



Jerusalem 6:59  
Toronto 8:33

## ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel  
From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of  
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

This is because there's an infernal progression of thought that follows inexorably from the false premise of the Israel-haters. If you really do think that the Jews of Israel not only stole another people's land, not only have driven out and oppressed

## Commentary...

### Diaspora Jews Under Siege By Melanie Phillips

Traveling in America over the past three weeks to speak about my new book, I found a Jewish community in shock, bewilderment and, after the murderous attack last week on a young couple outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., gripped by rising fear.

Some of the most poignant reactions came from liberals who, on Oct. 7, 2023, had been mugged by a sickening reality. Their belief in achieving harmony between Israelis and Palestinian Arabs—a badge of their liberal identity—had been shattered by the barbaric and depraved attacks mounted upon Israelis that day by the people of Gaza.

Far worse had been the reaction to this by people they had assumed were friends and colleagues who thought like them but were instead demonizing Israel, regurgitating the lies of Hamas and ending their friendship simply because they hated not just Israel but those who supported it. And some were openly anti-Jew.

Among young people, this is particularly heartbreaking. Having gained coveted spots at elite universities, they have run a gauntlet of threats and intimidation on campus; their hard-won careers have been placed in jeopardy if they don't go along with lie after lie about Israel, the most recent being about starvation in the Gaza Strip.

Eager for the verbal ammunition with which to fight back, they haven't found it. They possess neither information nor a strategy that could help. "What on earth do I say in this situation?" they repeatedly asked me. "No facts or evidence seem to make the slightest dent in how these people think."

Individuals can't fight this on their own. These Jews under siege have, in effect, been abandoned—with some heroic exceptions—by leaders of the Jewish community. As in Britain, these leaders are simply failing to address the lies.

Unfortunately, this is because too many of them believe some, if not all, of the falsehoods. The relentless media saturation in Palestinian propaganda, which receives so little informed pushback, has drawn them into that poisonous echo chamber.

In America, the fact that so many Jews are ideologically attuned to liberal shibboleths means they have bought heavily into the narrative of Palestinian Arab oppression that is now the default position of Western progressives. The result is an absence in the public square of truths people desperately need to hear, but which many Jewish leaders find uncomfortable and dismiss as extremist positions.

For example, they should be saying loudly that everything Israel does is in accordance with international law, and that the Jews alone have the legal and historical right to the land many times over.

That the Jews are the indigenous people of the land; the Arabs are colonizers, and Zionism is a supreme decolonization movement.

That there is no such thing as the Palestinian people. Palestinianism was invented purely to destroy Israel and to steal the Jews' own history in the land from them. The Palestine cause is a glaring example of cultural appropriation.

And that anyone who supports the Palestinian cause is incontrovertibly supporting an agenda of Nazi-style demonization of the Jews, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Just to list these key statements of reality—so rarely voiced—is to realize the shameful silence of the Jewish community's leaders in the United States and the United Kingdom, and the lethal vacuum they've allowed to develop in public debate. They have effectively abandoned individual Jews and activist groups trying to counter the falsehoods and sound the alarm over such hate-mongering, leaving them to struggle against this onslaught alone.

Those involved in the defense of Israel, moreover, need to understand a particularly devastating characteristic of this current madness. It draws its astonishing traction from the very fact that the Israel-haters are often idealistic people who hate aggression and are committed to justice. And it's why the claim of antisemitism not only has no purchase but makes the onslaught even worse.

its rightful inhabitants but are also now wantonly killing Arab babies in Gaza, then you must think that the Israelis are evil people. You must think that any Jews who support Israel and Zionism are therefore also evil.

If a people or their cause is evil, it's not only permissible to detest them and try to remove them from the world. It's a moral obligation to do so. If Israel, Zionism and the Jews are evil, then it's a moral obligation to detest them and try to remove them from the world.

So the truly horrifying situation is that to the Western liberal—for whom Zionism is racism and Israel starves babies to death—antisemitism is therefore not just the shield behind which the Jews sanitize Israel's crimes.

