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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

critically review sources. (I refer you as well to the just-released official comprehensive review by COGAT and the Israel Foreign Ministry: <https://govextra.gov.il/mda/ipc/gaza/>)

Commentary...

Letter by Israeli Ambassador Yehiel Leiter to Rabbi Blau

Dear Rabbi Blau,

I read your publicized statement to which a group of Rabbis added their signature with profound shock and disappointment.

Your statement not only reflects an acute lack of familiarity with the facts, but is also based on the lies of our worst enemies, which have advanced like a viral contagion in the media. "Chachamim, hizehru b'dvarichem... v'nimtza shem shamayim mitchalel."

From the very outset of the war against Hamas, the Israeli Government set a clear policy: Gaza must not be allowed to reach a state of famine – a policy Israel has implemented continuously and assiduously. Israel is doing everything in its power to alleviate the humanitarian situation. To date, Israel has facilitated the transfer of well over 2 million tons of humanitarian aid into Gaza, including over 1.6 million tons of food – a quantity far exceeding the minimum requirements defined by aid organizations relative to the size of the population. In this context, I will specifically address your claim regarding the period during which Israel did not facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. Prior to the 77-day suspension of aid deliveries, **as part of the ceasefire agreement**, over 25,000 trucks carrying humanitarian aid entered Gaza, an average of 4,200 trucks per week (between January 19 and March 1, 2025) – well above the amount needed to sustain Gaza during the ceasefire suspension.

Given that all agree that Hamas must not continue to control the Gaza Strip, the fundamental problem in addressing the humanitarian situation is the systematic diversion of aid by Hamas for its military, political, and economic purposes. According to Israel's intelligence assessment, as much as 90% of aid has been diverted by Hamas. These figures have been validated by the UN itself through its own website tracking system. Hamas exploits humanitarian aid through multiple methods, including physical takeover of aid, imposing taxes and fees on aid goods, conducting smuggling operations, and infiltrating aid organizations and distribution systems. The diversion has generated an estimated \$500 million in revenue for Hamas in 2024 – its largest single source of income. This economic power goes toward recruiting new fighters and exercising control over the Gazan population.

Why is it that on this issue – when Israel has, in practice, fed and continues to feed those who fire upon our children – your moral outrage has been absent? Nor did I find in your statement any reference to the enormous efforts Israel is making to create alternatives to the UN distribution system that empowers Hamas terrorists, and to develop mechanisms that deliver food directly into the hands of civilians, such as through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF).

There is absolutely no impediment, qualitative or quantitative, presented by Israel on aid distribution. It is rather the incompetence of the UN affiliates that is responsible in toto for the debacle. Despite their vacuous accusations about logistical difficulties, the IDF opened additional humanitarian no-combat corridors in order to facilitate additional entry points for aid distribution. To no avail. The UN refuses to fully cooperate with Israel in either maximizing the delivery of humanitarian aid or in establishing mechanisms to ensure aid reaches civilians rather than Hamas.

Had you chosen to study the subject rather than rely on a media-generated libel, you would surely have read the comprehensive study titled "Debunking the Genocide Allegations: A Re-Examination of the Israel-Hamas War (2023–2025)," published by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The scientific study critically analyzed humanitarian reports, casualty data, and forensic evidence to challenge the widely reported claims from international organizations and courts. The study demolishes the false allegations of starvation in Gaza, showing that claims of starvation were based on erroneous data, circular citations, and a failure to

not die by them" – the Torah must never become a death trap in the hands of those who seek to uphold it. In the face of immense pressure on Israel and the false blood libels circulated against it, a firm moral backbone and a deep faith in the justice of our cause are essential. We cannot permit ourselves to lose moral clarity. The statement you penned did exactly that, I am afraid.

At a time when Israel is engaged in an existential war on seven fronts, faces immense international pressure, and is leading historic changes in the Middle East for the sake of regional security and stability, this is a moment to support and strengthen the Prime Minister of Israel, the democratically elected government of Israel and the people of Israel, rather than to express political criticism based on a glaring ignorance of the facts.

