human skills create greater value while machines handle repetitive processes.

For an economy such as Israel's, facing demographic pressures, military reserve requirements and persistent labor shortages, that transition is particularly important.

Resilience Should Never Become an Excuse for Complacency

There is a danger in celebrating Israeli resilience too enthusiastically.

Israelis sometimes treat their society's extraordinary ability to improvise as a substitute for planning.

It should not be.

Businesses should not have to survive because owners perform miracles.

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Families displaced from border communities should not be expected to tolerate endless uncertainty because Israelis are supposedly resilient.

Government still matters.

Infrastructure matters.

Compensation matters.

Regulation matters.

Investment matters.

Long-term planning matters.

The purpose of resilience should be to help a society recover from unavoidable shocks, not to excuse failures that make those shocks unnecessarily damaging.

The lesson from Israeli businesses is therefore not that the state can leave them alone because they will somehow manage.

It is that relatively targeted assistance can unlock enormous private-sector capacity.

Government Should Enable, Not Replace, Entrepreneurs

The programs highlighted by the JDC demonstrate one possible model.

The 360 Business Mentoring Program has involved more than 320 businesses since late 2023 through emergency support, training and individual mentoring. Its partners include government ministries and agencies responsible for the economy, labor, digital development, innovation, agriculture and construction.

Another initiative, Growth Generator, connects promising businesses with investment expertise, technological guidance and experienced entrepreneurs.

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This approach is important because successful economic recovery cannot be administered entirely from Jerusalem. This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You

can opt out of the sale of your personal information by clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link. Government cannot know how to run a malabi business in the Galilee better than the person who built it.

It cannot identify every technological solution needed on a construction site.

It cannot micromanage thousands of small companies into prosperity.

What it can do is create conditions in which entrepreneurs have access to capital, expertise, technology and markets.

Israel's greatest economic resource remains Israelis themselves.

Israel's Enemies Measure Destruction. Israel Must Measure Recovery.

There is a strategic dimension to all of this.

Hamas and Hezbollah sought to impose costs upon Israeli society.

The October 7 attack devastated communities in the South. Hezbollah's subsequent campaign forced tens of thousands from northern communities and placed enormous pressure on the regional economy.

From the perspective of Israel's enemies, displacement itself had strategic value.

Empty communities represent success.

Closed businesses represent success.

Families deciding not to return represent success.

Economic decline represents success.

Israel should therefore measure victory differently.

A family returning to Kiryat Shmona is a strategic achievement.

A factory reopening near the Lebanese border is a strategic

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A farm producing more efficiently than it did before the war is a strategic achievement.

A business that was almost destroyed in 2023 and is exporting internationally five years later represents something that cannot be measured on a battlefield map.

It means the attempt to break the community failed.

This Is What Israel's Enemies Repeatedly Miscalculate

Israel's enemies have frequently understood Israeli vulnerability better than Israeli resilience.

They correctly identify pressure points.

A small country is vulnerable to prolonged reserve mobilization.

An economy dependent upon international trade is vulnerable to disruption.

Tourism is vulnerable to war.

Border communities are vulnerable to rockets.

A democratic society is sensitive to casualties.

All true.

The mistake is assuming that vulnerability means fragility.

Israeli society has repeatedly demonstrated an unusual capacity to adapt under pressure.

Immigrants arrived in enormous numbers and built industries.

Economic crises produced reforms.

Water shortages generated technology.

Security challenges created globally competitive defense industries.

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Cyber threats helped create one of the world's leading cybersecurity ecosystems.

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can opt out of the sale of your personal information by

clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link. Now the economic disruptions of the post-October 7 period are accelerating automation and technological adoption in traditional industries that were previously slower to change.

The challenge for Israel is to turn that instinctive resilience into deliberate national strategy.

From Startup Nation to Resilience Nation

Israel's next economic chapter may therefore look different from its previous one.

The Startup Nation story was overwhelmingly associated with high technology: cybersecurity companies, semiconductor design, artificial intelligence, medical technology and billion-dollar exits.

The next opportunity is bringing that innovation deeper into the ordinary economy.

Construction.

Agriculture.

Hospitality.

Manufacturing.

Retail.

Small businesses.

The productivity gap between Israel's globally competitive technology sector and parts of its traditional economy has long represented a structural weakness.

The war has made closing that gap more urgent.

If technologies and management practices developed in Israel's innovation ecosystem can be integrated throughout the broader economy, the result could extend far beyond wartime recovery.

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Crisis could accelerate modernization that Israel needed anyway.

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There is nothing romantic about what Israeli businesses have endured since October 7.

Companies have collapsed. Entrepreneurs have lost years of work. Employees have lost jobs. Communities have been evacuated. Tourism disappeared for extended periods. Reserve soldiers have attempted to

keep businesses alive while simultaneously fighting a war.

Israel should never pretend those costs do not exist.

But resilience is not the absence of damage.

It is what happens after the damage occurs.

That is why the stories emerging from Israel's businesses matter.

A dessert company refuses to disappear and instead prepares to expand.

A construction company discovers that a process requiring 18 hours can be completed in minutes.

A hotel chain facing empty rooms uses technology to reinvent its operations.

Multiply those decisions across an economy and something larger begins to happen.

The country adapts.

Israel's enemies have repeatedly attempted to impose unbearable costs upon it. Their strategic assumption is understandable: inflict enough military, social and economic pain and eventually Israeli society will become weaker, divided or exhausted.

What they continually underestimate is the society responding to the attack.

Israel does not emerge from every crisis stronger. That would be mythology rather than analysis. Wars destroy wealth, consume lives and divert resources that could have been invested elsewhere.

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The task now is to transform that cultural characteristic into economic policy.

The communities attacked must not simply be repopulated. They should grow.

The businesses damaged must not merely reopen. They should modernize.

The industries disrupted by labor shortages should become more productive.

The periphery should not return to its prewar economic weaknesses. It should attract investment capable of sustaining communities for decades.

Military victory protects the country Israel has.

Economic recovery determines the country Israel becomes.

Israel's enemies can destroy a building, empty a hotel and close a business. Their enduring strategic mistake is believing that destruction is the end of the Israeli story, when so often it is the moment Israelis begin writing the next one.

Footnotes

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Gaza Cannot Be Rebuilt Until the Ideas That Destroyed It Are Confronted

Eventually, the guns in Gaza will fall silent. When they do, the international community will confront a reconstruction challenge of enormous proportions. Homes will need to be rebuilt, roads repaired, hospitals restored, water and electricity networks reconstructed, schools reopened and an economy given some prospect of functioning again.

Billions of dollars will almost certainly be pledged. International conferences will be convened, donor governments will announce reconstruction packages and diplomats will debate which Palestinian institutions should govern Gaza.

But rebuilding Gaza's physical infrastructure will be the easier part.

The much harder question is whether the international community is prepared to confront the ideology that helped produce [October 7](https://cognitura.org/blog/al-shifa-hospital-and-the-hostages-of-october-7-what-the-evidence-shows) (<https://cognitura.org/blog/al-shifa-hospital-and-the-hostages-of-october-7-what-the-evidence-shows>) and the war that followed.

For years, discussions about Gaza have focused heavily on material conditions. Poverty, unemployment, restrictions on movement, shortages of electricity, inadequate infrastructure and the absence of

economic opportunity have all been identified as drivers of instability. These problems are real, and improving Palestinian living conditions should be an important international objective.

Yet October 7 demonstrated the limitations of believing that economic development alone can resolve an ideological conflict. Hamas did not spend years diverting enormous resources into tunnels, rockets and military infrastructure because Gaza lacked another industrial park. Its leaders made deliberate choices based upon an ideology that glorified armed struggle, rejected Israel's permanence and treated death in pursuit of that struggle as honorable.

This is why demilitarization and deradicalization must go together.

Take away Hamas's rockets but leave its worldview intact, and somebody will eventually manufacture new rockets. Destroy the tunnels while continuing to teach children that those who built them are heroes, and another generation may eventually dig new ones.

If Gaza is to have a different future, reconstruction cannot simply change what stands above the ground. It must also change what is taught, celebrated and legitimized within Palestinian society.

