

# Netanyahu Has Lost Saudi Arabia, and Biden Will Lose Re-election

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Israeli **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** stated in late 2022 that his priority was to sign a normalization agreement with Saudi Arabia. He called it his number one objective for Israel's national security. Now, he has lost his dream.

Saudi Arabia stood up alongside 51 countries, and testified at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel's attack on Gaza which has been classified as genocide, and apartheid by human rights experts, South Africa and others. The evidence being presented to the ICJ rule is to prove that the occupation of Palestine is illegal, and must be ended.

<u>Saudi Arabia condemned Israel's actions in Gaza</u>, and the Occupied West Bank as legally indefensible. **Ziad Al-Atiyah**, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the Netherlands, strongly condemned Israel for its actions in Palestine which defy international law.

Al-Atiyah stressed that Israel must be held accountable for ignoring international law in its treatment of civilians in Gaza and its continued impunity.

Saudi Arabia expressed deep sorrow over the killing of 29,000 civilians, who are mainly women and children, and rejected Israel's argument of self-defense, stating that depriving Palestinians of basic means of survival is unjustifiable.

Al-Atiyah called on the international community to take action against Israel's genocidal actions against Palestinians, and Israel's constant dehumanizing rhetoric. He added that the court does indeed have jurisdiction in this case, and urged the court to issue an opinion.

Saudi Arabia condemned Israel's disregard for ceasefire calls, while expanding illegal settlements in the Occupied West Bank, and the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes.

The Kingdom listed Israel's violations of international obligations, while ignoring UN resolutions condemning its conduct and preventing Palestinians from their right to self-defense.

Israel was also criticized for its 2018 Basic Law declaring Jerusalem as its capital, which is in clear violation of UN resolutions, and the expansion of illegal settlements, and preventing the self-determination of the Palestinian people, which is a universal human right.

#### Who Else Is There?

The UN General Assembly requested the ICJ for an advisory opinion on the Israeli occupation of Palestine. 51 states will present arguments until Feb. 26.

South Africa, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Bangladesh, and Belgium also presented preliminary arguments.

This is the largest case ever presented at the ICJ and at least three international organizations are also slated to address the judges at the UN's top court until next week. A nonbinding legal opinion will follow the judges' deliberations.

#### Gaza changed everything: the world is against Israel, except the US.

**Amar Bendjama,** Algeria's ambassador to the UN, introduced a ceasefire resolution at the UN on February 20. He said the Council "cannot afford passivity" in the face of what is unfolding in Gaza, and that silence is "not a viable option".

"This resolution is a stance for truth and humanity, standing against the advocates for murder and hatred," he said. "Voting against it implies an endorsement of the brutal violence and collective punishment inflicted upon them [the Palestinians]."

His words of bitter accusation were directed at one country: The United States of America. The only country to vote against the ceasefire was America. The UN Security Council's 13 other member countries voted in favor of demanding a halt to the war, while the UK abstained.

**Linda Thomas-Greenfield**, the US ambassador to the UN, has consistently held her hand up high while voting against every chance to relieve the suffering, injuries and deaths of the people in Gaza.

Thomas-Greenfield's ancestors were African slaves in the US. Her ancestors were deprived of all human rights for hundreds of years until they were granted freedom, and that freedom came resulting from a bloody four-year war. Her ancestors fought for the freedom that she enjoys, and yet she is defending Israel. She fails to empathize with the Palestinians who should remind her of her ancestors.

#### The US is isolated as a pariah state because of Gaza.

The moral authority of the US has been ripped from Washington, DC. by the power of the

genocide and war crimes in Gaza, carried out by Israel while using weapons sent to Tel Aviv from the US State Department. Biden's fingerprints are all over the murder weapons.

# **How Many Countries Called for Ceasefire in Gaza?**

The EU's foreign policy chief, **Josep Borrell,** reports that 26 out of 27 EU countries call for "immediate humanitarian pause in Gaza, that would lead to a sustainable ceasefire." The US likes to think of Europe as their sheep, blindly following every dictate issued by the Oval Office. But, Gaza has changed that; now the EU is voicing ethical and moral authority over the US.

Netanyahu took office on December 29, 2022, and he is allied by the most extreme right-wing politicians in Israel's history. Ben Gvir and Smotrich have both made racist and genocidal statements about Palestinians. Their views vacillate between the need to either kill all the Palestinians, or force them to move to Egypt and Jordan.