If that was not enough, your statement also referred to "extremist settler violence" in Judea and Samaria. Allow me to ask: what is the connection between the situation in Gaza and the actions of extremists elsewhere? "Ma Inyan Shmita Eitzel Har Sinai"? Linking these two issues serves only as a tool for delegitimizing the State of Israel and smacks of your own political agenda. Violence – any unnecessary violence – is to be condemned, but that there is a time and place for everything, was already stated by the wisest of men.

The group responsible for such acts of violence is a small group known as the "Hilltop Youth" – a population categorized as "at-risk" or "marginalized youth". In addition to law enforcement, this group is also treated by the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs.

According to the Ministry of Welfare, 65% of them are under the age of 18, with a large portion coming from areas outside Judea and Samaria. Most of them have a background of dropping out of the educational system. According to the Shin Bet (ISA), the core violent nucleus of this group consists of only a few dozen individuals – fewer than 100.

It is in this context that the phenomenon commonly referred to as "settler violence" – (a) lacks factual foundation as it is portrayed and (b) is largely the product of a distorted narrative aimed at delegitimizing Israel's presence in Judea and Samaria. The nationalist violence of Israeli Jews in Judea and Samaria simply does not exist in the widespread and systemic manner portrayed by the detractors of Jewish indigeneity to the Land of Israel.

Here are facts: In 2023, for example, there were 11,370 terror attacks and incidents carried out by Palestinians in Judea and Samaria – ranging from shootings and stabbings to throwing rocks at moving vehicles and acts of vandalism. For comparison, Israeli Jews carried out 1,248 such attacks and incidents in the same period of time, with only 4% of them being attacks directed against a person. It should also be noted that the Palestinian figures do not include 1,032 significant terror attacks that were prevented by our security services.

Some of the violence perpetrated by this group has also directed against the IDF. From October 2023 to mid-July 2025 – during an ongoing war – there were 98 recorded incidents of Jewish teenage violence targeting Israeli soldiers. This is a problem that Israel's authorities are dealing with in utmost seriousness.

At its core, the accusation of pervasive "settler violence" is rooted in a false narrative that portrays Israel as a colonialist project – depicting the Jewish people as having no legitimate claim to their ancestral homeland. As a result, the very presence of Jews in Judea and Samaria is viewed as inherently violent, with "settlers", all 600,000 residents of Judea and Samaria, cast as violent actors by definition.

Again, what this issue has to do with the war in Gaza, and why it should be included in a statement regarding the war is beyond understanding. It appears to be nothing less than a gratuitous attack on the democratically elected government of Israel, at a time when Israel's enemies are only too happy to receive ideological support

from the most unexpected sources.

And one additional word is in order. Your reference to the “day after” and Israel’s “lack of vision” is a venture entirely into the field of diplomacy, in which rabbis in general have no special expertise. As it happens, much thought, effort, and planning are going into the “day after Hamas”, and its potential for success is entirely dependent on it not being an Israeli plan and not being discussed in public.

A public apology in the spirit of Yamim Noraaim is in order.

B’virkat Shana Tova,

(signed) Michael (Yechiel) Leiter, Ph.D.

Ambassador of Israel to the United States (Embassy Sep 11)

Recognition of Palestinian Statehood at the UN is not Just a Failure of Diplomacy By Alex Traiman

This week at the U.N. General Assembly, more than a dozen countries, led by France, are preparing to recognize a Palestinian state less than two years after the Palestinians carried out the worst massacre of Jews in modern history on Oct. 7, 2023. Palestinian statehood would represent the ultimate reward for the most horrific terrorism, the very antithesis of the land for peace formula.

How could this happen as Israel fights a bitter war against Hamas and Iranian terror proxies on seven fronts, and with Israel’s greatest diplomat, Benjamin Netanyahu, at the helm?

At the beginning of the war, Netanyahu demonstrated his longstanding diplomatic acumen.

