

# What Comes Next for the Palestinians? Trump Unlikely to Oppose Netanyahu's Genocide

There is no possibility that President Trump will put any pressure on Israel to cease and desist from what it has been doing in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza

By [Philip Giraldi](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa, USA](#)

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*Well, it's over...or is it? **Donald Trump** will be the next president of the United States backed by a GOP-controlled Senate and possibly even a majority in the House of Representatives. And one should not discount the advantage derived from having a largely conservative Supreme Court, but much depends on who Trump appoints to key cabinet positions, a weakness in the first Trump presidency as he tended to select ideologues rather than candidates with relevant knowledge or experience. One hopes, for example, that neither the usual clique of neocons nor establishment characters like **Mike Pompeo** or **Tom Cotton**, who have been mentioned as possible candidates for Secretary of Defense, will appear on anyone's list for high office.*

During the lead-up to the presidential campaign, Trump sometimes referred to himself as the most popular politician in Israel, including a conceit that if he were able to run for office in that country he would be able to get elected to the highest offices without any problem. That was, at least in Donald's mind, an expression of gratitude for how he had done so much for Israel in 2016-2020, including moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem, accepting the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, providing political cover for Israeli actions, and a declaration that the US would not do anything to interfere with military and police actions connected to Israeli settlement expansion on the nominally Palestinian West Bank. Israel also appreciated Trump's appointment of his lawyer **David Friedman** as US Ambassador. Friedman proved to be a full time apologist for Israel, not representing or defending American interests. In the recent presidential campaign, Trump spoke frequently to Jewish Republican groups and declared himself to be Israel's best friend and supporter among US politicians.

The Israeli media has also reported that the present Israeli **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** much preferred Trump over Kamala Harris, possibly because the PM has developed what is reported to be a close personal relationship with the Trump son-in-law **Jared Kushner**, who has apparently served often as a conduit to Donald. Netanyahu in fact was the first foreign head of state to telephone personally to congratulate Trump on his repeat victory at 2 a.m. on Wednesday. Netanyahu declared that Trump's win was "historic" and said it "offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America. This is a huge victory!"



Benjamin Netanyahu - בנימין נתניהו

@netanyahu

Dear Donald and Melania Trump,

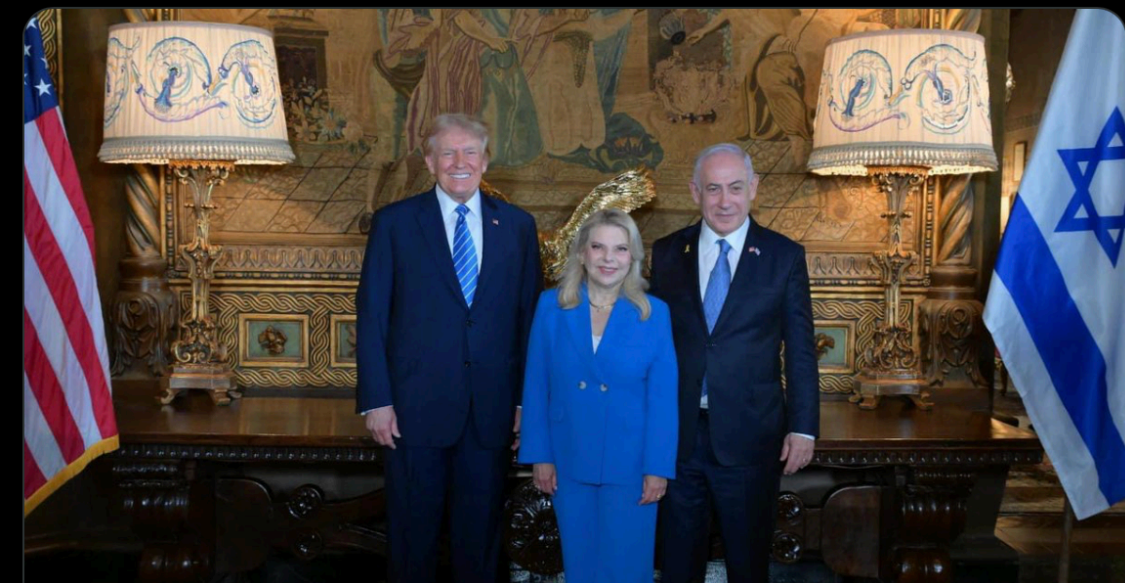
Congratulations on history's greatest comeback!

Your historic return to the White House offers a new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America.

This is a huge victory!