It's not what it actually is: a uniquely murderous and deranged creed that all people of conscience must oppose. Unbelievably, for the Western liberal, antisemitism has become a moral obligation. The destruction of the Jewish homeland and the abuse of Jews have become an expression of liberal conscience.

And that's why the entire humanitarian establishment—the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, the whole apparatus of human-rights law, and NGOs like Amnesty and Human Rights Watch—all of this is focused on singling out Israel and the Jews to be demonized and dehumanized.

It's why the most "progressive" countries—Britain, Canada and Australia—are the most viciously hostile to Israel. It's rank, murderous, racist bigotry, all in the name of conscience and justice.

It's as if Stalinism and Nazism are finally winning against civilization, destroying the Jews through frying the Western brain. This is why so many feel they have stepped through the looking-glass into a living nightmare.

So what is to be done? Clearly, the Jewish world is up against the old evil, but of an unprecedented type and scale. And, of course, against such derangement, reason doesn't work.

It's important, though, to put the facts into the public domain for those who are not immune to reason but are simply ignorant of Judaism, the Middle East and the history of the Jewish people. That, unfortunately, includes many Jews.

As for the haters who are indeed beyond rational argument, there is a strategy that would be effective. This involves recognizing their Achilles' heel.

What they most care about is not the oppressed Palestinian Arabs whose cause they so noisily proclaim. They care, above all, about their image to themselves and to others as moral, compassionate and smart. There's no point calling them out for antisemitism. And playing defense is worse than useless because it's to argue on the mind-twisting terms they have set out and so is bound to fail.

Israel's defenders should instead put these people on the back foot by calling them out for being the very things that they purport to hate.

So, for example, they should be accused of promoting imperialism, in supporting the Arab conquest of another country and extinguishing the rights of its indigenous people; of being stupid, sloppy and credulous in writing and broadcasting manipulative falsehoods; and of being racist.

Arabs comprise about 20% of Israel's population. By demanding that the "settlers" be removed from the disputed areas of Judea and Samaria because this supposedly prevents the creation of a state of Palestine, the Israel-haters are supporting ethnic cleansing and promoting a doctrine of racial purity. They should be told that their progressivism is bogus.

Jews in America and Britain should stop presuming to lecture Israel about what it should be doing. If they don't live there, they have no right to do so. Their task—and it could not be more urgent—is instead to start educating Diaspora Jews about Judaism and the Jewish people, and then take the fight to the enemy in a far smarter and more strategic way. (JNS May 29)

### **‘We’ve Seen Booby-Trapped Kindergartens’** By Yaakov Lappin

The Israel Defense Forces’ (IDF) major offensive in the Gaza Strip, Operation “Gideon’s Chariots,” which commenced on May 16 with the mobilization of tens of thousands of reservists and the deployment of all regular infantry and armored brigades, has seen an extensive and pivotal use of heavy engineering vehicles, particularly the armored D9 bulldozer.

These formidable vehicles play a crucial role in neutralizing pervasive Hamas improvised explosive device (IED) threats and boobytraps laid by terrorist operatives throughout Gaza.

The operational environment in Gaza is characterized by an unprecedented density of IEDs and booby-trapped structures, a tactic Hamas has refined and scaled up significantly.

A senior IDF commander, speaking with JNS on Tuesday, explained the nature of this threat: “We understand throughout this prolonged fighting that Hamas, like Hezbollah, are ultimately classic guerrilla armies. As guerrilla armies, they use the population both to blend in and they use infrastructure—kindergartens, schools, infrastructure of international organizations, humanitarian organizations—and they use this infrastructure to booby-trap them.”

The officer further elaborated on the scale of the IED problem, stating, “They make very, very extensive use of IEDs. This isn’t new to us; already in Operation Cast Lead in 2008, we encountered serially produced Hamas IEDs with labels, serial numbers, and production dates. We are encountering the same IEDs now, just in much, much larger quantities.”