Immediately following the Oct. 7 massacre, Israel’s longest-tenured prime minister lobbied world leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and others, to show their support for the Jewish state as Israel prepared its military response to eliminate Hamas.

These visits demonstrated that, in the immediate aftermath of the Hamas and Palestinian atrocities against civilians, Israel could command sympathy, solidarity and public support of the Western world’s most powerful leaders.

But as Israel shifted from defense to offense, the diplomatic tide quickly turned. Israel’s unprecedented military campaign has devastated Gaza, displaced hundreds of thousands, dealt severe blows to Hezbollah, eliminated Iran’s nuclear program, demilitarized Syria and struck hard at terrorists in Yemen and Qatar.

Yet these decisive battlefield victories have not generated any admiration abroad. Instead, they have provoked an unprecedented campaign of delegitimization and demonization of Israel.

The crisis is amplified by the longstanding hostility of international institutions toward the world’s only Jewish state. The infamous 1975 U.N. resolution declaring “Zionism is racism” was orchestrated by the Arab League, which continues to dominate bloc voting in the General Assembly. Decades later, Israel remains singled out more than any other nation, condemned in resolutions year after year, while true aggressors are ignored.

Since then, U.N.-affiliated bodies have repeatedly denigrated Israel. For example, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has acted as a front group for Hamas, sustaining Palestinian refugee status indefinitely, unlike any other refugee crisis anywhere else in the world. The U.N. Human Rights Council reserves a permanent agenda item against Israel, the only country to have such status. The U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) routinely attempts to erase Jewish ties to Jerusalem, the Cave of the Patriarchs (Machpelah) in Hebron, and other holy sites.

Just this week, a U.N. investigative commission alleged that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza, following the International Court of Justice hearing a case against Israel for genocide. This comes despite Israel taking steps never before done by any military in the history of urban warfare to reduce civilian casualties and to feed an enemy population. The International Criminal Court has gone as far as to issue an arrest warrant for Netanyahu himself—to prevent Israel’s prime minister from traveling freely to defend his nation abroad.

The United States is one of only a few countries where Netanyahu can safely disembark without fear of arrest. When the prime minister flies to New York, the “Wing of Zion” plane will have to take an

extra-long route to avoid flying in the airspace of countries in Europe and elsewhere that have pledged to arrest him. As a result, journalists and members of his entourage are being made to fly commercially to New York City for Netanyahu’s upcoming address at the United Nations. This is to reduce the weight of the flight and ensure that there is enough fuel onboard in case of the need for an emergency landing.

The diplomatic assault on a democratic country and an ally of the West is unprecedented. It is the product of institutionalized hostility and a carefully plotted plan to isolate Israel.

For decades, Israel’s enemies have invested heavily in delegitimizing the Jewish state. Gulf states, in particular, Qatar, have funded Middle East studies programs at top North American universities. Oftentimes, Title VI universities were selected, as they receive taxpayer funding to create social studies textbooks for grade schools.

Palestinian-organized “Israel Apartheid Week” has been a fixture on campuses for more than 25 years. Rather than confront this adversarial behavior head-on, major American Jewish organizations, including Hillel, instructed Jewish students to ignore the anti-Israel spectacle, arguing that it was just a fringe element on the campuses. Soon after, Hillel, which is on campus to serve Jewish students, opted for what it called an “open tent,” welcoming organizations actively partnering with anti-Israel campus groups like Students for Justice in Palestine.

What began as a fringe has turned mainstream. Soon after Oct. 7, violent intimidation of Jewish students on campuses across America reached dangerous levels that continued through the 2023-24 academic year.

More than a decade ago, Palestinians launched the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement to lay the groundwork for cultural and economic boycotts against Israel. The Jewish state has pushed back hard against efforts to promote boycotts, but not hard enough. The idea has taken hold.

Western governments are now beginning to institutionalize boycotts, including but not limited to arms embargos. The situation has grown so dire that this week, Netanyahu acknowledged that Israel may need to become a “Super Sparta,” an isolated economy.