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Key Takeaways

- Gaza's reconstruction^[1] must involve both physical demilitarization and long-term ideological deradicalization.
- Hamas's military^[2] power did not emerge independently of its ideology. The tunnels, rockets and October 7 massacre were instruments of a worldview that legitimizes perpetual armed struggle against Israel.
- Removing^[3] Hamas from government without changing the educational and political culture that glorifies terrorism risks reproducing the conflict under different leadership.
- Deradicalization^[4] does not mean eliminating Palestinian identity, suppressing legitimate grievances or demanding that Palestinians become Zionists. It means establishing that intentionally murdering civilians cannot be a legitimate form of national struggle.
- Palestinian education^[5] should be a central focus. Children need to be prepared for prosperous lives and eventual coexistence rather than taught to admire terrorists and martyrdom.
- International reconstruction funding provides enormous leverage to demand measurable reforms in education, governance and public institutions.
- The objective should ultimately be a Gaza in which Palestinians govern themselves, build successful lives and no longer pose a military threat to Israel.

The Tunnels Were Built in People's Minds Before They Were Built Underground

The extraordinary scale of Hamas's underground infrastructure did not appear spontaneously.

It required years of planning, enormous amounts of money, engineering expertise, manpower and political prioritization. Resources that could have improved Gaza's civilian infrastructure were instead devoted to creating a subterranean military system designed to protect Hamas fighters, manufacture and store weapons, move personnel and prepare for conflict with Israel.

The same is true of Hamas's rocket arsenal and military units.

These were choices.

Understanding why those choices were made requires looking beyond Gaza's economic circumstances. Hamas possesses an ideological explanation for the conflict and a political vision for its resolution. Israel is not merely a neighboring state with which Hamas has territorial disagreements. Within Hamas's worldview, armed resistance occupies a central position in the struggle against it.

That ideology precedes the weaponry.

This distinction matters because governments can confiscate weapons much faster than societies can change ideas. A rocket can be destroyed in seconds. The worldview that motivated someone to manufacture and fire it may take a generation to transform.

Any serious postwar strategy therefore has to address both.

Demilitarization Without Deradicalization Is an Intermission

The international community understandably focuses on demilitarization because weapons are tangible.

Rockets can be counted. Tunnels can be mapped. Explosives can be confiscated. Armed formations can be dismantled. Border controls can be established to prevent weapons smuggling.

Success can be measured.

Deradicalization is much more difficult. It involves education, political culture, religious discourse, media, public institutions and the heroes a society chooses to celebrate. Results emerge over years rather than months.

That difficulty makes it tempting to postpone the problem.

Doing so would be a profound mistake.

If the ideology of armed struggle remains socially legitimate, demilitarization simply creates a race between those attempting to prevent rearmament and those determined to achieve it.

October 7 should have ended the illusion that this can be managed indefinitely.

Gaza Has Been Rebuilt Before

This is not the first time the world has confronted the reconstruction of Gaza.

Following previous rounds of fighting, international donors repeatedly provided money to repair destroyed infrastructure. Homes were rebuilt. Roads were repaired. Humanitarian programs expanded.

Meanwhile, Hamas rebuilt too.

It replenished rocket stocks, expanded tunnels and improved military capabilities.

That cycle reveals the fundamental weakness of reconstruction without political transformation. The international community rebuilds civilian Gaza while Hamas prepares for the next confrontation, and the next confrontation destroys much of what the international community rebuilt.

There is little humanitarian virtue in repeating that process.

The objective after this war should not simply be to reconstruct Gaza faster.

It should be to ensure that reconstruction lasts.

Deradicalization Does Not Mean Erasing Palestinian Identity

The term "deradicalization" makes some people uncomfortable because they interpret it as requiring Palestinians to abandon their national identity or accept an Israeli version of history.

That should not be the objective.

Palestinians can teach their children about the Nakba. They can criticize Israel. They can oppose Israeli governments and settlement policies. They can advocate Palestinian statehood and believe passionately that Palestinians have suffered historic injustice.

Peace does not require agreement about history.

It requires agreement about the future.

The essential educational transformation is therefore considerably narrower than its critics sometimes suggest: political grievances cannot justify deliberately murdering civilians, kidnapping children, firing rockets indiscriminately into cities or celebrating those who do these things.

That standard should apply universally.

Palestinians do not need to love Israel.

They need to accept that Israelis are human beings whose lives possess the same moral value as their own and that Israel is not going to disappear.

That would constitute an enormous change.

Start With the Schools

If the international community is serious about preventing another October 7, education should be at the center of Gaza's reconstruction.

The reason is simple. The children entering elementary school after this war will be the adults shaping Gaza twenty years from now.

What will they learn?

Will Israelis be presented exclusively as enemies?

Will terrorists remain national heroes?

Will martyrdom continue to be romanticized?

Will October 7 be taught as a heroic act of resistance or as a catastrophe that brought devastation upon Israelis and Palestinians alike?

These questions matter at least as much as the materials used to reconstruct school buildings.

Recent revelations from Palestinian Authority (<https://cognitura.org/blog/why-handing-gaza-to-the-palestinian-authority-risks-renewed-terror>) schools demonstrate why this challenge extends beyond Hamas. PA-administered schools in the West Bank have been documented incorporating October 7 into classroom exercises and school assemblies, including examples in which children celebrated the attack.

That should be a warning.

Simply replacing Hamas administration with Palestinian Authority administration will not automatically solve the ideological problem.

Reform must be demonstrated, not assumed.

The World Has Enormous Leverage

One argument frequently made against deradicalization is that outsiders cannot dictate what Palestinians believe.

That is true.

No government can force millions of people to change their worldview.

But the international community does not need to police private thoughts. It can establish standards for the institutions it finances.

Gaza's reconstruction will depend enormously upon international assistance. That gives donor governments leverage they have historically been reluctant to use.

Schools receiving international funding should meet clear educational standards. Teachers who glorify terrorism should not remain in classrooms. Institutions should not be named after people responsible for murdering civilians. Public money should not reward terrorism. Internationally financed media should not promote antisemitism or celebrate attacks against civilians.

Independent monitoring should measure whether these standards are actually implemented.

These should not be controversial requirements.

They should be prerequisites for international support.

The Palestinian Children Are the First People Who Need This

Deradicalization is frequently presented as something demanded by Israel for Israeli security.

It certainly would make Israelis safer.

But its greatest beneficiaries could ultimately be Palestinians themselves.

A society that teaches children to view martyrdom as an aspiration is sacrificing its own future.

Gaza's young people need mathematics, science, languages, technology and professional skills. They need universities connected to the global economy. They need entrepreneurs capable of creating companies and jobs. They need functioning public institutions and leaders accountable for improving their lives.

A Palestinian teenager should be able to imagine becoming a software engineer, doctor, architect or business owner without believing that doing so represents a lesser contribution to his people than joining an armed organization.

This is not cultural imperialism.

It is the foundation of a functioning society.

Hamas Has Also Been a Disaster for Palestinians

One of the most important elements of deradicalization must be breaking the assumption that Hamas's armed struggle has served Palestinian interests.

Whatever one believes about the justice of the Palestinian cause, Hamas's strategy has produced catastrophic results for Palestinians.

October 7 killed Israelis on an enormous scale, but it also triggered a war that devastated Gaza.

That does not remove Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law, nor does it mean every consequence of the war can simply be attributed to Hamas.

It does mean Palestinians should be permitted to ask a question that Hamas's ideological narrative attempts to suppress: what has this strategy actually achieved for us?

After years of Hamas rule, is Gaza more independent?

More prosperous?

Closer to Palestinian statehood?

More internationally integrated?

Safer?

The answer is difficult to reconcile with the claim that armed resistance has liberated Palestinians.

Israel Must Help Make the Alternative Credible

Israel has responsibilities in this process too.

Deradicalization cannot mean demanding that Palestinians reject extremism while tolerating extremism among Israelis. Jewish terrorists who attack Palestinians should be prosecuted. Political leaders should not glorify violence. Palestinian civilians must be protected from unlawful attacks.

Israel also has a strategic interest in demonstrating that Palestinians who reject terrorism can improve their lives.

If the Palestinian lesson becomes that violence produces suffering but moderation produces nothing, moderates will struggle to compete.

Economic opportunity therefore matters.

Freedom of movement consistent with legitimate security requirements matters.

Effective Palestinian governance matters.

Political horizons matter.

The argument against Hamas becomes considerably stronger when Palestinians can see a practical alternative to Hamas.

Security and opportunity should reinforce one another.

Germany and Japan Demonstrated That Political Cultures Can Change

Deradicalization is sometimes dismissed as impossible.

History suggests otherwise.

Germany and Japan emerged from the Second World War after societies had been profoundly shaped by militaristic and extremist ideologies. Their transformation did not happen because people simply woke up one morning with different beliefs.

Institutions changed.

Education changed.

Political incentives changed.

Leaders changed.

The definition of national success changed.