In true friendship,  
yours,  
Benjamin and Sara Netanyahu

[@realDonaldTrump](#)



Source: [X](#)

It is generally believed that Netanyahu also apparently harbors some deep suspicion of the Democratic Party in spite of the Biden Administrations generosity in arms and cash transfers, presumably in part because the Democrats harbor a small but active progressive wing which has been vocal about blocking arms sales to Israel due to its genocide of the Palestinians. The Republicans have no such tendencies apart from a persistent **Tom Massie** in the House and **Rand Paul** occasionally saying the right thing from the Senate. And key Republicans like current House speaker **Mike Johnson** are so in bed with Israel and all its works that he should perhaps consider moving there permanently as the average American gets nothing from the expensive and exceedingly bloody relationship apart from opprobrium

from nearly the entire world for complicity in the extermination of the Palestinians. In other words, if one is expecting a return to sanity over what is going on in the Middle East, don't expect it to come from Donald Trump.

And Netanyahu should be very pleased with the Trump victory for one other important reason, which is how he will be able to deal with an American president. The *Wall Street Journal* is [already reporting](#) from Israeli sources that Netanyahu is definitely expecting a "freer hand" from the new administration to do whatever he wants politically and militarily. Trump's ego and his personal and spontaneous manner of governing is exactly the kind of relationship Bibi feels most comfortable dealing with. Netanyahu believes he can manipulate Trump and cultivate his personal relationship with the president to include dealing with him directly without worrying about any other players. Netanyahu will be in position to personally flatter, mollify, or confuse Trump even if the president were to surprisingly decide that it would be better if Israel backed off on its aggression. Netanyahu and his allies in the US Congress will be united in convincing Trump that this would be a bad idea.

Bearing in mind that **Joe Biden** will continue to be president for the next two months and he has demonstrated an infinite capacity to screw things up through his clueless proxies **Antony Blinken and Lloyd Austin** plus the [comic interlude](#) provided by State Department spokesman **Matt Miller**, who cracked a joke and laughed about the clearly demonstrated Israeli attempt to starve the Gazans to death. But possible Biden missteps notwithstanding, Israel should be on balance very pleased with the election result. Trump is, of course, fully supportive of the slaughter of the Palestinians and is quite willing to deal similarly with the Iranians if they should "spill one drop of American blood" by "spilling gallons of theirs." His advice to the Israeli government has been that they should "finish the job" on dealing with the Pals not for either humane or political reasons but rather because Israel is getting a bad reputation for its openly espoused massacring of civilians, including in excess of 13,000 children. In [a phone call with Netanyahu in October](#), Trump praised escalation of Israeli military actions in Lebanon. **Senator Lindsay Graham**, who was on the call, described how

"He didn't tell him what to do militarily, but he expressed that he was impressed by the pagers [and] he expressed his awe for their military operations and what they have done. He told them, do what you have to do to defend yourself."



Image: Miriam Adelson at the Republican Jewish Coalition's 2023 Annual Leadership Summit at the Venetian Convention & Expo Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. (Copyright Gage Skidmore / Licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0)

**Trump is also appreciative of the millions of dollars that went his way during the presidential campaign from Israel's best friends in the US.**

The reported \$100 million that came from a single donor, casino billionaire Israeli **Miriam Adelson**, was allegedly in exchange for a Trump agreement to permit Israel's annexation of what remains of the Palestinian West Bank. The multi-ethnic Arab country called Palestine in 1948 would thereby become the Jewish state of Israel *de jure* as well as *de facto*. And the expansion and warmaking with Israel's neighbors as Netanyahu seeks to establish his country's military dominance over the entire region will go on, with US garrisons illegally based in Syria and Iraq playing supporting roles. Trump could have removed them as well as carrying out a withdrawal from Afghanistan when he was last in office, but for reasons unknown chose not to, possibly due to pressure from the Israelis.

In short, based on the record in 2016-2020 and recent campaign rhetoric, **there is no possibility that President Trump will put any pressure on Israel to cease and desist from what it has been doing in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza.** This is potentially bad news for the Palestinians and Lebanese but it also is not welcomed by the likely majority of Americans who now oppose arming and funding Israeli genocide. It comes on top of Trump's frequent denunciation of "useless wars" though he most often cites Ukraine in that context, promising to end that conflict "in one day" by virtue of his sheer star power, personal intervention and diplomacy. One hopes that is true, and, of course, Kiev has no powerful domestic lobby apart from the arms industry to object and continue to want to feed the fighting, so it is possible that Russia-Ukraine is actually moving towards some kind of end. Maybe if that fighting ends and sets a good example, someone in Washington will wake up and seek the same type of agreement to calm the Middle East.

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Featured image: President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence participate in an expanded bilateral meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

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