

Britain silences its own critics

written by Prof. Zaki Shalom | 17.08.2025

On August 12, the US State Department published its annual report on the state of human rights around the world. Among other things, the report states that there are “credible reports of serious restrictions on freedom of expression in the United Kingdom.” The report determined that the state of human rights in Britain in 2024 had worsened, particularly since Prime Minister Keir Starmer was elected on July 4, 2024. During the year, the report states, the British government repeatedly intervened to limit free speech.

State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce declared that restrictions on freedom of speech in Britain are “intolerable in a free society.” The United States, she emphasized, views free expression as a “foundational component” of the functioning of democracy. Freedom of speech, she added, only strengthens the resilience of a democratic society. Government censorship of speech is intolerable in a free society.

Restrictions on free expression

It should be recalled that Vice President JD Vance already raised the issue of deteriorating free speech in Britain in his speech at the Munich Conference in February 2025. He then asserted that restrictions on free expression pose a greater danger to Europe than Russia.

Vance also brought up this issue during meetings between Starmer and US President Donald Trump. He further claimed that British citizens feel betrayed since the ruling elites of Britain opened its gates to millions of unrestricted immigrants.

Recently, reports have surfaced in the British media about government efforts to secretly monitor publications on social media. The official justification for that was concern for the safety of children. However, many have voiced concerns that the true purpose is to restrict criticism of the regime.

A member of the US House Judiciary Committee, Jim Jordan, recently claimed that in Britain, a person who writes a malicious post on social media can face a longer prison sentence than someone who commits a violent crime. Former British education secretary Sir Gavin Williamson argued that the British government supports free expression only so long as it reflects views it agrees with.

Condemnations of Israel

The harsh criticism of Britain's civil rights policies at home has not deterred the British prime minister from repeatedly issuing fierce condemnations of Israel and its violations of the rights of Gaza's residents. Here are just two examples: On June 4, 2025, Starmer described Israel's policy in Gaza as "appalling, counterproductive, and intolerable." On July 24, 2025, he sharply criticized what he called the "starvation" imposed by Israel on Gaza's residents, stressing that this was a move "indefensible in any way."

Netanyahu stressed a few days ago in a television interview that in his conversations with European leaders, they admit to him that they "know the truth" about what is actually happening in Gaza, but that they are subject to difficult pressures that force them to repeatedly condemn Israel publicly.

Few in Israel are aware of the harsh criticism now being directed in both the United States and within Britain itself against the level of free expression in the British kingdom - long celebrated as the "mother of parliaments" and as a model of democracy.

The Israeli media does not reflect this reality. The result is a distorted picture, as though Europe's leaders are "champions of civil liberty" who, from their moral high ground, are entitled to criticize Israel's policies as it fights for its existence against brutal terror organizations.

One can understand the efforts of European leaders to downplay the criticism they face. It is harder to understand why the State of Israel repeatedly bows its head before its critics. True, there are significant "power gaps" between us and them. Yet we, too, possess sources of strength that we can use to somewhat ease the pressure on us. Among other things, we can cause them to show restraint in their criticism of Israel in light of their own domestic situation. It is a pity that we do not do so. Published in The Jerusalem Post, August 18, 2025.

The hunger games: How Hamas's starvation campaign exposes

Western hypocrisy

written by Joseph Rozen | 17.08.2025

The disturbing ease with which Western nations embrace Hamas's lies stems from classical antisemitism resurging. This worsens due to a dangerous alliance between liberals and Islamist communities wielding electoral power in the West.

Beyond tariffs: President Trump's targeting of India can harm bilateral ties

written by Joseph Rozen | 17.08.2025

Beyond the Russian context, the level of American tariffs imposed on India places it in an inferior position vis-à-vis other countries in Asia.

With 'friends' like Starmer and Macron, Israel doesn't need enemies

written by David M. Weinberg | 17.08.2025

Israel has no choice but to scorn such Western leaders and continue to independently secure its future, and must weather the threats of diplomatic and economic isolation from the world.

The India - Middle East - Europe Economic Corridor

written by Asher Fredman | 17.08.2025

A Catalyst for Regional Integration and Global Prosperity.

Israel's Preemptive Strikes Were Legal And Necessary. You're Welcome

written by Arsen Ostrovsky | 17.08.2025

There are only two sides in this war: Those who want to kill millions of innocent people, and those who do not.

Recognising a Palestinian state should follow reforms, not terror

written by Asher Fredman | 17.08.2025

Some 13 conservative MPs and peers wrote to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer last week, urging him to recognise a Palestinian state. The push followed French President Macron's revival of the idea of unilateral recognition last month, which prompted several Labour MPs, including Foreign Affairs Committee Chair

Emily Thornberry, to call on the British government to join the French.