The comparison with Gaza is obviously imperfect. Palestinians have their own history, national aspirations and grievances, and postwar Gaza will not replicate post-1945 Germany or Japan.

But the relevant principle remains important.

Political cultures are not genetically predetermined.

Societies change.

Ideas that once appeared dominant can become discredited when their consequences become impossible to ignore.

Palestinians are no exception.

Reconstruction Should Be Conditional

This leads to perhaps the most important principle for Gaza's future.

Reconstruction should proceed alongside reform.

International money should not simply rebuild what existed on October 6.

It should help create something better.

That means transparent governance, independent oversight of reconstruction funding, educational reform, prevention of Hamas rearmament, removal of terrorist organizations from public institutions and development of a civilian economy that gives Palestinians alternatives to permanent conflict.

The objective should not be collective punishment.

Quite the opposite.

The objective should be ensuring that international assistance actually benefits Palestinian civilians rather than helping restore the conditions that led to another war.

A school should be rebuilt as a school.

A hospital should remain a hospital.

Humanitarian infrastructure should serve civilians.

Government should govern.

Armed organizations should not control any of them.

Conclusion

The world will eventually face a choice in Gaza.

It can rebuild the Gaza that existed before October 7, with new concrete covering the same political and ideological foundations.

Or it can help Palestinians build something fundamentally different.

The first option is easier. Governments can pledge money, construction companies can rebuild neighborhoods and diplomats can declare reconstruction a success.

The second requires patience, political courage and an uncomfortable willingness to confront the ideas that have helped perpetuate this conflict.

Hamas must lose more than its rockets.

It must lose the argument.

Palestinian children need to grow up believing that building Gaza is more heroic than destroying Israel, that prosperity is preferable to martyrdom and that Palestinian national aspirations can be pursued without denying another people's right to exist.

Israel, for its part, must demonstrate that such a future can deliver greater security, dignity and opportunity than permanent war.

None of this will happen overnight. Deradicalization is generational work.

That is precisely why it must begin immediately.

The international community will undoubtedly spend billions rebuilding Gaza's buildings. If it does not invest comparable political determination in changing the culture that allowed Hamas to turn Gaza into a military fortress, much of that reconstruction may simply become the backdrop for the next war.

Demilitarization can prevent Hamas from carrying out another October 7 tomorrow.

Deradicalization is what can prevent another generation from wanting to carry one out twenty years from now.

Gaza will not truly be reconstructed when its buildings have been rebuilt. It will be reconstructed when its children are taught that their future depends upon what they can build, not whom they can kill.

Footnotes

1. <https://paxpoint.org/no-more-half-measures-gaza-can-only-be-rebuilt-after-hamas-is-disarmed/> (<https://paxpoint.org/no-more-half-measures-gaza-can-only-be-rebuilt-after-hamas-is-disarmed/>).
↑
2. <https://paxpoint.org/changing-the-government-keeping-the-guns-why-hamass-latest-proposal-changes-nothing/> (<https://paxpoint.org/changing-the-government-keeping-the-guns-why-hamass-latest-proposal-changes-nothing/>). ↑
3. <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/in-gaza-demilitarization-and-deradicalization-must-go-hand-in-hand> (<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/in-gaza-demilitarization-and-deradicalization-must-go-hand-in-hand>). ↑
4. <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/deradicalization-gaza-problem-solution-and-measures-success> (<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/deradicalization-gaza-problem-solution-and-measures-success>). ↑
5. <https://paxpoint.org/you-cannot-build-peace-while-teaching-children-to-celebrate-murder/> (<https://paxpoint.org/you-cannot-build-peace-while-teaching-children-to-celebrate-murder/>). ↑

(<https://cognitura.org>)

Research and education platform exploring radicalization prevention through truth and moral resilience.

Research Areas

Psychology of Radicalization(<https://cognitura.org/psychology-of-radicalization>)

Social and Cultural Drivers(<https://cognitura.org/social-and-cultural-drivers>)

Recruitment Mechanisms(<https://cognitura.org/recruitment-and-control>)

Prevention Strategies(<https://cognitura.org/prevention-and-deradicalization>)

Resources

Case Studies([/case-studies-from-indoctrination-to-exit/](#))

How Often Israel Policy Criticism Uses Antisemitic Tropes: What The Data Shows (<https://cognitura.org/how-often-israel-policy-criticism-uses-antisemitic-tropes-what-the-data-shows>)

Why Does Israel Draw Outsized Global Attention (<https://cognitura.org/why-does-israel-draw-outsized-global-attention>)

Blog(<https://cognitura.org/blog>)

About

Our Mission(<https://cognitura.org/about-us>)

Stay Updated(<https://cognitura.org/stay-informed>)

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COMMAND CENTER / SOCIALS

PUBLISHED SOCIALS REPORT

Israel

COVERAGE STARTS

Aug 28, 2026, 9:01 AM EDT

COVERAGE ENDS

Aug 31, 2026, 9:00 AM EDT

PUBLISHED POSTS

24

POST 01

20260828_Israel_Video_Dead Sea

PLATFORM

TikTok

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

culturaviaorg

PUBLISHED

Aug 31, 2026, 8:46 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

The Dead Sea is one of Israel’s most unforgettable natural wonders. Famous for its brilliant blue water, mineral-rich shores, and the ability to float almost effortlessly, it’s a landscape unlike almost anywhere else on Earth. Would you swim here?

LIVE POST

<https://www.tiktok.com/@culturaviaorg/video/7680178815955422485>

POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Dead Sea V2.mp4

[Video / 18.3 MB](#)

POST 02

20260828_Israel_Video_Dead Sea

PLATFORM

YouTube

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

@culturaviaOrg

PUBLISHED

Aug 31, 2026, 8:46 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

The Dead Sea is one of Israel's most unforgettable natural wonders. Famous for its brilliant blue water, mineral-rich shores, and the ability to float almost effortlessly, it's a landscape unlike almost anywhere else on Earth. Would you swim here?

LIVE POST

https://youtube.com/shorts/9v1ZKME3_Vc?feature=share

POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Dead Sea V2.mp4

[Video / 18.3 MB](#)

POST 03

20260828_Israel_Video_Dead Sea

PLATFORM

Instagram

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

cuturaviaorg

PUBLISHED

Aug 31, 2026, 8:46 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

The Dead Sea is one of Israel's most unforgettable natural wonders. Famous for its brilliant blue water, mineral-rich shores, and the ability to float almost effortlessly, it's a landscape unlike almost anywhere else on Earth. Would you swim here?

LIVE POST

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DctH8GFSzi6/?igsi=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Dead Sea V2.mp4

[Video / 18.3 MB](#)

POST 04

20260828_Israel_Video_Dead Sea

PLATFORM

Facebook

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

Allyvia

PUBLISHED

Aug 31, 2026, 8:46 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

The Dead Sea is one of Israel's most unforgettable natural wonders. Famous for its brilliant blue water, mineral-rich shores, and the ability to float almost effortlessly, it's a landscape unlike almost anywhere else on Earth. Would you swim here?

LIVE POST

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1KakUeCKVy/>

POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Dead Sea V2.mp4

[Video / 18.3 MB](#)

POST 05

20260827 _ISRAEL_STATIC_ISRAELI TECH

PLATFORM

Facebook

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

Allyvia

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 4:25 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

HOW ISRAELI TECH IS PROTECTING U.S. TROOPS.

Israeli technology is giving American soldiers an advantage where it matters most: keeping them farther from danger.

img source: the defense post

LIVE POST

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BoQB4cYQK/>

POSTED MEDIA



20260827_ISRAEL_STATIC_ISRAELI TECH.png

[Image / 1.1 MB](#)

POST 06

20260827_ISRAEL_STATIC_ISRAELI TECH

PLATFORM

TikTok

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

allyviiiiaorg

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 4:25 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

HOW ISRAELI TECH IS PROTECTING U.S. TROOPS.

Israeli technology is giving American soldiers an advantage where it matters most: keeping them farther from danger.