The officer stressed Hamas’s utter lack of moral restraint in deploying these devices. “We see that they simply booby-trap anything they can, and they have no barrier or any moral limit in this aspect. We’ve seen booby-trapped kindergartens, also with tunnel shafts; we’ve seen schools; we’ve seen sites that are supposed to be used for humanitarian aid – in every such place, we encountered IEDs, we encountered tunnel shafts,” he stated.

According to the officer, Hamas booby-traps three main types of locations: any conceivable structure or object, roads, and routes of movement (including paved roads used by civilians, similar to threats faced by US forces in Afghanistan and Iraq), and IED fields deployed around operationally significant targets for IDF forces, such as tunnel shafts. He added that Hamas terrorists deliberately rely on the IDF’s moral code, exploiting this knowledge to their advantage.

In this treacherous environment, the D9 bulldozer has proven indispensable. The senior IDF commander described the D9 as “a very versatile and very useful tool on the battlefield. It can be used for a wide range of military applications, whether it’s preparing terrain, breaching routes, or exposure and clearing.”

Its most critical function in the current offensive is countering the IED threat. “In the context of dealing with IEDs, the bulldozer allows the fighting element, the maneuvering element—whether it’s tanks, Namer Armored Personnel Carriers, or infantry—to essentially have a sort of reconnaissance screen ahead of the force. As a large, protected, tall vehicle, it allows for an initial encounter with the IED instead of that encounter being with a soldier,” the source explained.

He further detailed the D9’s specific capabilities for unearthing hidden dangers: “The D9 has a front blade and also a rear ripper, which allows it to create friction with the ground. This way, it’s possible to actually locate and deal with IEDs that are buried. On the other hand, the power of this vehicle also allows it to make changes to the ground and thus also prevent threats and reduce risks to forces in both dimensions [overground and underground].”

D9s are also used to expose concealed areas, such as rubble piles or dense vegetation, which cannot be easily scanned, allowing soldiers to then use other means to clear them of threats, or direct fire, if needed.

While the D9 is a primary tool, the IDF employs tactical flexibility. “We try not to get fixated on one operational template, because that also allows the enemy to learn and prepare against our actions,” the officer noted.

Relating to Hamas’s extensive surveillance network, he said, “We know the enemy is always watching us; they have many cameras deployed throughout the Strip, including in humanitarian sites or sites of international organizations because they know we won’t attack those locations, so they place cameras there.

They also have a very wide array of spotters—children, women, elderly people—population types they know with certainty we will not attack, and these two factors help them learn our forces’ operational patterns.”

Ultimately, he said, IDF commanders have a toolbox to use as they approach any combat operation. “In accordance with their situation assessment and how they analyze the terrain and the enemy, they choose which tool to send first and which second, constantly adapting to different constraints,” the IDF officer explained.

The IDF’s engineering capabilities are also advancing technologically. The officer mentioned the IDF’s efforts towards remote operation and automation across various platforms, not limited to engineering vehicles but also evident in the drone and aerial domains.

In November 2024, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) confirmed the use of its unmanned ground systems in recent IDF operations. IAI’s unmanned version of the D9, known as the RobDozer (or Panda in IDF terminology), has been used for high-risk missions including clearing paths, bridging, and countering IEDs, often as part of a “robotic combat task force” that can include unmanned M113 armored personnel carriers. IAI’s Automation system acts as “the brain” to unite these unmanned tools and integrate them into the manned combat environment.

IDF Southern Command officials reportedly stated on May 24 that IDF ground operations in Operations Gideon’s Chariots are advancing slowly and systematically precisely to avoid IEDs and booby traps, with significant engineering work by bulldozers like the D9 often preceding troop movements.

The senior IDF commander emphasized that the D9 is not the sole tool for this purpose: “There are other tools in the arsenal; there are also aerial assets that we use, and there are also means that the soldier at the tactical edge can take that will help him either detect or neutralize an IED. Of course, there are also dedicated forces of combat engineering and Yahalom (special engineering unit) whose role is to locate and neutralize IEDs.”

