

# JINSA Recommendations to Support Israel

Under unprecedented attack by Iran-backed terror groups Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel needs immediate and tangible, not just rhetorical, U.S. support to defend itself. The most urgent need is for military assistance to ensure that Israel is able to sustain operations defending its population and territory. However, to ensure the future security of Israel, the region, and U.S. interests, the United States must also act expeditiously to bolster U.S. deterrence, disarm Iran, give Israel diplomatic cover, and move Israeli-Saudi normalization forward.

## 1. **Military assistance: give Israel the tools to defend itself**

Facing simultaneous air, naval, and ground incursions into its territory – coupled with a greater rate of rocket fire than in any previous conflict – Israel’s military is consuming massive amounts of materiel in its fight to protect its civilians and repel the terrorist forces. It will need urgent resupply to be able to maintain the current tempo of operations. In order to disrupt any further operations that Iran and its proxies might be planning, Israel will need American intelligence support as well.

### ***Iron Dome interceptors***

Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system has saved countless Israeli and Palestinian lives, shooting down as many over 90 percent of rockets headed toward populated areas in recent years. Faced with a long conflict that depletes stockpiles of the system’s [interceptor missiles](#), the effectiveness of Iron Dome will diminish, increasing the risk of greater civilian casualties.

- Congress and the administration should act quickly to [approve](#) additional funding to replenish Israel’s stockpile of Tamir interceptors for Iron Dome, which are jointly produced by the United States and Israel.

### ***Precision-guided munitions***

While Israel relies on Iron Dome for air defense, its ability to destroy and degrade Hamas's terror network depends on an adequate supply of U.S.-produced precision-guided munitions (PGMs). If its supply of PGMs dwindles, and it is forced to resort to using "dumb" munitions, Israel's military effectiveness against the terrorists will be significantly reduced while the risk to civilians, Israelis and Palestinians alike, will increase.

- Congress and the administration should move swiftly to [restock](#) Israel with Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) and Small Diameter Bombs (SDBs) to ensure it is able to continue its precise, effective, and careful operations.
- Going forward, the United States should also make sure that its stockpile of pre-positioned supplies in Israel, the War Reserve Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I), is [adequately stocked](#) with critical weapons for Israel to access in emergencies such as this one.

### ***Ammunition and spare parts***

Israel's military operates predominantly American-produced weapons systems, such as the F-16 and F-35 aircraft and Black Hawk and Apache helicopters. The intense tempo of operations required to defend Israel against this onslaught will inevitably result in damage and wear and tear to these platforms. The ability to repair them quickly will be vital to maintaining Israeli operations.

- Congress and the administration should authorize the [transfer](#) to Israel of ammunition and spare parts needed to maintain and repair its American-produced weapons systems to meet this anticipated need.

### ***Intelligence support***

Hamas has demonstrated an unprecedented ability to launch a surprise offensive. Hezbollah has already suggested its willingness to join the fray. The potential for a [multifront offensive](#) involving other Iranian proxies, if not Iran itself directly, and/or other [advanced capabilities](#), such as cyber, drones, or ballistic missiles cannot be discounted.

- To maximize Israel's preparedness and indications and warning, and minimize the possibility of further strategic surprise, the United States should enable the greatest possible amount of [intelligence sharing](#) with Israel about the operations, plans, and communications of Iran and its threat network.

## 2. Bolster U.S. deterrence and defenses

With Israel encircled by an Iranian “[ring of fire](#),” particularly Lebanese Hezbollah to its north, there is a very real threat of a multifront war that would strain Israel’s military. Such a multi-front conflict, in turn, risks becoming a regional conflagration that sucks in the United States in a drawn-out way that serves Russia and China. The United States must urgently send an unambiguous deterrent message to Iran, and harden its regional defenses, to make clear that it will hold outside adversaries accountable for any effort to spread the war.

- In retaliation for its facilitation of Hamas’ killing of at least fourteen Americans and reported taking of American hostages, the United States should move [military assets](#) into position in and around the Persian Gulf, not just the Eastern Mediterranean, to convey to the Iranian regime that it will be held responsible for Hamas’ actions and the return of the hostages.
  - » The U.S. military should consider [clear demonstrations](#) of U.S. power, including sending U.S. naval vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, overflights of the Middle East by strategic bombers, and announcing the deployment of the Massive Ordnance Penetrator munition to the U.S. airbase at Diego Garcia.
- The Department of Defense should take steps now to harden [exposed U.S. forces](#) in the Middle East, especially Iraq and Syria, that could become points of leverage to pressure the United States to restrain Israel.