LIVE POST

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POSTED MEDIA



20260827_ISRAEL_STATIC_ISRAELI TECH.png

[Image / 1.1 MB](#)

POST 07

20260827_Israel_Static_Same country, different worlds

PLATFORM

Facebook

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

Culturavia

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 1:10 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

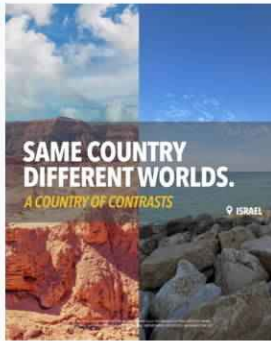
Desert views to Mediterranean blues—all in one country

Img source: Shutterstock

LIVE POST

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1APixYRPif/>

POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Static_Same country, different worlds_v1.jpg
Image / 3.7 MB

POST 08

20260827_Israel_Static_Same country, different worlds

PLATFORM
Instagram

ACCOUNT / HANDLE
culturaviaorg

PUBLISHED
Aug 28, 2026, 1:10 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

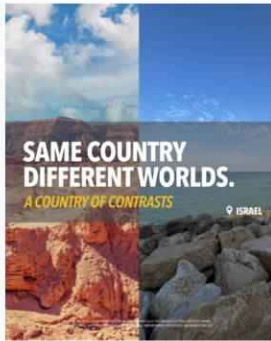
Desert views to Mediterranean blues—all in one country

Img source: Shutterstock

LIVE POST

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POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Static_Same country, different worlds_v1.jpg
[Image / 3.7 MB](#)

POST 09

20260827_Israel_Static_Same country, different worlds

PLATFORM

TikTok

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

culturaviaorg

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 1:10 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Image Post

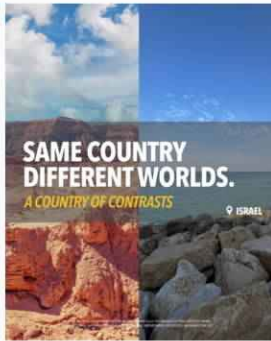
PUBLISHED POST

Img source: Shutterstock

LIVE POST

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POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Static_Same country, different worlds_v1.jpg
Image / 3.7 MB

POST 10

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday life

PLATFORM
Instagram

ACCOUNT / HANDLE
allyvia_org

PUBLISHED
Aug 28, 2026, 12:56 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

Source: AJC

LIVE POST

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POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday
life_v1.mp4
[Video / 10.3 MB](#)

POST 11

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday life

PLATFORM

TikTok

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

allyviiiiaorg

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 12:56 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

Source: AJC

LIVE POST

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POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday
life_v1.mp4
Video / 10.3 MB

POST 12

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday life

PLATFORM
Facebook

ACCOUNT / HANDLE
Allyvia

PUBLISHED
Aug 28, 2026, 12:56 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

Source: AJC

LIVE POST

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/19CkeAfHVw/>

POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday
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[Video / 10.3 MB](#)

POST 13

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday life

PLATFORM

Stand Together for Truth
website

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

st4t

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 12:56 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

Source: AJC

LIVE POST

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/5N6oaGh6DjE>

POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday
life_v1.mp4
[Video / 10.3 MB](#)

POST 14

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday life

PLATFORM

YouTube

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

Allyvia

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 12:56 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Short Video

PUBLISHED POST

Source: AJC

After recent violent antisemitic attacks, 91% of American Jews say they feel less safe. No one should have to pause before entering a place of community. Antisemitism changes everyday life—and it cannot become normal.

LIVE POST

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/5N6oaGh6DjE>

POSTED MEDIA

VIDEO

20260828_Israel_Video_Hate changes everyday
life_v1.mp4
[Video / 10.3 MB](#)

POST 15

20260827_Israel_Static_100m a year_V1

PLATFORM

TikTok

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

justoriumorg

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 12:46 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Justorium / General / Image Post

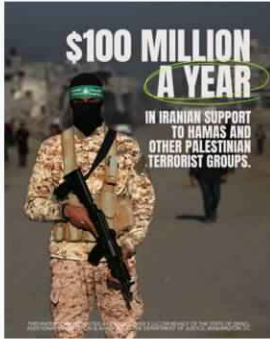
PUBLISHED POST

Hamas isn't just an Israeli security problem. Iran provides money, weapons and training to Hamas while also supporting armed groups across the Middle East. That's why the U.S. treats Hamas financing as part of a broader national-security and counterterrorism issue.

LIVE POST

https://www.tiktok.com/@justoriumorg/photo/7679126216837729557?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc

POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Static_100m a year_V1.png

[Image / 2.1 MB](#)

POST 16

20260827_Israel_Static_100m a year_V1

PLATFORM

Facebook

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

Justorium

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 12:46 PM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Justorium / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

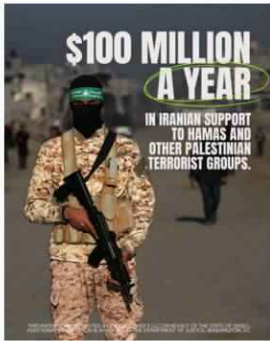
Thats a lot of money.

Hamas isn't just an Israeli security problem. Iran provides money, weapons and training to Hamas while also supporting armed groups across the Middle East. That's why the U.S. treats Hamas financing as part of a broader national-security and counterterrorism issue.

LIVE POST

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Lk6UJSnDv/>

POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Static_100m a year_V1.png

[Image / 2.1 MB](#)

POST 17

20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel

PLATFORM
Instagram

ACCOUNT / HANDLE
culturaviaorg

PUBLISHED
Aug 28, 2026, 11:40 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Carousel

PUBLISHED POST

Israel has more stories than you think. Here are a few you probably didn't know.

Img source: Shutterstock

LIVE POST

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Dclt9L9nCvw/?igsi=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

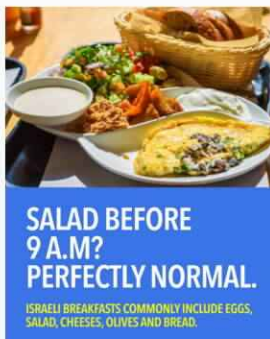
POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel1_v1.jpg
[Image / 2.9 MB](#)



20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel2_v1.jpg
[Image / 2.2 MB](#)



20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel3_v1.jpg
[Image / 2.1 MB](#)



20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel4_v1.jpg
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20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel5_v1.jpg
[Image / 2.2 MB](#)



20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel6_v1.jpg
[Image / 1.6 MB](#)

POST 18

20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel

PLATFORM

Facebook

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

Culturavia

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 11:40 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Carousel

PUBLISHED POST

Israel has more stories than you think. Here are a few you probably didn't know.

Img source: Shutterstock

LIVE POST

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19FfDo7EU9/>

POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel1_v1.jpg
[Image / 2.9 MB](#)



20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel2_v1.jpg
[Image / 2.2 MB](#)



SALAD BEFORE 9 A.M? PERFECTLY NORMAL.

ISRAELI BREAKFASTS COMMONLY INCLUDE EGGS,
SALAD, CHEESES, OLIVES AND BREAD.

20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know
about Israel3_v1.jpg

[Image / 2.1 MB](#)



HOT WATER. POWERED BY SUNSHINE.

THOSE FAMILIAR ROOFTOP PANELS USE THE SUN
TO HEAT WATER, NOT TO POWER THE BUILDING.

20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know
about Israel4_v1.jpg

[Image / 2.5 MB](#)



THE NATIONAL BIRD WAS CHOSEN BY THE PUBLIC.

THE HOOPOE WON A NATIONWIDE VOTE AND
BECAME ISRAEL'S NATIONAL BIRD IN 2008.

20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know
about Israel5_v1.jpg

[Image / 2.2 MB](#)



MADE IN A BACKYARD. PLAYED WORLDWIDE

RUMMIKUB'S FIRST SETS WERE HANDMADE
IN A BAT YAM BACKYARD.

20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know
about Israel6_v1.jpg

[Image / 1.6 MB](#)

POST 19

20260827_Israel_Carousel_5 things you didn't know about Israel

PLATFORM

TikTok

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

culturaviaorg

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 11:40 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Culturavia / General / Carousel

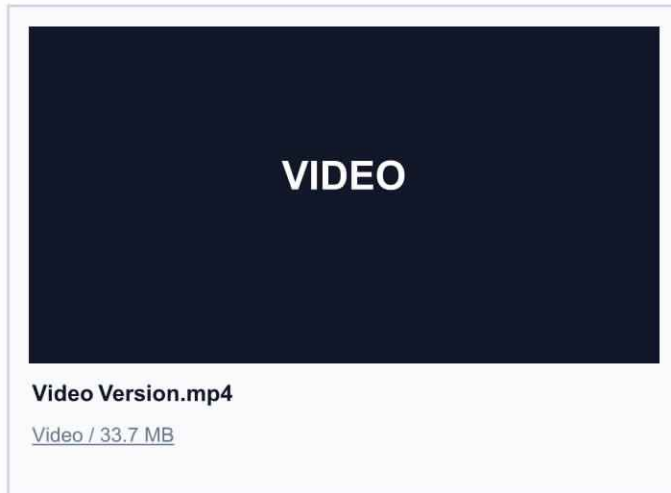
PUBLISHED POST

Img source: Shutterstock

LIVE POST

<https://www.tiktok.com/@culturaviaorg/video/7679110966511947028>

POSTED MEDIA



POST 20

Engagement Question:Who is responsible for protecting Gaza's civilians: Israel, Hamas, or both?