Reflecting on the progress made, the commander asserted, “Categorically, we are in a different place from where we were on October 7 [2023]. The army and the State of Israel are investing many resources in developing more technological means and combat equipment, both for the soldier at the edge and for the more systemic echelons, to deal with this threat.”

He added, “Ultimately, we understand that this—the IEDs—is one of the main tools of a terror army like Hamas. And enormous efforts and resources are invested to truly provide a wide range of tools for all echelons operating in the field, from the soldier at the edge to the brigade and division headquarters.” (JNS May 28)

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### **The Essence of Anti-Semitism** By William Choslovsky

Though many people say the Hamas-led terrorist attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, changed them, it was the day after that transformed me.

Until then, I never really understood antisemitism. Sure, I know that a swastika spray-painted on a synagogue is antisemitism, and that an angry mob beating an Orthodox Jew is antisemitism.

But that’s not the essence of antisemitism. That’s the easily recognized, low-hanging fruit, shake-your-head-in-disgust antisemitism. The essence of antisemitism was laid bare to me by what happened elsewhere on Oct. 8, Oct. 9, Oct. 10—and every day since.

It was laid bare to me by listening to people call into talk-radio programs in the United States and debate whether babies were beheaded or “just murdered and burned,” as if that is a relevant distinction.

It was laid bare to me watching LGBTQ activists march in support of Hamas, even though they’d be murdered for their identity in Gaza, but welcomed and celebrated in Israel.

It was laid bare to me as the supposed intellectuals and “experts” who explained that Israel must abide by the “laws of war,” which it does, while simultaneously stating that the murder, rape, torture and kidnapping of civilians were somehow legitimate forms of “resistance.”

It was laid bare to me by false reports of “war crimes” by Israel, without mention that Hamas has been committing actual war crimes since 2005 by indiscriminately launching thousands of rockets at Israeli civilians.

It was laid bare to me by esteemed universities, like my alma mater, Harvard University, that hold lectures on “microaggressions,” but then allow protesters to chant “Kill the Jews” at campus rallies.

It was laid bare to me as people chant “From the river to the sea,”

yet they can't name the river or the sea, and couldn't pass a basic history test about what they are protesting.

It was laid bare to me by Western media trying to show "balance" and "both sides" of the story, as if terrorism and the response to terrorism are equivalent.

It was laid bare to me as people demanded the creation of a Palestinian state, which would be the 58th Muslim-majority country, to replace the only Jewish country in the world—Israel, whose "Zionist empire" is the whopping size of New Jersey.

It was laid bare to me after Jewish women were gang-raped and publicly defiled by terrorists on Oct. 7, yet international women's groups failed to say a word about it.

It was laid bare to me as the far right and far left finally found common ground on something: The killing of innocent Jews.

It was laid bare to me as the presidents of Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania testified before Congress that "It depends on the context" when asked if calling for the genocide of Jews is bullying or harassment.

It was laid bare to me as self-proclaimed "social-justice warriors" and supposedly smart people, like college students, professors and some members of Congress, marched for the terrorist team.

It was laid bare to me as the kidnapped victims' posters were torn down, as if recognizing their humanity was a sin.

It was laid bare to me as people equated terrorism with a response to terrorism.

It was laid bare to me not by Hamas but by much of the world's response, or lack of response, to Hamas and its actions. Frankly, Hamas is easier to eradicate than antisemitism.

Long before there was a State of Israel, Jew-hatred thrived. And long after Hamas is gone, antisemitism will still be here. The issue isn't where Jews live, but that Jews have the audacity to live. (JNS May 29)

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### Critics of Israel Agree: Settlers Make the Best Villains

By Moshe Phillips

Along with the Israeli Defense Forces, perhaps no group of Israelis draws the attention of Israel's critics as frequently as the so-called Jewish settlers.

In the same week that Tzeela Gez, a 30-year-old pregnant Israeli "settler" who was on her way to the hospital to deliver her fourth son, was murdered by a Palestinian Arab terrorist, the British government targeted a 79-year-old great-grandmother named Daniella Weiss.