Such a step would not only be a strategic mistake – it would be a tragedy for the Palestinians, for Israel, and for all who seek a future of peace in the Middle East.

Those advocating for recognition must ask themselves: what kind of Palestinian state do they envision? A peaceful, democratic state living side by side with Israel? Or a radical Islamist entity, indoctrinating youth to hatred, glorifying terror, and perpetually at war with the Jewish state?

The Palestinian Authority stands at a critical crossroads. President Mahmoud Abbas, 89, is in the 20th year of his four-year term. The question of who will lead the Palestinian political system in the post-Abbas era is wide open. Abbas' government is riddled with corruption, and his security forces proved unable to take back parts of the northern West Bank from terror groups and militias, forcing Israel to intervene. According to a survey published this month by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR) in Ramallah, 81 per cent of Palestinians want him to resign.

The main challenger to Abbas and his Fatah party is Hamas. The October 7 massacres have led to a surge in Hamas' popularity in the West Bank. Even 19 months into the war, 59 per cent of West Bank Palestinians still believe Hamas was right to launch the attacks, and 67 per cent are satisfied with Hamas' performance, according to PCPSR. In fact, polling shows that support for Hamas in the West Bank more than tripled between September 2023 and September 2024.

Hamas' favorability numbers stem not only from support for terror, but from the belief that its violence may yield diplomatic gains. Sixty-four per cent of West Bank Palestinians said the war in Gaza "may lead to increased recognition of the Palestinian state".

If the UK were to recognize a Palestinian state now, it would produce absolutely no positive changes on the ground. But it would validate the dangerous narrative that mass murder brings diplomatic reward, and lead to a further spike in Hamas' popularity. In 2007, Hamas brutally seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority in just six days after Israel withdrew. Recognition now would all but ensure Hamas' dominance over the entire Palestinian arena in the post-Abbas era.

The rise of Hamas in the West Bank would not only increase terror against Israel. It would doom Palestinians to repression under a totalitarian Islamist regime. It would also threaten the stability of moderate Arab governments – many of which, like Jordan and the UAE, are intensifying their campaigns against the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas' parent organization. Just last month, Jordan banned the Muslim Brotherhood after arresting members of the Islamist group on suspicion of planning rocket and drone attacks. Hamas' survival in Gaza and victory in the West Bank would inspire violent Islamist movements across the region.

British recognition would also destroy the already fragile incentive for Palestinian reform. Under pressure from Israel, the US, and the EU, the PA has faced mounting calls to abolish terror payments, improve governance, and halt incitement. So far, it has responded with token changes and bureaucratic tricks. Rewarding the PA with recognition would signal to Palestinian leaders that reforms are unnecessary, and that their choice to enable and fund terror, hate education, and corruption is no obstacle to international legitimacy.

Such a move would also fatally undermine prospects for a negotiated peace. It would sideline negotiations and entrench maximalist demands. It would further convince Palestinians that they can make political gains without renouncing violence or abandoning the extremist goal of erasing Israel from the map.

After October 7, the vast majority of Israelis are no longer persuaded by the arguments that incitement should be ignored or that territorial concessions will bring peace. Without the defeat of Hamas and a fundamental transformation on the Palestinian side, calls to hand over the strategic hilltops overlooking Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion Airport to a Palestinian entity will be flatly rejected.

And there is a more basic question: what, exactly, would Britain be recognizing?

Gaza and the West Bank have been ruled since 2007 by different leaders hostile to each other. More than a dozen reconciliation attempts between Hamas and Fatah have failed. The idea of a unified Palestinian entity is becoming more fictional by the day – undermined not by Israel, but by the Palestinians themselves.

Recognition of a Palestinian state under these conditions is not brave diplomacy. It is reckless virtue-signaling, disconnected from reality and blind to consequences.

If the UK wants to support a peaceful future for both peoples, it should take a different course. It should demand that the PA end its payments to convicted terrorists, implement real reforms, and replace incitement and hate education with a culture of peace. At the same time, Britain ought to support Israel's efforts to eliminate Hamas as the military and governing power in Gaza, proving that terrorism leads to defeat, not reward. To bring about positive change, the UK should encourage initiatives for economic cooperation and dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians and back the expansion of the Abraham Accords, which have created unprecedented momentum for regional integration and stability.

This is the real path to a viable and lasting peace.

