



## **Israel Position Paper**

### **Introduction**

As a US Senator, my life experience and faith will help to guide my decision-making. As the next Senator from Utah, I will continue to be faithful to America and to my 3.2 million constituents throughout the state. As a part of keeping America safe and strong, I believe that the U.S.-Israel relationship is fundamental and I will work to ensure that our bond continues to be supportive and enduring.

My commitment to this relationship is guided by my understanding of the importance of the United States as an ally of Israel, and my strong belief in the necessity of the restoration of the Jewish people to their homeland.

### **Alliance**

I believe that the Jewish people have a Biblical right to the land of Israel. I also see Israel as the only country in the Middle East that shares America's values and has consistently shared America's interests.

Since May 14, 1948, when President Harry Truman recognized Israel and welcomed it into the world of free nations, the relationship between the United States and Israel has blossomed into one of the most enduring and important alliances in the world. Our strong relationship of cooperation and support is mutually beneficial, and I recognize the enormous benefits the US receives from this relationship in the fields of science, technology, agriculture, medicine and American job creation.

As Senator, I will make the strength and durability of the US-Israel relationship a priority. I will work on a bipartisan basis to continue to expand strategic cooperation in the areas of military, cyber-security, intelligence-sharing, joint economic ventures, diplomatic engagement and any other way this important bilateral relationship can be strengthened.



## Peace

There is no country in the Middle East that has been more focused on seeking peace and positive relationships with its neighbors than Israel. It has made major sacrifices in this pursuit, despite the many wars waged against the country. When Israel had partners willing to negotiate in good faith for peace in Egypt and Jordan, peace was secured. Unfortunately, the Palestinians have not negotiated in good faith and have wholly failed to demonstrate that they are a partner seeking peace.

Over years, the Palestinians have made negotiations with Israel nearly impossible, both by setting preconditions and internationalizing the conflict. The United States should veto any United Nations Security Council resolution that seeks to establish the parameters of peace, that sets preconditions for Israel, or that otherwise motivates the Palestinians to evade direct bilateral negotiations.

Gaza is controlled by Hamas, and we have recently witnessed the intentions of those who accept the ideology of hate that guides that terrorist regime. They seek nothing less than Israel's total destruction. The West Bank is controlled by the Palestinian Authority, a corrupt, near failing regime that also glorifies terrorism and promotes hatred.

In the face of horrific terror by the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel, and claims of Palestinian victimhood, much of the world responds with criticism of Israel. Even in our own country today, many are marching in the streets in support of Hamas and other terrorists whose rallying cry is the utter destruction of Israel and all Jews. These actions must be seen for what they are - support of a terrorist regime that seeks to rape, murder, and destroy every Jew on the face of the earth.

Yet again, after Hamas' brutal and horrific actions against innocent Israeli civilians in October, Palestinian groups have filed allegations of war crimes with the ICC against Israel as they have sought to defend their nation. Not only does the ICC not have jurisdiction over Israel, but Palestine doesn't qualify as a sovereign nation and therefore has no qualification to subject itself to the jurisdiction of the ICC. Additionally, the first strike attacks on innocent civilians quite clearly put Israel in a defensive position and they have every right to conduct military actions with the goal of preventing further attacks against their citizens.



In August and September of 2020, Israel, the UAE, US, and Bahrain entered into the Abraham Accords, a declaration that sought to normalize relations between the countries by focusing on peace, diplomatic relations, and cooperation. This was a major opportunity to reshape the landscape of the region for the better. For some unknown reason, these agreements were ultimately rejected by the Biden administration and the US and Israel lost a major opportunity to use them as a springboard for expansion of regional cooperation. I support continued efforts to seek peace in the region with willing and sincere partners.

We must be firm in declaring that the US taxpayer should not be forced to fund terrorist governments, especially while they are attacking our allies. President Biden has completely rejected the Taylor Force Act. Under his administration, the US has given hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinians and UNRWA, and his recent proposal to send \$100 million to Gaza and the West Bank must be rejected. We have no ability to track the money to ensure it will be spent on innocent civilians, and the American people are not interested in supporting a government led by Hamas.

Historically, the Palestinian Authority has been known to use aid from other nations to compensate terrorists and their families for acts of terror, teach hatred in textbooks and schools, and broadcast news and entertainment programming that incites violence and promotes anti-Semitism. Money is fungible, and American aid to the Palestinian Authority allows for more resources to be diverted to these malicious pursuits.

### **Jerusalem**

Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people, and this historical fact cannot be denied. The Trump Administration made the right decision to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem, and to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. We had promised this action for decades and now that it has finally happened, we need to ensure it remains.



## **Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria**

Two of the most dangerous terrorist groups in the world sit on Israel's border: Hamas to the south and Hezbollah to the north. These organizations remain committed to Israel's destruction, as we have seen with the recent attack that led to the death of over 1,200 Israelis and the taking of over 200 hostages.

The US must support Israel's right to self-defense against Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as make a vigorous effort to prevent those terrorist organizations from receiving funds and arms.

Golan Heights is of utmost importance to the security and safety of Israel and its citizens. The current administration's guidance to agencies, ending scientific and technological cooperation with Israel "in geographic areas which came under the administration of Israel after 1967" must be reversed.