On its official website, the United Kingdom announced: "Today's measures include financial restrictions and travel bans, including on high-profile extremist settler leader Daniella Weiss."

David Lammy, the British Foreign Secretary, stated: "The sanctioning of Daniella Weiss and others today demonstrates our determination to hold extremist settlers to account as Palestinian communities suffer violence and intimidation at the hands of extremist settlers."

Oren Marmorstein, spokesperson for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called the sanctions "unjustified and regrettable."

But that's not the point here.

Ever since 1968, when a group of young Jewish families moved into a hotel in Hebron, there has been consistent opposition to Jews making homes in areas that Israel took control of after its victory in the Six-Day War in June 1967. From the very beginning, settlers have been a target for demonization.

Weiss is not the monster the British are depicting. A strictly Orthodox woman, she is the former mayor of the community of Kedumim.

No one can deny that Weiss has been a force in building, sustaining and protecting Jewish communities in the so-called West Bank. But if she were guilty of violent acts herself, why didn't Lammy say so?

The answer is simple. This has nothing to do with Daniella Weiss—or the settlements. This is about Lammy and the Labour Party finding a way to express their opposition to Israel's actions against Hamas.

How do we know this?

Because in the same press release, Hamish Falconer, Parliamentary under-secretary of state for the Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan, said as much. He said: "Today, I will set out to Ambassador Hotovely the government's opposition to the wholly disproportionate escalation of military activity in Gaza and emphasize

that the 11-week block on aid to Gaza has been cruel and indefensible. I will urge Israel to halt settlement expansion and settler violence in the West Bank."

Let's pause and consider the British hypocrisy here.

The United Kingdom's opposition to the settlement movement can be summarized as this: The British government believes that it has the moral authority to dictate where in their ancestral homeland Jewish families can and cannot live.

Can one imagine the outrage if Lammy, whose parents are from Guyana, decided to relocate there, only for the Australian government not only to criticize where a black man may live in Guyana but to launch a boycott in response?

This move by London—with its list of sanctioned Jews—echoes some of the darkest periods in recent Jewish history. It must be called out as both hateful and dangerous.

At a moment when Israel is fighting to rescue hostages who have been held for nearly 600 days, it is a moral disgrace for such an ally to attack Israel for how it is conducting itself.

American Jews should respond by canceling all planned summer trips to Britain until it reconsiders its position. (JNS May 28)

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### Trump Dislikes 'Forever Wars,' but Israel is Stuck with One

By Jonathan S. Tobin

Despite denials from Jerusalem, the U.S.-Israel relationship has hit a bump in the road. The panic among some in the pro-Israel community about the way the Jewish state seemed to be an afterthought during President Donald Trump's recent trip to the Middle East may have been an overreaction. But recent reported comments from Trump about his "frustration" about the intractable nature of the conflict with Hamas and concern about the suffering of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have made it clear that the two nations are, at best, not on the same page.

You don't have to be a Washington insider to pick up the signals. The decision not to send Vice President JD Vance to Israel after attending the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV in Rome was due to what Axios reported as a desire not to have him in the country at a time when the Israel Defense Forces were ramping up operations there against the terrorists. Subsequently, sending Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on a solidarity visit was a poor substitute for Vance or Trump, had he chosen to make a stop in Israel on his Middle East tour.

But Noem, who is not considered a player in the making of foreign policy, was not just there to make nice. The fact that her office described her conversation with Netanyahu as "candid" (diplomatic language for an open disagreement) spoke volumes. Apparently, she was, among other things, tasked by Trump with reminding the prime minister not to do anything that might upset the administration's talks with Iran about which the president is currently expressing optimism, however ill-founded that sentiment might be.

That means talk about Israel striking Tehran's nuclear facilities anytime soon—before Russia can help repair its air defenses that were destroyed last year by Israeli airstrikes—is fanciful. Despite reports about Israel threatening to attack the Iranians even without American cooperation or support and as much as Netanyahu may see the threat from Iran as the most important challenge facing his nation, he is not going to risk an open breach with Trump.

As was the case with Trump's trip, these differences should not be exaggerated.