But, Netanyahu faces a prison term for corruption, and these radical allies are all that is keeping him safe, and in office. His hands are tied: he has to keep them happy, which means he must refuse any call for a ceasefire.

**President Donald Trump** had championed the Abraham Accords while in office, and was successful in getting several Arab countries to normalize their relationship with Israel. Trump had done more for Israel than any other US President.

Israel wanted normal ties with Saudi Arabia to benefit the economy, and to discourage Iranian influence in the region.

# **How Many Countries Are Supporting Palestine?**

In 2012, the State of Palestine was accepted as an observer state at the UN. 139 countries at the UN have recognized the State of Palestine, compared with the 165 countries recognizing Israel.

#### Biden will lose re-election because of Gaza.

**Andy Levin**, a former Representative of Michigan, and a Democrat, was at a gathering on February 20 demonstrating against Biden. Levin explained that Michigan has a large Arab American population, and they are very angry at Biden's support of the genocide in Gaza. Levin said a Trump victory is very possible if Biden loses support of Michigan voters.

Especially angry are young voters and progressives who believe in human rights and freedom for all peoples, not just Americans.

"Don't blame us," said Mr. Levin, who along with **Representative Rashida Tlaib** of Michigan has become one of the most prominent supporters of the Uncommitted movement. Levin said,

"He needs votes from Arab Americans, from people of color, from progressive Jews and from young people. He only won Michigan by 150,000 votes in 2020, so politically we have a moment where we can raise our voices."

People at the rally expressed their horror at the over 29,000 deaths in Gaza, and the refusal

of the US to demand a ceasefire and humanitarian deliveries. With scenes on social media of starving Palestinians being gunned down by Israeli soldiers as they try to reach the aid trucks, the Americans who are informed and caring are deciding to not vote for Biden, and in such a close race, he needs every vote to win.

A poll in October found that <u>more people ages 18-29 sympathized with Palestinians than</u> with Israelis in the Gaza war.

Young people are very well informed with what is happening in Gaza by their almost constant use of social media, where they get all their news. Older people might be still watching TV channels, which in the US are very heavily biased towards Israel.

Biden's November re-election depends on young voters, but he has lost their vote because of his steadfast support of the slaughter of over 29,000 people in Gaza.

# Why Did SA Want Normalization?

In September, the US Secretary of State, **Antony Blinken,** declared that normalizing relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia was a <u>US "national security interest".</u>

On September 21, Saudi **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS),** told Fox News, "Every day we get closer" to a normalization deal with Israel. Gaza has killed that dream, because Saudi Arabia has stressed that normalization now will only be achieved by a two-state solution under UN resolutions. Netanyahu has totally rejected the two-state solution, the end of occupation, and a ceasefire.

Riyadh wanted a US defense pact; including fewer restrictions on US arms sales to it, and assistance in developing its own civilian nuclear program. Another perk from signing with Israel would be AIPAC, the political lobby group which political experts in Washington, DC. accredit with tremendous control over the Oval Office and Capitol Hill.

### Saudi Arabia and Iran Normalize Relations

In March 2023, China brokered a deal between <u>Saudi Arabia and Iran</u>. Beijing proved their influential role in the Middle East in contrast to the diminishing role of the United States.

That Chinese deal was a major blow to Biden, who had wanted to keep Iran and Saudi Arabia enemies because Israel views Iran as their enemy.

Since then, Saudi Arabia and Iran have been expanding their cooperation in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

#### Israel is accused of genocide at the ICJ.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the ICJ. The ruling in January ordered Tel Aviv to stop genocidal acts and take measures to guarantee that humanitarian assistance is provided to civilians in Gaza.

"We have dozens and dozens of statements made by senior Israeli political and military leaders with respect to genocidal intent. So I think, at least the plausibility has been established, and there's quite possibly genocide itself or a genocide in the making, according to the definition of the Genocide Convention," said <u>Michael Lynk</u>, former UN

#### special rapporteur.

Lynk also pointed to the role of the US in supporting Israel in its onslaught that has left nearly 30,000 Palestinians dead, noting that Washington, besides replenishing Tel Aviv's shrinking ammunition stocks with 3.8 billion in military aid, is also providing it diplomatic cover at the UN.

"So, it's hard to see how this offensive and this coming catastrophe in Rafah is going to stop unless the US pulls to a stop and tells Israel that 'enough is enough,'" said Lynk, while adding "I don't see that coming."

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