

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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U.S. Must Stop Arming Israel Until It Commits to the Two-State Path to Peace

LA Jews for Peace encourages the split that is developing between Israel and the Biden Administration that will help end the Gaza war.

The United States immediately supported Israel in its war with Gaza that started with Hamas' Oct.7 attack that killed over 1,000 mostly civilian Israelis and captured about 250 held by Hamas and its allies hold as hostages in the Gaza Strip. Israel's war in Gaza was seen as defensive and justified by the world community. American support means (1) U.S. diplomatic shielding of Israel at the U.N. and the World Court, (2) Providing Israel with weapons and ammunition, and (3) stationing U.S. aircraft carrier groups in the eastern Mediterranean to protect Israel's northern flank.

Israel's war has lost much of its world support as it became clear that Israel is attacking the entire Gaza strip and its 2.2 million inhabitants, most of whom are not members or supporters of Hamas. But the U.S. remained a strong Israel supporter, still arming Israel, while urging Israel to moderate its war to avoid civilian deaths and avoid a broader war. The first mark of a U.S. – Israel split was Israel's refusal to moderate its war on Gaza and continually provokes Hezbollah on the Lebanon border.

The U.S. continued to arm Israel while planning for "the day after" by promoting a Palestinian state alongside Israel, the Two State Solution (2SS), the future envisioned by every state in the world save two: Israel and Iran. The incipient split deepened because Israel would not talk about "the day after" and seemed to solely focus on killing Gaza civilians. This attitude led directly to South Africa accusing Israel of genocide at the World Court.

In the past week Israel has started to talk about "the day after" with the assertion that Israel will maintain military control all the land west of the Jordan River including Gaza. On Jan.18 Israel went even further when its prime minister rejected the idea of creating a Palestinian state, undermining the American and international effort to end this war. Biden forced Netanyahu to say his statement it did not "foreclose that outcome [2SS] in any form,"¹ but **LA Jews for Peace** sees just another Netanyahu lie.

In light of this growing split in intention and goals between Israel and the U.S., **LA Jews for Peace** demands the U.S. stop arming Israel on a daily basis until Israel accepts a path to peace. The U.S. must end its complicity in Israel's war crimes in Gaza.

Shame on the U.S. Senate for not passing Sanders resolution calling for a human rights check on U.S. arms to Israel.

¹ CNN Jan.20, 2024. <https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/19/politics/joe-biden-benjamin-netanyahu-palestinian-state/index.html>.