PLATFORM	ACCOUNT / HANDLE	PUBLISHED
Facebook	Justorium	Aug 28, 2026, 11:35 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Justorium / General / Text Post

PUBLISHED POST

Who is responsible for protecting Gaza's civilians: Israel, Hamas, or both?

LIVE POST

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1F9XYk8bmt/>

MEDIA

No image or video was selected for this published post.

POST 21

20260827_Israel_Static_Would you ignore this warning?

PLATFORM

Facebook

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

Allyvia

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 11:23 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Take the warning seriously

LIVE POST

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19RGnC3ar8/>

POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Static_Would you ignore this warning?

v1.jpg
[Image / 1.8 MB](#)

POST 22

20260827_Israel_Static_Would you ignore this warning?

PLATFORM

Instagram

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

allyvia_org

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 11:23 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Take the warning seriously

LIVE POST

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DclrgCkFVJ9/?igsi=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Static_Would you ignore this warning?

v1.jpg
[Image / 1.8 MB](#)

POST 23

20260827_Israel_Static_Would you ignore this warning?

PLATFORM

Stand Together for Truth
website

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

st4t

PUBLISHED

Aug 28, 2026, 11:23 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

Allyvia / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Would you ignore this warning?

LIVE POST

https://www.tiktok.com/@allyviiiiaaorg/photo/7679105181732343060?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc

POSTED MEDIA



20260827_Israel_Static_Would you ignore this warning?

v1.jpg
[Image / 1.8 MB](#)

POST 24

20260827_Israel_Static_Would you ignore this warning?

PLATFORM

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

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WHEN THE UN CANNOT TELL A TEACHER FROM A TERRORIST, IT HAS LOST ITS MORAL COMPASS

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The United Nations held a solemn memorial ceremony in June for 136 employees who had died while serving the organization during 2025. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and other senior UN officials participated in lighting an "eternal flame." A violinist played as the names of the dead were read aloud.

Among those honored was Imad Youssif El Samhouri.

To the United Nations, El Samhouri was a former UNRWA

(<https://justorium.org/unrwa-recognized-extension-how-the-agency-blocks-peace-fuels-grievance-and-protects-hamas/>) teacher and

school principal who had died in Gaza. Two months after the

ceremony, however, Hamas

(<https://justorium.org/documentation/hamas-legal-record-a-history-of-lawlessness-and-terror/>) publicly identified him as something else: a

field commander in its Al-Qassam Brigades.

There is no evidence that the UN knew of that identification when it included El Samhouri in the ceremony. That distinction matters.

Institutions can make mistakes based upon information they do not possess.

What happened afterward is much more revealing.

Rather than immediately withdrawing the honor, apologizing and announcing an investigation into how an alleged Hamas commander could have risen through the UNRWA educational system, the UN response emphasized that it had not known and noted that Israel had previously been provided with a list containing his name without raising concerns about him individually.

This is the deeper problem with the United Nations and Israel. It is not simply bias, hostile resolutions or another controversy involving UNRWA. It is an extraordinary failure of moral clarity.

(<https://justorium.org/justice-values/moral-clarity-in-the-fight-against-terror/>).

The UN has developed an enormous vocabulary for condemning Israel. Yet when confronted with evidence that someone it solemnly

We value your privacy its own was simultaneously celebrated by Hamas as

a terrorist commander, the institution struggled to say the simplest thing imaginable: We were wrong. We are sorry. We will find out how this happened.

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Information" link. For an institution that claims global moral authority, that should be deeply troubling.

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Key Takeaways

- The United Nations honored^[1] former UNRWA educator Imad Youssif El Samhouri at its June 2026 memorial for personnel who died in 2025.
- In August, Hamas publicly identified^[2] El Samhouri as a field commander in its Al-Qassam Brigades.
- Material subsequently publicized^[3] about El Samhouri includes a Hamas "martyr" video showing him with weapons and in a tunnel while speaking about jihad and armed resistance.
- The UN (<https://justorium.org/can-the-un-be-an-honest-broker-questions-raised-over-officials-social-media-activity/>) says it did not know about his alleged Hamas role when his name was included in the ceremony, an important distinction that means the original inclusion should not be portrayed as knowingly honoring a terrorist.

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- Once the evidence emerged, however, the UN did not retract the honor or apologize^[4], instead stressing that Israel had previously received an UNRWA employee list containing his name without raising an objection about him.
- The episode raises much larger questions (<https://justorium.org/how-the-un-treats-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-as-though-october-7-never-happened/>) about UNRWA's ability to identify extremism within its own educational workforce and whether sufficient institutional incentives exist to confront it.

- It also illustrates a wider problem: the UN frequently displays (<https://justorium.org/the-un-institutional-obsession-with-israel-is-undermining-its-credibility/>), extraordinary certainty when judging Israel while presenting markedly more cautious when evidence implicates people or institutions within its own system. (<https://justorium.org>)
- Moral authority depends upon moral consistency. An institution that demands accountability from governments must demonstrate that it can hold itself accountable too.

The Original Mistake Is Understandable. What Followed Is Not.

It is important to begin by being fair to the United Nations.

When the memorial took place, Hamas had apparently not yet publicly identified El Samhouri as one of its field commanders. The UN says it was unaware of the allegation, and there is no evidence that António Guterres or other senior officials knowingly participated in a ceremony honoring a Hamas commander.

Mistakes happen.

The true test of an institution's integrity is what it does after discovering one.

Once Hamas itself identified El Samhouri as a commander, the appropriate response should have been straightforward. The United Nations should have expressed horror that someone honored as a fallen UN employee had apparently also served in the military structure of a terrorist organization. It should have withdrawn the tribute, apologized to Hamas's victims and immediately investigated

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Secretary-General spokesman Stéphane Dujarric stressed that the UN had not known. He also noted that UNRWA regularly provided Israel with staff lists and that El Samhouri's name had appeared on the 2024 list without Israel raising concerns about him.

But the question should not primarily be why Israel failed to identify a Hamas commander working for UNRWA.



The question should be why UNRWA apparently failed to identify a Hamas commander working for UNRWA.

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That difference goes to the heart of institutional responsibility.

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Imagine the Standard Applied to Israel

(<https://justorium.org/support-network/>)

Consider how the United Nations would respond if the situation were reversed.

Suppose the Israeli government publicly honored someone as a teacher or humanitarian worker. Months later, overwhelming evidence emerged that the individual had also been a member of a Jewish terrorist organization.

Would the UN response be that somebody else should have warned Israel earlier?

Of course not.

There would rightly be demands for an investigation.

Who knew?

When did they know?

How was this person employed?

Who supervised him?

Were there warning signs?

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Were others involved?

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Those would all be reasonable questions.

Israel should be subjected to such scrutiny.

But so should the United Nations.

Moral standards cease to be moral standards when they change according to the identity of the person being judged.



This Was Not Merely a Low-Level Employee

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The allegations are particularly troubling because El Samhouri was not simply somebody hired temporarily to distribute humanitarian supplies.

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He worked in education.



According to the reporting, he served as a teacher, associate principal and eventually principal of an UNRWA boys' school in Rafah (<https://justorium.org/rafah-vs-iran-when-outrage-becomes-selective/>).

This matters enormously.

Schools are where children acquire more than mathematics and languages. They absorb values, historical narratives and ideas about who deserves admiration.

The material subsequently associated with El Samhouri makes his educational role particularly disturbing. In a video supplied by the IDF and viewed by Fox News, he appeared with weapons and grenades and spoke about choosing jihad as a path. He was also filmed in what appeared to be a tunnel while praising the underground infrastructure used for "resistance."

UN Watch says it has additionally documented social-media material attributed to him praising Palestinian "martyrs," celebrating Hamas attacks and supporting the kidnapping of Israelis.

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These allegations require proper examination, including authentication where appropriate. But Hamas's own posthumous identification of him as an Al-Qassam commander makes the central question impossible to dismiss.

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How did someone allegedly occupying a meaningful position inside Hamas simultaneously occupy senior positions inside a UN educational institution?