The president himself told Fox News' Bret Baier that he wasn't frustrated with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and praised his bravery in leading his country during a war that was forced on it by the Hamas-led Palestinian Arab terror attacks on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

For his part, Netanyahu has sought to stay as close to the Americans as possible. During a news conference, he vowed to continue embracing Trump's plans for Gaza and voicing no public criticisms of his stance on engaging with Syria, Qatar or even the negotiations with Iran, though they appear to be leading the United States to a rerun of Barack Obama's appeasement of the Islamist regime.

Yet as every report about the conversations being held between the two allies seems to confirm, there are clear and obvious disagreements that can no longer be denied.

For those who have longed for a return to more "daylight" between Washington and Jerusalem—something that was an open

objective of the Obama administration and pretty much the opposite of what happened during Trump's first term—this is very good news. Headlines like the one in The New York Times on May 26 that read, “Trump’s Comments on Gaza Reflect Israel’s Growing Isolation,” illustrate the eagerness of the foreign-policy establishment and left-wing media to assume the worst about the White House’s attitude toward Netanyahu and his government.

The problem isn’t necessarily the tendency toward “America only” rather than “America first” among some of his councilors. It is Trump’s impatience with being involved in any armed conflict, especially those he labels as “forever” wars, even if U.S. troops are not involved, as is the case in Gaza.

The fact that Israel is in the middle of a shooting war with Hamas and other Iranian terror proxies is the big difference between Trump 1.0 and Trump 2.0. Of course, throughout his first term (and on every day of the 77 years since the modern Jewish state was founded), Israel has faced deadly threats from Arab armies and terrorists. For his part, Trump has been willing to use force against terrorists or to strike enemies.

Still, it’s important to remember the issues that launched him into politics: opposition to illegal immigration, bad trade deals and “forever” wars, such as those that the United States fought in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The president fancies himself a great dealmaker, and by extension, a peacemaker. Given his success in helping to forge the Abraham Accords during his first term, he has more cause to claim that title than any other recent president, though he gets no credit for it from the international community and is about as likely to win a Nobel Peace Prize as to be elected pope.

Trump believes wars to be wasteful and often pointless, and he’s not wrong about that. Above all, he simply has no patience to stick with generational conflicts that require democracies to expend military resources with no real end in sight. The price for continuing to fight in Afghanistan wasn’t comparatively high in terms of blood and treasure; it was a conflict that couldn’t be won because of the persistence and popularity of the Taliban, combined with the incompetence of America’s allies. And so, Trump worked to end America’s commitment there, though to his credit, he never agreed to the sort of disgraceful rout that Biden presided over.

Similarly, Trump opposed the open-ended commitment to Ukraine that Biden agreed to after Russia started its war in February 2022. Trump knows that there’s an obvious compromise solution that can end the fighting. His frustration over Russian President Vladimir Putin’s refusal to stop it may lead Trump to increase sanctions on Moscow, something that no one thought was likely when he returned to office in January.

The situation facing Israel, however, is different from the past war in Afghanistan and the current one in Ukraine.

Trump opposes the continuation of Hamas as a ruling power in the Gaza Strip. And unlike the Russia-Ukraine situation, he has felt no need to obfuscate which party is the one responsible for the war. While European nations and Canada have become effectively neutral about the campaign to eradicate the genocidal terrorists of Hamas, Washington makes no secret of standing with Israel, even proposing to clear out the Strip and resettle Gazans elsewhere in order to rebuild it into an American-run resort.

But getting from the present situation to that very different Gaza of the future is something that won’t happen overnight. It will require Israel to conduct a long-drawn-out battle against terrorists still embedded among civilians and determined to control access to food for the Palestinians under their control. They still hold 24 living Israeli hostages that they are using to try to extort a ceasefire to enable them to remain in place. Their goal is a permanent halt to the fighting, when Israel will be forced to retreat across the border, setting up the possibility of yet another terror assault such as the one that started the current conflict on Oct. 7, 2023.

