

Obama Gives \$1.9 Billion in Weapons as Welcome Gift to Israel's Racist Government

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Rumors of a deterioration in US-Israel relations are very much exaggerated. (Pete Souza/[Official White House photo](#)).

The Obama administration approved a \$1.9 billion arms sale to Israel in recent days as "[compensation](#)" for the US nuclear deal with Iran, which the Israeli regime staunchly opposes.

Among the tens of [thousands of bombs](#) included in the weapons package are 3,000 Hellfire missiles, 12,000 general purpose bombs and 750 bunker buster bombs that can penetrate up to twenty feet, or six meters, of reinforced concrete.

This generous weapons gift comes in the wake of Israel's most ferocious attack on the Gaza Strip to date, in which the Israeli army deliberately targeted civilians, including [children](#), as a matter of [policy](#).

The degree of firepower Israel unleashed on Gaza was so extreme that senior US military officials who participated in the illegal invasion and criminal destruction of Iraq were left [stunned](#).

Even the Pentagon and State Department were forced to acknowledge that Israel did [not do enough](#) to avoid civilian deaths. But this did not prevent the Obama administration from rushing to provide Israel with the means to carry out more atrocities.

Bunker busters

Sadistically nicknamed the "[Saddamizer](#)," the bunker buster bomb was originally developed by the US military during the first Gulf war to penetrate Iraqi command centers buried deep underground.

In recent years, these earth-shattering explosives have been repeatedly deployed against besieged and largely defenseless Palestinians trapped in the Gaza Strip.

Israel [pounded](#) Gaza with US-supplied bunker buster bombs during Operation Cast Lead, the three-week assault in the winter of 2008-2009 that killed 1,400 Palestinians, including nearly 400 children.

Obama quietly transferred [dozens more](#) bunker buster bombs to Israel in 2009 in an effort to prevent it from obstructing negotiations with Iran.

The Obama administration replenished that stockpile after yet another Israeli attack on Gaza in 2012 with a [\\$647 million arms package](#) that included thousands of bunker buster bombs.

Israel used those bunker buster munitions to pummel Gaza's [high rise towers](#) and wipe out entire [families](#) as they sheltered in their homes during Operation Protective Edge, the 2014 Israeli assault that ultimately killed over 2,200 Palestinians, most of them civilians, including over 500 children.

If the past is any indication, Obama's weapons package will enable Israel to intensify its unspeakable atrocities against civilians in Gaza, and possibly Lebanon if Israel's [saber-rattling](#) about [Hizballah](#) is to be believed.

Asked whether the Pentagon is concerned that its weapons might be used to harm innocent people, a spokesperson, Roger Cabiness II, offered the following vague statement: "As with any security cooperation activity, the United States assesses requests from its partners on a case-by-case basis, taking into account political, military, economic, arms control and human rights conditions in making decisions on the provision of military equipment and the licensing of direct commercial sales to any country, in accordance with the Conventional Arms Transfer Policy, the Arms Export Control Act and relevant international agreements."

Rewarding hate

Ever since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accepted an invitation by the Republican opposition to trash Obama's diplomatic maneuvering on Iran in a speech to Congress, analysts have warned of a growing rift in US-Israel relations, insisting that the so-called special relationship has reached its [lowest point](#) in recent memory.

Relations apparently deteriorated further following Netanyahu's election day campaigning, when, in a last ditch appeal to the worst inclinations of his rightwing base, he summoned the spirit of [George Wallace](#), warning, "[Arab voters are coming out in droves](#) to the polls. Left-wing organizations are busing them out."

In an [interview](#) with former Israeli prison guard Jeffrey Goldberg, Obama insultingly equated the creation of a Jewish settler state in historic Palestine with the African American civil rights movement, while at the same time emphasizing the importance of "preserving" Israel's Jewish majority. He went on to criticize Netanyahu's anti-Arab electioneering, claiming to have enacted "foreign policy consequences" against Israel as a result.

Nevertheless, the pundits' handwringing over cracks in the special relationship has been largely unfounded.

In reality, the only penalty Obama has imposed on Israel is tepid disapproval of Netanyahu's overt racism, which is rendered meaningless by Obama's ongoing material support for Israel's crimes.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu has assembled the [most racist government](#) in Israel's history, with unabashed genocide enthusiasts occupying the most senior level positions.

Israel's new education minister is Naftali Bennett, leader of the religious ultra-nationalist [Habeyit Hayehudi](#) (Jewish Home) party who famously [bragged](#), "I've killed lots of

Arabs in my life — and there’s no problem with that.” In response to international outrage at the Israeli massacre of four children playing soccer on the beach in Gaza last summer, Bennett accused Palestinian resistance fighters of “[conducting massive self-genocide](#)” to make Israel look bad.

Israel’s new justice minister is Ayelet Shaked, the lawmaker who last June endorsed a [call to genocide](#), which declared “the entire Palestinian people is the enemy” and demanded the slaughter of Palestinian mothers to prevent them from birthing “little snakes.”

Israel’s new culture minister is Miri Regev, who in 2012 helped incite a [violent anti-African riot](#) when she stood before a racist mob and labeled non-Jewish African asylum seekers a “cancer”, a statement that [52 percent](#) of Israeli Jews agreed with. Regev later [apologized](#), not to Africans but to cancer survivors for likening them to Black people.

Israel’s new deputy defense minister is Eli Ben-Dahan, who proudly [proclaimed](#), “[Palestinians] are beasts, they are not human,” and, “A Jew always has a much higher soul than a gentile, even if he is a homosexual.”

Citing a combination of religious text and the writings of far rightwing Israeli figures, Israel’s new deputy foreign minister Tzipi Hotovely asserted Jewish ownership over all of historic Palestine, declaring, “[This land is ours](#). All of it is ours. We did not come here to apologize for that.”

Earlier this month, Moshe Yaalon, who will continue to serve as Israel’s defense minister in Netanyahu’s new governing coalition, [threatened](#) to nuke Iran and promised to kill civilians, including children, in any future conflict with Lebanon or Gaza.

Unlike Obama’s hollow threats, this is not empty rhetoric. We saw this incitement play out last summer, from the burning of [Muhammad Abu Khudair](#) by Jewish extremists and “death to Arabs” mobs [hunting Palestinians](#) in the streets of Jerusalem, to the [sadistic conduct](#) and [eliminationist chauvinism](#) exhibited by Israel’s military in Gaza.

With Israeli Jewish society submerged in anti-Palestinian racism from the top down, the Obama administration has guaranteed Israel’s capacity to carry out its most destructive ambitions.

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