The Problem Is Bigger Than One Man



If El Samhuri were the only case, the UN could reasonably describe what happened as an extraordinary vetting failure.

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(https://justorium.org)

He is not the first.

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Allegations concerning Hamas links among UNRWA employees have accumulated since October 7 (<https://justorium.org/sexual-violence-on-and-after-october-7-what-the-evidence-shows-and-why-justice-for-the-victims-cannot-be-ignored/>), including cases serious enough for employees to be dismissed following investigations. American authorities are now examining a much larger number of UNRWA personnel for possible extremist connections.

Not every allegation will necessarily prove true. That should always be stated. Working for UNRWA does not make someone a Hamas supporter, and thousands of UN employees have performed humanitarian work under extraordinarily dangerous circumstances.

But that is precisely why credible investigations matter.

If the overwhelming majority of UNRWA employees are innocent humanitarian workers, they too have an interest in ensuring that terrorists are identified and removed.

The response to evidence of infiltration should therefore not be defensiveness.

It should be institutional fury.

A terrorist using the UN as cover betrays the United Nations as much

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The UN's Problem Is Moral Asymmetry

This episode fits a much broader pattern in the UN's relationship with Israel.

When Israel acts, the language of international condemnation often arrives remarkably quickly. UN  speak about international law (<https://justorium.org/international-law/un-resolutions-on-terrorism-and-self-defense/>), accountability, proportionality

(<https://justorium.org/international-law/proportionality-in-israeli-targeting-the-legal-rule-israel-uses-and-how-the-idf-applies-it-in-practice/>), collective punishment and human rights

(<https://justorium.org/the-theater-of-the-absurd-iran-was-just-elected-to-a-un-human-rights-committee/>). Israeli statements are

dissected. Israeli military actions generate investigations. Israeli construction decisions generate emergency diplomatic responses.

Again, scrutiny of Israel is legitimate.

The problem is what happens when the moral test becomes more complicated for the United Nations itself.

When Hamas embeds military infrastructure within civilian environments, the language often becomes more cautious.

When allegations emerge concerning extremists working within UN-linked institutions, procedural qualifications multiply.

When Palestinian incitement is exposed, it rarely generates anything approaching the institutional energy devoted to Israeli settlements.

And now, when Hamas itself identifies a man honored at a UN memorial as one of its commanders, the instinct appears to be to explain why the UN did not know and point out that Israel had not warned it.

The difference is striking.

Israel is expected to know everything.

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The UN apparently expects to be forgiven for not knowing what is happening inside its own institutions. This website or its third-party tools process personal data. You can opt out of the sale of your personal information by

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Moral Clarity Means Understanding Differences

One of the great problems with contemporary international diplomacy is the increasing reluctance to make moral distinctions.

Civilian suffering is tragic regardless of who suffers. International law applies to everyone. Israeli wrongs should not be excused because Hamas commits atrocities. Palestinian civilians do not lose their rights because Hamas governs Gaza.



But universal human rights do not require moral equivalence.
(<https://justorium.org>)

A terrorist and a teacher are not the same thing.

A humanitarian organization and an armed organization are not the same thing.
(<https://justorium.org/support-network>)

A civilian and a combatant are not the same thing.

A hospital and a military command center are not the same thing, even if someone attempts to place one inside the other.

These distinctions are essential to the laws of war themselves.

When an organization becomes unable or unwilling to distinguish clearly between categories, it does not become more humanitarian.

It becomes less capable of understanding the conflict it is trying to regulate.

Hamas Benefits From International Confusion

Hamas understands this problem extremely well.

Its strategy depends partly upon collapsing the distinction between civilian and military space.

Weapons can be stored in civilian areas.

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Military infrastructure can be placed underground.

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Operatives can maintain civilian professions.

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The more difficult it becomes for outsiders to distinguish Hamas's military apparatus from Gaza's civilian environment, the greater the political cost imposed on Israel when it attempts to attack that apparatus.

That is why international institutions have a special responsibility to protect the distinction.

If a UN employee is discovered to be a Hamas commander, the United Nations should regard that not as an embarrassment but as an attack upon the integrity of human neutrality itself.



Hamas should never be permitted to gain the legitimacy of the UN logo.

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(<https://justorium.org>)

The UN should be the first institution demanding that boundary.

UNRWA's Schools Make the Question More Serious

The educational dimension makes the issue particularly urgent.

Gaza will eventually need reconstruction, and rebuilding schools will be among the most important tasks. Palestinian children deserve an education that gives them the skills required to build successful lives after years of devastating conflict.

That cannot happen if educational institutions tolerate people simultaneously involved in terrorist organizations.

A school principal exercises authority over teachers and influences the environment in which hundreds or thousands of children are educated.

If credible evidence establishes that Hamas operatives have occupied such positions, the international community should demand a complete examination of recruitment, promotion, supervision and disciplinary procedures.

This is not an anti-UNRWA position.

It is what should be expected of any institution responsible for children.

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Accountability Cannot Be Something the UN Demands Only From Others

The United Nations frequently demands independent investigations when governments are accused of wrongdoing.

That principle is sound.

Apply it here.



Determine exactly what El Samhoun's role in Hamas was.

Determine when he joined **JUSTORIUM**
(<https://justorium.org>)

Examine whether colleagues knew. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Investigate whether his activities affected the schools he managed. SUPPORT NETWORK

Determine whether warning signs were missed.



Establish whether other employees had similar relationships.

Publish the findings.

Then reform whatever systems failed.

This is what accountability looks like.

The alternative is an institution that demands transparency from everyone except itself.

Israel's Anger Is Understandable

Israelis have spent years warning that Hamas operates within civilian institutions and that international organizations frequently underestimate the extent of its penetration into Gazan society.

Those claims are often met internationally with skepticism, sometimes appropriately. Governments engaged in war have obvious incentives to present their adversaries in the worst possible light.

But skepticism must work in both directions.

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When evidence supports Israeli claims, international institutions should acknowledge it.

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clicking on the "Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information" link. The possibility that Israel was correct about a particular case should not become institutionally uncomfortable.

Facts do not become less true because they strengthen Israel's argument.

This is another element of moral clarity that the UN desperately needs.

Conclusion



The most troubling part of the Youssef El Samhouri story is not that the United Nations made a mistake.

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Large institutions make mistakes.
(<https://justorium.org>)

The UN apparently did not know when it held its memorial that Hamas would subsequently identify one of the people being honored as an Al-Qassam field commander.
(<https://justorium.org/support-network/>)

The real test came afterward.



Would the United Nations immediately acknowledge the gravity of what had happened, withdraw the honor, apologize and investigate how someone allegedly holding a command position in Hamas could simultaneously rise through the ranks of its educational system?

Or would it explain why it did not know and subtly redirect responsibility toward Israel for not informing it?

That choice tells us something much larger about the crisis of confidence surrounding the United Nations.

The organization was created from one of history's greatest moral catastrophes because the world understood that peace required principles capable of transcending politics. Human rights mattered. Civilian life mattered. Aggression mattered. Terror mattered. Truth mattered.

Those principles still matter.

But moral authority cannot be claimed through a flag, a building in New York or the initials "UN."

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It has to be earned through consistency.

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The United Nations should investigate Israel when credible evidence warrants it. It should criticize Israeli governments when they deserve criticism. It should defend Palestinian civilians and demand that their rights be protected.

But it must also be capable of looking inward.

When Hamas identifies a former UN school principal as one of its commanders, the first institution it should not be self-protection. It should be outraged that Hamas may have penetrated an organization created to help civilians.



The UN cannot demand accountability from Israel while treating accountability for itself as optional.

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It cannot claim to defend humanitarian neutrality while failing to confront those who exploit it.

And it cannot serve as a credible moral authority in this conflict if it repeatedly struggles with the most fundamental distinction of all:

A humanitarian worker should never also be a terrorist commander, and when that line is crossed, the United Nations should know immediately which side of it to stand on.

Footnotes

1. <https://www.thejc.com/opinion/analysis/the-un-leader-lit-a-candle-for-a-hamas-commander-the-organisation-is-no-longer-fit-for-purpose-uvz8v2pq> (<https://www.thejc.com/opinion/analysis/the-un-leader-lit-a-candle-for-a-hamas-commander-the-organisation-is-no-longer-fit-for-purpose-uvz8v2pq>). 1
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(https://cognitura.org)

Research & Education Platform

The Palestinian Authority Teaches Hatred. Why Does the World Keep Looking Away?