What Israel needs from the United States is not just the continued flow of arms that enables it to keep fighting, without them being slow-walked, as was the case under Biden. It also needs American support for efforts to restrict Hamas’s ability to control the supply of food to the Strip. Above all, Jerusalem needs Washington to ignore the drumbeat of Hamas-orchestrated propaganda about genocide or famine that has helped mobilize Europe and Canada to condemn and isolate the Jewish state.

Doing that for a short period of time doesn’t seem to be a problem for Trump. But the possibility that the fighting will continue for many

more months without a ceasefire or peace agreement involving the release of the hostages (for which the president can take credit) is a problem for the White House.

Part of that may involve Trump being influenced by the media campaign against Israel that shows pictures of suffering children, even if much of it can’t be trusted. But the real problem is Trump’s allergy to wars that have no end in sight.

There’s no disguising the fact that Israel is stuck with a forever war. Trump might like to expand the Abraham Accords, free the hostages and turn Gaza into an engine of prosperity—as the Palestinians themselves should have done when Israel withdrew from it in 2005, instead of turning it into a terrorist fortress—and bask in praise for being a peacemaker.

But the Palestinians have demonstrated time and time again that they have no interest in peace. Both Hamas and their supposedly more moderate Fatah Party rivals, which run the Palestinian Authority that governs Arabs living in Judea and Samaria, have made it clear that they simply won’t accept any peace agreement that recognizes the legitimacy of a Jewish state, no matter where its borders may be drawn.

More to the point, Hamas will never willingly surrender its control of Gaza. That’s because it is ideologically committed to endless war against Israel and because they believe that the West will sooner or later force the Jewish state to end the current conflict with the terrorists still in control. That’s a conviction that is reinforced by every “free Palestine” demonstration in the West and every condemnation of Israel by a Western government that is motivated by pro-Hamas disinformation about conditions in Gaza and the real reason why the conflict continues.

There’s no quick fix or an economic or trade agreement from which America can profit in the offing in Gaza. The best-case scenario would mean Israel achieving its objective of eliminating Hamas, which is a group of terrorists that can be defeated rather than, as Israel’s critics wrongly claim, an eternal idea. That will mean a long, hard slog that will require Israel’s government to have the will and the political room it needs to avoid folding to pressure to take a hostage deal, even if that means victory for Hamas.

They also need the United States to have the patience and will not to bail on the Jewish state because of presidential impatience to get the war over soon.

For all of the trust that Trump has earned from the pro-Israel community and his obvious feelings of goodwill toward the Jewish state, that may be something he isn’t capable of providing. That leaves open the possibility that his impatience will lead to the U.S. pushing, as it did in January, for a ceasefire-hostage release agreement that will harm Israel’s security and undermine American interests by strengthening Iran and terrorist groups that seek to destabilize the region.

This is a point of disagreement between the United States and Israel that is distinct from the one about negotiating with Iran. That contention is based on Jerusalem’s belief that any deal with Tehran will be a bad one, and Trump’s not entirely unreasonable desire to exhaust all diplomatic alternatives before giving up and letting Israel deal with the problem militarily.

It’s possible to envision Trump feeling ill-used by the Iranians and eventually going along with Israel’s desire to eliminate Iran’s nuclear program, though it remains to be seen if he will stick to his demands or abandon them as Obama did.

But on Gaza, Trump doesn’t want to be on the hook for a war against Hamas that is likely to drag on for some time if it is to be finally defeated. And that is true even if he doesn’t labor under the same illusions about the Palestinians and their cheerleaders in the international community or buy into genocide blood libels against Israel.

The result has been the “daylight” that Israel’s critics are celebrating.

If there is one thing that a century of conflict against the Palestinians has made clear, it is that they aren’t giving up on their fantasy of destroying the Jewish state. That is the ultimate forever war. If Trump wants to hold onto the title that he rightly earned in his first term as the most pro-Israel president to ever sit in the White House, then he’s going to have accept that supporting the Jewish state involves a recognition that this is one forever war from which neither Israel nor the United States can withdraw. (JNS May 28)