## **The Movement to Boycott, Divest, and Sanction Israel**

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanction movement, or BDS, is anti-Semitic and attempts to destroy Israel through non-military means. BDS' goals include making Israel a pariah state, crushing the nation's economy, and cutting them off from the rest of the world. Though BDS is potentially a great danger, it has been largely unsuccessful in the US, and mostly limited to students and academics. Nevertheless, year after year BDS advocates on university campuses and in academic associations attempt to put economic pressure on publicly traded companies and financial firms in an attempt to isolate Israel. They also harass and intimidate Jewish and pro-Israel students on campuses around the country.

I support vigorous legislative and executive actions to combat BDS by ending federal funding to institutions that promote or support the practice. I was supportive of legislation passed in Utah in 2023, [SB 07](#), to prohibit the state from entering into contracts with entities that engage in such boycott actions. As a Senator, I will work to advance the anti-BDS agenda at the federal level. We must ensure that the BDS movement is rendered ineffective, that Jewish and pro-Israel students feel empowered and supported, and that the next generation of college graduates don't leave campus with a warped view of Israel.



## **Iran**

Iran is the most destabilizing and hostile regime in the Middle East, and we must insist on the elimination of their aggressive nuclear program.

The Obama Administration's deal with Iran was an enormous strategic error, opposed by the majority of Congress and the American people. We saw the negative results almost immediately: Iran increased its support for terrorism, expanded its attempts to destabilize its Sunni Arab neighbors, tested ballistic missiles in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, and continued significant progress toward a nuclear arsenal and delivery mechanisms.

Proponents of the deal claimed the agreement would be beneficial for the West. Instead, we saw Iran capturing and humiliating American sailors, challenging US Navy warships in the Gulf, violating human rights, playing a major role in creating the humanitarian disaster in Syria, and providing Hezbollah and Hamas with the arms and money that likely fueled its attack on Israel. The options remaining aren't good and soon may only include either war or an Iranian nuclear arsenal.

Iran often interprets diplomatic overtures as a sign of weakness. It's one of the reasons President Trump ended the JCPOA, and a major reason why the US shouldn't revive the agreement. Iranian Intelligence has already suggested they will seek to build nuclear weapons, and we would be foolish not to take them at their word. Additionally, the JCPOA contains enormous gaps in accountability such as the sunset clauses, inspection processes, the preservation of nuclear infrastructure and the capability of nuclear enrichment.

Any deal with Iran needs to outright deny them nuclear capabilities and stop them from growing in influence across the region. Yet, in exchange for five prisoners, the Biden administration recently gave them access to \$6 billion that will no doubt be used to strengthen Iran's influence within their own country and with their neighbors.

Short of Iran negotiating an agreement to permanently and verifiably eliminate any path to nuclear weapons, I would support the imposition of significant additional sanctions, not only for Iran but for countries that deal with them. As Senator, I will seek to undo the damage the Iran deal has done and also to restore US leadership in preventing Iran from advancing its agenda in the region.



### **The United Nations and the International Community**

Part of the bias against Israel stems from the simple mathematics of international relations: there are 70 Muslim countries and 22 Arab countries. Working together, they are able to use the leverage of their great size and voting strength against Israel. The ongoing obsession with Israel at the United Nations is the result.

At the UN, we continually see the worst human rights violators in the world sit in judgment of generous and free democracies. The United States must address the problem and demand at least a minimum standard of fairness. Maintaining the status quo in which American interests are challenged and Israel is constantly condemned by the representatives of tyrants is unacceptable.

The United States should utilize its position of influence as the largest funder of the UN and as a permanent member of the Security Council, to veto any resolution that singles out Israel for condemnation. As Senator, I would fully support legislation that withholds funding to any UN agency that seeks to undermine our national interests, including singling out Israel for criticism or prematurely recognizing a Palestinian state.

### **Qualitative Military Edge & Military Aid**

Israel bears one of the most challenging and significant defense burdens in the world. Its citizens spend more per capita on defense than any other country, and its tax rates are among the highest in the world. Israel will always be vastly outnumbered and outspent militarily due to its small population compared to its neighbors. The US should continue to play a key role in ensuring that Israel's defense forces remain the most technologically advanced in the region.

While Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. military aid, the amount is a fraction of what we spend to help defend our allies in Europe and Asia, where there is the additional presence of hundreds of thousands of American troops. Not only does Israel provide a critical foothold in a very hostile region, but it also gives the United States valuable information and intelligence, which in turn helps to keep the US safe. I strongly support continued military aid to Israel.

As Senator, I will seek to expand Israel's defensive capabilities and I will oppose any arms sales that could challenge Israel's qualitative military edge.



### **Bipartisan Support**

In order to be truly effective, support for Israel must be bipartisan. Historically, in the United States, both sides of the aisle have been willing to aid and help Israel, making the US-Israel relationship unique, powerful, and critical to the bond between the nations.

As the next Senator from Utah, I am committed to working with Democrats and Republicans to build coalitions of support, and combat efforts to make this a partisan issue.

### **Conclusion**

It is becoming increasingly clear that President Reagan was right when he said, "Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again." We need only to look at Iran to know this truth. Although Iran was far from perfect under the Shah, it took less than one generation to strip the people of the freedoms they had once enjoyed, even many of their most fundamental human rights.

America and Israel share common values, common enemies, and most importantly, an unbreakable bond. I look forward to fiercely defending and advocating for the US-Israel relationship as the next Senator from Utah.