Also this week, in an address to American legislators, Netanyahu asserted that the rapid turn against Israel in Europe is in part due to mass Muslim immigration over the years. Across the continent, virulent pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel demonstrations attended by thousands have dominated public squares since Oct. 7.

Weak European leaders, including a lame-duck French President Emmanuel Macron, are increasingly shaping foreign policy to appease growing domestic constituencies that are hostile to Israel. Such leaders fear unrest in their own cities if they appear to be closely aligned with Israel or indifferent to Palestinian suffering.

It is demographic and political pressures—not faulty diplomacy—that explain why European states like France, Belgium, Spain and Malta are now leading the push for Palestinian recognition at the United Nations.

Israel also failed to prepare the digital battlefield for a major conflict. Netanyahu calls the information battlefield the eighth front of the war. In reality, it may be the first front—specifically because this is the front where the enemies of Israel believe they have an advantage.

Mainstream media, including most of the world’s largest news agencies, have long displayed anti-Israel bias. Qatar’s Al Jazeera news network leads the charge, funded to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars per year. Major news agencies like the Associated Press and Reuters have footholds in Gaza. Together, these organizations provide articles to thousands of publications around the globe.

Yet today, these news agencies are supported by the world’s most powerful algorithms on social media. Anti-Israel actors manipulate algorithms and flood platforms with bot-driven content. These viral campaigns spread faster and more widely than any official diplomatic rebuttal, creating an overwhelming chorus of condemnation that traditional statecraft cannot match.

Compounding the challenge is Israel’s own internal disunity, coupled with harmful and counterproductive messaging. Amid an existential battle for survival, former prime ministers, generals and

intelligence officials routinely undermine Israel, its war aims and the government on the world stage.

How can Israel contradict claims of genocide and war crimes when disgraced left-wing leaders go on international news programs and make those same claims? Some of the world's worst antisemites are simply letting left-wing Israelis do their work for them.

The Israeli left has intentionally aligned itself with international critics, motivated less by national defense than by the political aim of removing Netanyahu, as well as religious and nationalist parties from government.

Israel is confronting not a failure of diplomacy, but the success of its enemies' long game. International institutions, hostile movements, demographic changes and digital manipulation have combined to create an environment where Israel's battlefield victories in the war on terror translate into diplomatic defeats in the war for public opinion.

Israel's international troubles are not likely to be solved by acrobatics on the foreign-policy stage. Israel's real challenge is to mount its own well-funded, long-term, multifront campaigns—diplomatic, cultural, technological, digital, legal—to defeat its attackers.

The spectacle of the United Nations preparing to reward Palestinians with statehood recognition after the atrocities of Oct. 7 is not the result of failed diplomacy by Israel's government. On the contrary, it is evidence that Netanyahu alone cannot overcome the decades-long campaigns, demographic shifts and institutional biases that have been carefully cultivated to ensure that Israel would lose the diplomatic battle before it even began. (JNS Sep 17)

Israel Will Soon Have 100% Protection From Missiles

By Amit Segal

It's Thursday, September 18, and yesterday, Israel announced that it has declared one of its most brilliant defense developments as operational: the "Iron Beam" laser interception system, also known as "Laser Dome." This is truly an astounding achievement, and in order to break down just why, I'll look at a recent speech by Yuval Steinitz, chairman of the board of Israeli defense company Rafael, which developed the Iron Beam alongside the Ministry of Defense's Directorate of Defense Research & Development (DDR&D), and the Israeli Air Force.

First, how it actually works.

"With a laser we destroy the target essentially by a beam of light, by rays of light that travel at 300,000 km [185,000 miles] per second," Steinitz said. "The moment the target is seen, it is destroyed... The target almost doesn't move, because the speed of the laser is so great that the targets appear as if they stand still."

Set to be delivered to the IDF by the end of 2025, it will initially focus on "short- and medium-range missiles," according to Steinitz. But within five years, he believes Israel will also have a laser that can intercept ballistic missiles from Iran and Yemen.