Whenever Western governments discuss the future of the Palestinians, one assumption repeatedly returns: Hamas is the extremist problem, while the Palestinian Authority (<https://cognitura.org/blog/why-handing-gaza-to-the-palestinian-authority-risks-renewed-terror>) represents the moderate alternative.

That distinction is not meaningless. The Palestinian Authority is not Hamas. It ostensibly recognizes Israel, maintains some security coordination with Israel and has at various times negotiated with Israeli governments. Hamas, by contrast, carried out the October 7 (<https://cognitura.org/blog/al-shifa-hospital-and-the-hostages-of-october-7-what-the-evidence-shows>) massacre and remains committed to armed struggle.

But this convenient division between extremist Hamas and moderate PA has also allowed the international community to ignore an uncomfortable reality for far too long. Within institutions controlled by the Palestinian Authority, generations of Palestinian children have been exposed to the glorification of terrorists, rejectionist nationalism and messages presenting violence against Israelis as heroic.

The latest examples are particularly disturbing because they concern October 7 itself.

Research by Palestinian Media Watch, subsequently reported and independently examined by other media, documented PA-run schools incorporating the Hamas attack into classroom exercises and school ceremonies. In one elementary-school mathematics exercise, nine-year-olds constructed multiplication problems based on Israelis being killed during October 7. Another calculated the number of Hamas fighters entering Israeli communities. At school assemblies, children reportedly celebrated the attack as a source of national pride and recited material threatening Israelis with death.

The scandal is not merely that this happened.

The greater scandal is how little the world appears to care.

Western governments are simultaneously discussing giving a supposedly "reformed Palestinian Authority" responsibility for Gaza while paying remarkably little attention to what the Palestinian Authority is teaching children in the territory it already governs.

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Key Takeaways

- Recent documentation^[1] shows PA-administered schools incorporating October 7 into mathematics exercises and school assemblies, including material celebrating the attack and violence against Israelis.
- The problem extends far beyond isolated classroom incidents. Palestinian educational institutions have faced criticism for years over the glorification^[2] of terrorists, rejectionist messaging and schools named after perpetrators of deadly attacks.
- Western governments have repeatedly condemned Palestinian incitement^[3], but rarely made its elimination a serious and enforceable condition for political or financial support.
- This creates a profound contradiction: the international community demands Israeli concessions for peace while often treating the Palestinian culture^[4] necessary to sustain that peace as a secondary concern.
- The Palestinian Authority should not be equated with Hamas, but neither should "moderate"^[5] become a label that exempts PA institutions from scrutiny.
- Any future Palestinian governing structure in Gaza should be required to demonstrate measurable educational reform before being entrusted with educating another generation.
- Palestinian children are themselves victims of incitement^[6] because an education centered on grievance, martyrdom and violence reduces their prospects of building a peaceful and prosperous society.
- There can be no sustainable two-state solution while one generation is negotiating peace and another is being taught to admire those who murder the people with whom they are supposed to make it.

The Story Is Not New. That Is Precisely the Problem.

If this were the first revelation concerning Palestinian educational incitement, the international community could plausibly claim surprise. It is not.

Concerns about Palestinian textbooks, school names, public ceremonies, official media and the glorification of terrorists have been raised for decades. Israeli governments, research organizations and some European lawmakers have repeatedly documented examples and demanded reform.

The latest material is nevertheless remarkable because October 7 should have represented an unmistakable moral boundary. Whatever one's position on Palestinian statehood, settlements, borders, Jerusalem or Israeli policy, the deliberate murder and kidnapping of civilians should not require complicated moral analysis.

Yet even the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust could apparently be transformed into educational material in PA-administered schools.

At Al-Kuwait Co-ed Elementary School, according to the documentation, third-grade children were asked to construct mathematical problems using the numbers nine and 150 in the context of the Gaza war. One example calculated how many Israelis would be killed if 150 were killed each day for nine days. Another calculated how many Hamas fighters would enter Israel if 150 entered each of nine communities.

These were nine-year-old children learning multiplication.

The importance of this is not that Palestinian mathematics education is systematically based on terrorism. There is no evidence for such a sweeping claim. The significance is that teachers and school administrators apparently considered October 7 and the killing of Israelis an acceptable framework within which elementary-school children could learn.

That tells us something about the surrounding educational culture.

The International Community Has Learned to Treat Incitement as Background Noise

This is where Western policy has failed.

Every time another example emerges, there is condemnation. A government spokesman expresses concern. A European parliamentarian asks questions. A report is commissioned. Palestinian officials promise reform. Then attention moves elsewhere.

Incitement has gradually become another permanent feature of the conflict, acknowledged but rarely treated as sufficiently important to affect the international community's underlying policy.

Compare that response with the scrutiny applied to Israel.

An inflammatory statement by an Israeli minister can generate international headlines within hours. European governments condemn it. American officials are asked about it. Diplomats demand clarification. International organizations incorporate it into reports, and critics present it as evidence of Israeli society's intentions.

There is nothing inherently wrong with that scrutiny. Israeli ministers should be held accountable for what they say.

The problem is the asymmetry.

When Palestinian institutions glorify terrorists or children participate in ceremonies celebrating violence, the response is frequently muted and temporary. The incident is treated as unfortunate rather than as evidence of a potentially fundamental obstacle to peace.

That double standard makes little sense.

If words spoken by Israeli politicians matter because rhetoric shapes attitudes and policy, then words taught to Palestinian children matter for exactly the same reason.

The “Moderate Palestinian Authority” Has Become an Article of Faith

Part of the problem is that Western diplomacy needs the Palestinian Authority to fulfill a particular role.

Hamas is unacceptable. Israel cannot govern millions of Palestinians indefinitely. Western countries do not want Gaza to remain in perpetual chaos. Therefore, diplomats require a Palestinian institution

that can eventually assume responsibility.

The PA is the obvious candidate.

That practical necessity has gradually transformed into an intellectual blind spot. Because Western policy needs a moderate Palestinian alternative, there is an incentive to emphasize the PA's moderate characteristics while minimizing evidence that complicates the picture.

The Palestinian Authority is certainly more moderate than Hamas in important respects. But "more moderate than Hamas" is an extraordinarily low threshold for an institution that Western governments hope will eventually become the foundation of a peaceful Palestinian state.

The appropriate question is not whether the PA is better than Hamas.

It is whether its institutions are preparing Palestinians for peace.

The evidence from its schools makes that question considerably more difficult to answer.

October 7 Should Have Changed Everything

The recent school ceremonies are particularly important in this context.

At least 11 PA schools were documented holding events containing material concerning October 7. At one elementary school in Hebron, a student reportedly described the attack as resembling a "beautiful dream" and spoke about the pride it generated. At a high school near Ramallah, another student described October 7 as a historic day that brought joy and renewed hopes for liberation.

At another school, a young girl recited a threatening text telling Israelis to open their doors because "we are death."

These examples cannot simply be explained as Palestinian criticism of Israel's subsequent war in Gaza. They concern October 7 itself.

The distinction matters. Palestinians have every right to criticize Israeli military actions. They can oppose Israeli governments, settlements and policies. They can advocate Palestinian statehood and teach their

children Palestinian history and national identity.

None of those things requires celebrating the murder of civilians.

A political culture capable of distinguishing national aspiration from the glorification of terrorism is essential if two peoples are ever going to coexist.

The Problem Predates October 7

The educational culture surrounding terrorism has deeper roots.

One of the clearest examples is Dalal Mughrabi, a participant in the 1978 Coastal Road massacre in which 38 Israelis, including children, were killed. Multiple Palestinian schools have reportedly carried her name.

Naming a school is not an administrative technicality. Countries name schools after individuals whom they believe represent values worthy of admiration. Children encounter those names every morning as they enter the building.

This is precisely why the international community should have treated the issue far more seriously years ago.

Imagine attempting to construct peace in Northern Ireland while schools were systematically named after perpetrators of sectarian massacres. Imagine trying to build reconciliation in the Balkans while educational institutions celebrated those responsible for murdering civilians from another ethnic community.

Nobody would consider that irrelevant to the peace process.

Yet Palestinian incitement has too often been compartmentalized as an unpleasant side issue rather than treated as a central question about whether a future peace agreement could survive.

Billions of Dollars Should Bring Accountability

The international community is not a powerless observer.

Western governments have spent enormous sums supporting Palestinian institutions and Palestinian development. That assistance reflects a legitimate objective: Palestinians need functioning schools, healthcare, infrastructure, economic opportunities and effective governance.

But financial support also creates leverage.

Donor governments should be able to insist that educational institutions receiving international support do not glorify people who murder civilians.

That is hardly an unreasonable condition.