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The Houthi Strike on Ben-Gurion: A Joint U.S.-Israel Imperative to Confront Iran's Proxy War

written by Arsen Ostrovsky | 17.08.2025

Earlier this morning, a ballistic missile launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi terror group struck near Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport, injuring several people and causing significant disruptions to air traffic. This brazen attack on Israel's primary international gateway underscores the growing danger of Iran's proxy war against the West, and reinforces the urgent need for a strategic shift, from reactive restraint to overwhelming deterrence against the Houthis. Since the October 7th attacks by Hamas, the Houthis have escalated their attacks on Israel, ostensibly in solidarity with Palestinians, however undeniably as one of the proxy groups at the behest of the Iranian regime. Most Houthi strikes to date, armed by advanced Iranian technology, including ballistic missiles and drones capable of striking over 2,000 miles away, have been intercepted by Israel's Arrow missile defense system and the U.S.-deployed THAAD, however, today's missile managed to circumvent the defenses. The attack

on Ben-Gurion Airport – Israel’s primary international gateway – was a calculated attack, that represents a grave national security threat to the Jewish state. It is also a clear Crime of Aggression, pursuant to both the UN Charter and Rome Statute, and a War Crime under the Laws of Armed Conflict and Geneva Conventions, given that a civilian airport with no military utility was deliberately targeted. No nation—not Israel, the United States, or any other—can accept a slow drip of ballistic missile attacks against its civilians and vital infrastructure. Thus far, Israel’s response to Houthi attacks, has been relatively restrained, with some exceptions, deferring largely to Washington’s strategic prioritization of the situations in Gaza and Lebanon, allowing the United States to lead the charge against Houthi aggression from the U.S. Central Command. However, today’s attack, which exposed some vulnerabilities in Israel’s air defenses, demands an urgent reassessment. Israel should launch targeted strikes on Houthi leadership, missile sites, command centers, and supply lines in Yemen, prioritizing the destruction of their Iranian-supplied weaponry. Such operations, while logistically complex, are within the Israel Defense Forces’ reach, as demonstrated by previous long-range strikes on Houthi targets in December 2024. The IDF must also bolster its multilayered defense systems, addressing gaps revealed by the failure to intercept today’s missile. Iran’s export of advanced weapons to non-state actors like the Houthis is not a localized problem—it is part of a region-wide strategy to undermine sovereign nations and destabilize the Middle East. The United States, under President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, also has a critical stake in this fight—not only as Israel’s closest ally, but because America’s own security, economic and maritime interests, and global credibility, are directly threatened by Iran’s expanding proxy network.

Since mid-March, the U.S. military has conducted over

1,000 precision strikes on Houthi targets, primarily aimed at protecting Red Sea maritime traffic, which has declined by 90% since late 2023 due to Houthi interference. President Trump’s March 15 announcement

of “decisive and powerful” military action and “overwhelming lethal force”, along with his warning to Iran to cease support for the Houthis, signaled a robust posture, however, it may be time to reassess that, and up the ante, given it appears the message has not been received in Yemen, or Tehran.

Ultimately, whether it’s rocket fire from Hamas, missiles from Hezbollah, or

drones from the Houthis, make no mistake: the common thread that weaves all this together, is the Iranian regime pulling the terror strings from Tehran.

In a subsequent March 17th statement, President Trump was unequivocal, when he stated: “Let nobody be fooled! The hundreds of attacks being made by Houthis ... all emanate from, and are created by, IRAN” and that “every shot fired by the Houthis will be looked upon, from this point forward, as being a shot fired from the weapons and leadership of IRAN, and IRAN will be held responsible.”

Going forward, Washington, in close collaboration with Israel, and other regional allies, should intensify its strikes, particularly targeting Houthi leadership and the Iranian logistical supply chains that enable their missile program. In the meantime, the United States should recalibrate its diplomatic approach to Iran, making clear that continued support for proxy attacks—like those by the Houthis—will carry real consequences. As President Trump warned on March 17, any further Houthi aggression will be viewed as an attack orchestrated by Iran itself, warranting direct and decisive response. The international community must stop pretending that the Houthis are a localized Yemeni movement. They are an expeditionary arm of the Islamic Republic’s war machine. Ultimately, without confronting Iran’s role, any response to the Houthis will be incomplete. Today’s strike on Ben-Gurion Airport is a wake-up call not just for Israel, but for the entire international community. The time for half-measures is over. Israel must act decisively to eliminate the threat, and the United States must continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its ally in this mission. This article was written with **John Spencer**, executive director of the Urban Warfare Institute. Posted on Twitter on May 4, 2025

Coordination Between Israel and the US Regarding Nuclear Talks

with Iran

written by Meir Ben Shabbat | 17.08.2025

Red Lines and the Timetable Are Two Key Issues.

The UK can't back human rights and Qatar

written by Arsen Ostrovsky | 17.08.2025

As it did against Russia, the Starmer government ought to initiate an inquiry into funding from Doha