The practical implications for Israeli skies are astonishing. "In five to ten years," Steinitz said, "nothing hostile will fly in the air—nothing hostile: not aircraft, not UAVs, not cruise missiles, not shells, not bombs—because the laser will completely clear the air of anything that is detected."

The only way to get past the laser system, according to Steinitz? "If it simply goes unseen or unnoticed."

This is, of course, also a historic breakthrough, with the Rafael head noting that global powers have been trying to create a laser weapon for six decades.

But there's more. The Laser Dome also has an incredible economic upside. While technologically brilliant, Israel's current missile and rocket interception systems are exceedingly expensive. Indeed, during the 12 day war against Iran, Israeli and American launches of missile interceptors reportedly cost nearly \$1.5 billion. In other words, from interceptor launches alone, the war cost over \$86,000 per minute.

And the Iron Beam? An interception costs around one or two dollars per shot. And unlike the Iron Dome and Arrow systems, it doesn't require constant reproduction.

Indeed, the laser system has already been successfully used in the latest war against Hezbollah and Iran to shoot down dozens of UAVs.

Steinitz also placed the breakthrough in the context of thousands

of years of warfare. "Throughout military history, from ancient Greece or Egypt to the present day, armies have used projectiles—physical objects like arrows, spears, and today, bombs, shells, and missiles," he said. "These are solid objects, bullets flying through the air to hit their target. With lasers, we destroy the target using a beam of light traveling at 300,000 km per second."

So no, it's not hyperbole to say that the Jewish state has just changed the face of warfare.

But the system also has a personal touch to it. Its Hebrew name has been changed to Or Eitan (Eitan's Light), in memory of Eitan Oster. In October 2024, Eitan, 22, became the first IDF soldier killed during the military's ground operation in Lebanon. Eitan's father, Dubi, was one of the "initiators and developers" of the Iron Beam project, according to the Defense Ministry.

'Historically, the Losing Side Leaves the Battlefield'

By Yaakov Lappin

As Israel began the final high-intensity phase of its war against Hamas in Gaza, leading experts from the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security (JISS) said in a webinar on Sunday that a decisive military victory is a strategic imperative with profound regional and global implications.

Professor Efraim Inbar, who served as JISS president from 2017 to 2025, stated that despite the IDF's significant achievements, Israel cannot yet claim victory. He noted that while Hamas is no longer an immediate military threat and has lost 70-75% of the territory it once controlled, it still holds Gaza City and can claim to have survived nearly two years of war against the Middle East's strongest military.

"Hamas can still claim victory," Inbar said. "The 'resistance' survived for almost two years. It's obvious that Hamas wins the propaganda war." He argued that this is not a conflict that can be won on points. "This war is not a boxing match where you can win by points. Here, you need a knockout," he asserted.

He added, "From a historic perspective, the losing side in a war leaves the battlefield. Hamas should leave Gaza. This is what should be the military goal, and it's a political goal. The victory picture is ships taking Hamas terrorists to another destination, be it Turkey, Algeria, Qatar; we really don't care. This is a picture that is very similar to what happened to the PLO in 1982 in Lebanon."

According to Inbar, "In war, there are two equations. One who can inflict more pain, and obviously we can do that. But there is another equation who can take more pain. Hamas and Hezbollah propagate an image of a weak Israel. We remember ... It's a spiderweb image, a metaphor." According to Inbar, the deep political rifts in Israel and the national discussion focused on the hostage crisis "seem to confirm this image. We have to dispel those beliefs. And only a clear victory in Gaza can be useful in this task."

Anything less than an unequivocal outcome, Inbar warned, will be perceived as an Israeli defeat. Inbar stressed the urgency of a swift, frontal assault, arguing that Israel is "running out of time" due to the international "political clock."

A victory is needed, he said, to change the Palestinian mindset, to strengthen Arab countries that have ties with Israel, and who see Hamas's parent organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, as a grave threat and to send a message to the world that Israel is a bastion of Western civilization that would not be defeated by "modern barbarians."