There should be transparent monitoring of curricula and classroom materials. Schools named after terrorists should be renamed. Teachers who explicitly glorify terrorism to children should face consequences. School ceremonies should not celebrate attacks on civilians. Educational reform should be independently measured rather than accepted on the basis of assurances from Palestinian officials.

Most importantly, Western governments should be prepared to attach meaningful consequences when commitments are repeatedly violated.

Otherwise "concern" becomes little more than diplomatic theater.

The Double Standard Ultimately Damages the Palestinians

Ignoring incitement does Palestinians no favors.

Quite the opposite.

Palestinian children deserve an educational system designed primarily around their future rather than their conflict with Israel. They need mathematics because mathematics can help them become engineers. They need science because science can help them become doctors and researchers. They need English and technology because those skills provide access to the global economy.

A child growing up in Ramallah, Nablus or Hebron should be encouraged to imagine becoming an entrepreneur, professor, architect or programmer rather than a martyr.

The international community frequently speaks about investing in Palestinian development. Changing the educational culture surrounding violence may be one of the most important investments it could make.

A prosperous Palestinian society will not emerge merely because foreign governments transfer money. It requires institutions that teach young people how to build rather than destroy.

This Does Not Excuse Israeli Extremism

The same standard must apply to Israel.

When Israeli extremists celebrate violence against Palestinians, they should be condemned. Jewish terrorism should be prosecuted. Racist rhetoric should not be normalized. Israeli children should not be taught hatred of Palestinians.

This is not difficult to reconcile with demanding Palestinian reform.

In fact, it strengthens the argument.

The principle should be universal: societies that claim to seek peace have a responsibility to educate their children accordingly.

What makes the Palestinian case particularly important is that the international community is actively discussing the creation of a Palestinian state and potentially entrusting the Palestinian Authority with responsibility for Gaza. The educational culture of the institutions that might govern that state is therefore not peripheral.

It is central.

Gaza Makes the Question Urgent

This brings the argument back to the future of Gaza.

The world is understandably searching for an alternative to Hamas. But replacing Hamas officials with PA officials while leaving the underlying culture of glorifying violence untouched would address only part of the problem.

Gaza must be physically demilitarized, but long-term peace requires something more difficult: an educational system that does not reproduce the ideology of perpetual war.

Destroying a rocket launcher deals with today's threat. Teaching a child that murdering Israelis is heroic can help create tomorrow's.

This is why genuine Palestinian Authority reform must happen before, not after, it is entrusted with Gaza.

Reform should be demonstrated rather than promised.

Western governments should be asking what Palestinian children are being taught today, what happens when teachers glorify October 7, whether terrorists remain national role models and whether coexistence is being presented as a legitimate future.

These questions should carry as much diplomatic importance as arguments about borders, settlements and reconstruction funding.

The Peace Process Has Focused on Maps and Neglected Minds

For three decades, international diplomacy has concentrated overwhelmingly on the physical architecture of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Where will the border run?

What happens to settlements?

Who controls Jerusalem?

What security arrangements will Israel receive?

How will Palestinian sovereignty operate?

All are essential questions.

But diplomats have spent far less time addressing the human architecture required to make any agreement survive.

A border can be drawn in an afternoon.

Changing how two populations perceive each other can take a generation.

If Palestinians are expected eventually to live alongside Israel, their children need to grow up understanding that Israelis are people with whom they may profoundly disagree but whom they cannot legitimately murder.

The same principle applies in reverse.

No peace agreement can substitute for that cultural transformation.

Conclusion

The latest revelations from Palestinian Authority schools should therefore be understood as much more than another story about offensive classroom material.

They expose a failure of international policy.

For years, Western governments have demanded that Israel take risks for peace while repeatedly treating Palestinian incitement as a secondary problem. They have poured money into Palestinian institutions, spoken about strengthening Palestinian moderates and now discuss placing a "reformed Palestinian Authority" at the center of Gaza's future.

Yet reform cannot simply mean changing ministers or reorganizing security services.

It must reach the classroom.

A Palestinian Authority school in which nine-year-olds can turn Israeli deaths into mathematics exercises is not preparing those children for reconciliation. School ceremonies celebrating October 7 are not preparing them for coexistence. Institutions honoring terrorists are not creating the political culture upon which a peaceful Palestinian state could eventually rest.

The world should stop pretending this is incidental.

Palestinian children deserve better. Israelis deserve better. And anyone genuinely committed to Palestinian statehood should understand that this issue cannot indefinitely be ignored.

A peace agreement can determine where the border will be.

Only education can help determine what happens across that border twenty years later.

For decades, the international community has scrutinized every Israeli obstacle to peace. It is time it showed the same determination toward Palestinian incitement.

Because if the world genuinely wants Israelis and Palestinians to live beside each other one day, it cannot continue looking away while children are taught to celebrate the killing of the people who will be living next door.

Footnotes

1. <https://freebeacon.com/israel/open-your-door-we-are-death-palestinian-authority-schools-glorify-oct-7-in-disturbing-new-footage-as-west-bank-government-angles-for-power-in-gaza/> (<https://freebeacon.com/israel/open-your-door-we-are-death-palestinian-authority-schools-glorify-oct-7-in-disturbing-new-footage-as-west-bank-government-angles-for-power-in-gaza/>). 1
2. <https://paxpoint.org/you-cannot-build-peace-while-teaching-children-to-celebrate-murder/> (<https://paxpoint.org/you-cannot-build-peace-while-teaching-children-to-celebrate-murder/>). 1
3. <https://palwatch.org/page/42380> (<https://palwatch.org/page/42380>). 1
4. <https://paxpoint.org/promised-reform-old-practice-the-palestinian-authority-and-pay-for-slay/> (<https://paxpoint.org/promised-reform-old-practice-the-palestinian-authority-and-pay-for-slay/>). 1
5. <https://paxpoint.org/when-the-policeman-becomes-the-terrorist-israels-growing-palestinian-authority-security-dilemma/> (<https://paxpoint.org/when-the-policeman-becomes-the-terrorist-israels-growing-palestinian-authority-security-dilemma/>). 1
6. <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-906558> (<https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-906558>). 1

(<https://cognitura.org>)

Research and education platform exploring radicalization prevention through truth and moral resilience.

Research Areas

Psychology of Radicalization(<https://cognitura.org/psychology-of-radicalization>)

Social and Cultural Drivers(<https://cognitura.org/social-and-cultural-drivers>)

Recruitment Mechanisms(<https://cognitura.org/recruitment-and-control>)

Prevention Strategies(<https://cognitura.org/prevention-and-deradicalization>)

Resources

Case Studies([case-studies-from-indoctrination-to-exit/](/case-studies-from-indoctrination-to-exit/))

How Often Israel Policy Criticism Uses Antisemitic Tropes: What The Data Shows (<https://cognitura.org/how-often-israel-policy-criticism-uses-antisemitic-tropes-what-the-data-shows>)

Why Does Israel Draw Outsized Global Attention (<https://cognitura.org/why-does-israel-draw-outsized-global-attention>)

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PUBLISHED SOCIALS REPORT

Israel

COVERAGE STARTS

Aug 31, 2026, 9:00 AM EDT

COVERAGE ENDS

Sep 1, 2026, 9:00 AM EDT

PUBLISHED POSTS

1

POST 01

20260825_Gaza before October 7th_V1

PLATFORM

TikTok

ACCOUNT / HANDLE

factsignalorg

PUBLISHED

Aug 31, 2026, 10:46 AM EDT

RECORD CONTEXT

`Fact Signal / General / Image Post

PUBLISHED POST

Gaza entered the war already facing widespread aid dependence, high unemployment, infrastructure problems, and years of instability.

Context matters when assigning responsibility.

LIVE POST

https://www.tiktok.com/@factsignalorg/photo/7680208426357607700?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc

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2. **BLUE:** Look closer.
3. **RED:** You see the message. Stand behind it.

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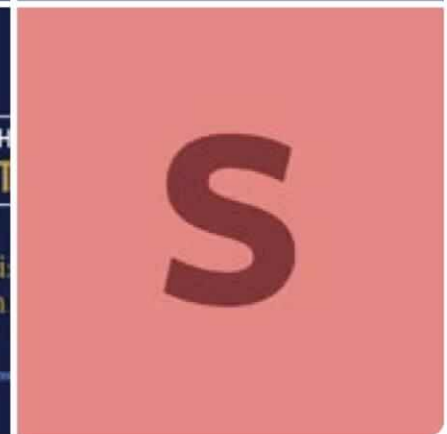


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