## 3. Disarm, defund, and confront Iran

This war would not have been possible without Iranian weapons, funding, and approval. Iran has now proven that it is unwilling to reciprocate diplomatic gestures or financial inducements with anything other than more regional aggression and bloodshed. The United States must adapt its policy toward Tehran accordingly, seeking to stanch both the revenues with which Iran is able to fund terror and the weapons it provides to fuel war, whether it be in Israel, Yemen, or Ukraine. Overall, it is time for the United States to adopt a policy of regime collapse toward Iran – pressuring and weakening the regime on all fronts, while supporting the people of Iran demanding their freedom.

- Congress and the administration should declare that, as a matter of policy, the United States will not provide any further sanctions relief to Iran, release frozen funds to the regime, pay for the release of hostages, or provide further concessions in exchange for talks with the regime.

- » This should include [immediately freezing](#) the \$6 billion dollars that the United States recently unfroze and transferred to an account in Qatar as part of a hostage deal with Iran.
- The administration should return to a [policy](#) of strict economic pressure, including placing sanctions on the fleet of 300+ tankers that have facilitated Iran's recent sanctions evasion.
  - » Congress should force the administration to [enforce](#) all statutory sanctions on Iran, particularly on its oil exports to China.
  - » Congress should also require semiannual reports from the Treasury Department identifying countries and entities providing flagging and insurance services in support of Iranian oil exports and the Iranian shipping industry and provide a determination of whether those entities are in violation of U.S. sanctions.
- Congress and the administration must [re-engage](#) European partners who declined to snap back UN sanctions on Iran's suicide drone and ballistic missiles, sanctions which are set to expire on October 18, 2023.
  - » Congress and the administration should press European partners to sanction the IRGC as a terror group, press the European Union to sanction Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization, and press European countries to [ban flights](#) from Iranian state-owned airlines being utilized to transport suicide drones to Russia for use against Ukraine.

#### **4. Diplomatic assistance: insulate Israel from premature demands and spurious accusations**

Israel will need diplomatic support for what is likely to be a long and brutal campaign to totally change the equation in Gaza. Each conflict Israel fights against its terrorist adversaries [inevitably brings](#) international pressure to impose a premature ceasefire and spurious accusations – from the media, world leaders, and international organizations – that Israel's military operations violate the law of armed conflict (LOAC).

- Rather than letting Iran-backed groups control the narrative and cast Israeli operations as illegal, Congress and the administration, in individual statements and as a matter of U.S. policy, should proactively, forcefully, and repeatedly make clear that Israel has the right to defend itself fully and that its operations to do so [comply](#) with the law of armed conflict.

- » The United States should prepare to defend Israel from spurious accusations in international organizations and to insulate Israel at the United Nations Security Council and other fora from pressure to reach a premature ceasefire.
- U.S. officials should also loudly and clearly condemn Hamas and its Iranian backers for their violent and illegal conduct.
  - » Congress should pass a bipartisan resolution condemning Hamas and its backer for this massacre, declaring it should be U.S. policy to provide Israel with the diplomatic and military support it requires to eliminate the threat.
- To ensure diplomatic coordination with Israel, Congress should act immediately to [confirm](#) a U.S. ambassador to Israel.

## 5. Peace now: proceed with Israeli-Saudi normalization

In recent months, the United States has been involved in negotiating what would be a historic achievement: normalization between Israel and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Iran planned and explicitly approved the current war to disrupt the progress toward regional peace that Washington was helping broker. Terrorists cannot be allowed to hijack this critical peace process. There would be no clearer repudiation of this brutal Iran-backed onslaught than for Israel and Saudi Arabia to establish diplomatic relations as quickly as possible.

- As Israel undertakes a military operation to defend itself, the Biden administration should publicly reaffirm its commitment, and work assiduously to [advance normalization](#) between Israel and Saudi Arabia. In particular, the Biden administration should insulate negotiations between the two countries from extraneous and unrealistic Palestinian demands.
- Congress and the Biden administration should communicate to U.S. partners, especially in Arab world, that the United States will view future relations through how they respond to these massacres against innocent civilians and taking of hundreds of hostages.
  - » The United States should demand that its partners join it in condemning Hamas and demanding the release of hostages unharmed.