Professor Col. (res.) Gabi Siboni, a senior fellow at JISS and a senior consultant to the IDF and other Israeli security organizations, outlined the military blueprint for achieving this knockout victory. He advocated for imposing a complete and effective siege on Gaza City before launching an aggressive, multi-directional ground maneuver.

"We must impose a siege on the city of Gaza," Siboni stated, noting that Israel has so far been reluctant to take all necessary steps, which he called a "ridiculous" interpretation of international law.

"We do not want to starve the population; the population will be provided with full humanitarian support south of the Netzarim corridor," he clarified. Once the city is isolated, the IDF must conduct a "very aggressive maneuver" to achieve the ultimate goal: the "unconditional surrender of Hamas."

Siboni drew a direct parallel to the Allied strategy against Nazi Germany. "You have to understand that this war is comparable to the

Second World War of Britain and the Allies... this is our Second World War,” he said. He acknowledged the risk this would pose to the 48 remaining hostages but argued that it is a necessary risk. “There is no way to conduct this war and find a way to put our hostages in a bubble of cotton in Gaza. There is no way. We have to conduct our operation and achieve our goals,” he said, adding that historically, Israel has always accepted risks in its most daring hostage rescue operations, such as the July 1976 Entebbe raid.

Professor Hillel Frisch, an Arab world expert and Professor Emeritus at Bar Ilan University, framed the necessity of the operation by asking, “What will Gaza look like if we don’t go after Hamas?” He presented a stark, data-driven comparison between the outcomes of two different Israeli strategies: the aggressive, offensive-security model used in Judea and Samaria since 2002, versus the failed withdrawal-and-containment model used in Gaza since 2005. “1,700 Israelis have so far been killed in Gaza versus 500 in Judea and Samaria since 2005... 20,000 missiles versus none,” Frisch stated.

The Gaza strategy led to the closure of Israel’s international airport, massive economic costs, and international delegitimization, none of which occurred as a result of Israel maintaining security control over Judea and Samaria, which has a larger Palestinian population, Frisch noted.

He dismissed the idea of installing the Palestinian Authority in Gaza as “sheer delusion,” citing the PA’s repeated failures to deal with Hamas even in the much smaller city of Jenin. He also noted that the moderate Arab states have explicitly stated they will not contribute their own forces to police a post-war Gaza, with the Arab League declaring that security is an “exclusive Palestinian responsibility.”

Therefore, Frisch concluded, the only viable, albeit costly, “day after” scenario is the establishment of an Israeli military government for a transitional period. “It will be far cheaper than the price Israel has paid giving up its military presence in Gaza, and certainly the price it will pay if it doesn’t achieve the victory,” he asserted.

Brig. Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, JISS director and former head of the Analysis and Production Division of the IDF Directorate of Military Intelligence (2001 to 2006), stated, “We need a victory. And we need to, on the one hand, weaken, up to the point of defeating the evil axis led by Iran. On that we have made very considerable progress. Although there are many challenges still ahead of us. And we need to make sure that everybody understands that the Oct. 7 attack on Israel was a huge mistake.”

He added, “Everybody realizes that repeating this mistake is a no-go. And the way to convince everybody that this is the case is only by defeating Hamas. We have to do it while doing everything in order to release the hostages and make sure that they are not hit. We might not be successful, but we have to make an utmost effort to make it happen.”

Doing this in strategic cooperation with the United States is critical, he argued. “We have Secretary (Marco) Rubio here, and we have to make sure that we understand what concerns the United States is to make sure that we don’t lose our friends in Washington. We have to make sure that we keep the kind of special relationships we have with some Arab states,” he added, naming Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco.

“We have to make sure that we keep a certain level of understanding also from the rest of the West. That is very upset with us. Some of them are very upset with us, to the point that they take all kinds of really annoying steps,” he said, including the recognition of a Palestinian state.

Kuperwasser described as “totally detached from reality” the idea that the PA is going to rule over Gaza.

Defeating Hamas militarily could involve convincing it, “Inside Gaza especially, but also outside of Gaza, that the alternative for defeat for them is going to be a military takeover by Israel. That would, uh, bring about the killing of each and every one of them. And removing Hamas from power by force. So there’s still a chance [for a deal], and that’s what the Israeli government was trying to do for the last two years.”

He concluded, “There’s still a chance that at the last moment. Hamas will say, okay, we understand that there’s no other option. So let us at least save our souls and go to Algeria. The chances that this is going to happen are very slim. It’s not that they are big. But there’s still a little chance that this is going to happen. We are trying our best

in order to make it happen and give Hamas an opportunity to choose this option.” (JNS Sep 17)

Attack on Hamas Leaders in Qatar? A Moral Imperative

By Eric Levine

Israel’s attack on Hamas leadership in Qatar was a moral imperative and a strategic success.

It was a moral imperative because the forces responsible for the horrific terrorist attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, must be destroyed. Such evil has no place in civilized society. Destroying Adolf Hitler and the German Nazi leadership was a moral imperative in the 20th century. Obliterating the Hamas leadership is a similar triumph of good over evil.

Terrorists must know that they will be hunted down and killed, no matter where they go or how long it takes. The families of the innocents murdered by these monsters are owed no less.

The feeble, pathetic, grotesque and cowardly response of some Western European nations, like France, England and Spain, merely reflects the rapid moral decay of these once-great powers. Left to them, Western civilization would be on the brink of extinction. These countries have lost their will to survive.

Thankfully, U.S. President Donald Trump and Israel remain committed to defending the West.

Israel’s attack on Hamas leadership is also a strategic victory for Israel. Just as Hamas timed the Oct. 7 invasion to prevent Saudi Arabia from joining the Abraham Accords, Israel’s righteous strike in Doha was timed, at least in part, to make a further mockery of France’s effort to recognize a Palestinian state at the upcoming U.N. General Assembly.

If it had not already done so, Israel has established itself as a regional superpower. Its show of force is precisely the language the Arab states understand. The strike in Qatar sends the message that Jerusalem will do whatever it takes to defend itself, no matter how much international criticism it may endure. The Jewish state, with the possible exception of the United States, will determine the destiny of the Jewish people.

Jews remember well the world’s indifference as 6 million men, women and children were slaughtered by German Nazis in Europe.

Israel has made it clear that there is no longer any support for an independent Palestinian state. Israel has vowed never again to allow for the possibility of another Oct. 7. The Palestinians had their opportunity for a state in 1948, 2000, 2005 and 2008. Every time, they said “no,” because they were unwilling to accept the existence of a Jewish state living in peace and security within internationally recognized borders. That ship has sailed, and there is nothing French President Emmanuel Macron or the Jew-haters at the United Nations can do about it.

Macron would be better served trying to save his presidency in the wake of his dissolved government than wasting his energies on a project with absolutely no possibility of success.

National security was the principal reason Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Sudan signed on to the 2020 Abraham Accords. They were concerned about an ascendant nuclear Iran. Now that Israel and the United States have neutralized the Iranian threat, at least for the time being, the Sunni Arab states are turning their attention to Turkey.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is a Muslim Brotherhood supporter who wants to dominate the entire region by re-establishing the Ottoman Empire. It is replacing Iran as the attempted hegemon of the Middle East and the primary threat to Israel and the Gulf Arab states. As Turkey becomes more aggressive, the Arabs will have no choice but to turn to Israel as a guarantor of their security.

As Iran’s power in the Middle East wanes, Turkey is flexing its muscles. Not only does it support Hamas in its war against Israel, but it is also responsible for overthrowing the Assad regime in Syria and propping up the pro-Turkish, Muslim Brotherhood government in Damascus.

Israel’s attack in Qatar will help persuade the Arabs that they are backing the strong horse—and the right horse.

Israel’s attack in Doha was bold and decisive. Time will tell if it was worth the risk. (JNS Sep 17)