

MEMMO

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U.S.-Israel MOU Aimed at Preventing Hamas' Rearmament

The United States and Israel today signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pledging joint efforts to stem the flow of weapons to Hamas and other Iranian-backed terrorists in Gaza. The agreement recognizes that Hamas' acquisition and use of arms against Israel were "the direct causes of recent hostilities" and that a durable and sustainable cessation of hostilities depends on denying weapons to terrorist groups and countering Iran's destructive activities.. The agreement also strongly underscores American support for the security of the Jewish State and the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship to America's national security.

The MOU reiterates the strong commitment of the United States to the security and well-being of Israel.

- The United States reaffirms its long-standing commitment that Israel must have secure and defensible borders.
- The United States reaffirms its commitment to ensure Israel's ability to defend itself. The MOU recalls the steadfast commitment of the United States to "preserve and strengthen Israel's capability to deter and defend itself, by itself, against any threat or possible combination of threats."
- The MOU reaffirms the long-held U.S. position that Israel has the inherent right of self-defense, including the right to defend itself against terrorism.
- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice identified the cause of the current hostilities as "the continued supply of armaments to Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza, including by some in the region" and called on the international community "to prevent the rearmament of Hamas so that a cease-fire will be durable and fully respected."



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni sign an MOU to prevent weapons smuggling by Hamas.

The MOU enhances U.S. and Israeli intelligence and security cooperation to ensure Hamas cannot rearm.

- Under the MOU, the United States and Israel will work to stop the flow of arms to Hamas and other terrorists in Gaza.
- Specifically, the sides will work cooperatively "to prevent the supply of arms and related materiel to terrorist organizations that threaten either party, with a particular focus on the supply of arms, related materiel and explosives into Gaza to Hamas and other terrorist organizations."

- The United States and Israel will increase intelligence sharing on the sources of Hamas' weapons and how they are getting into Gaza. The MOU states that the parties will assist each other through "enhanced sharing of information and intelligence that would assist in identifying the origin and routing of weapons being supplied to terrorist organizations in Gaza."
- The United States and Israel will also establish mechanisms for military and intelligence cooperation to share intelligence and monitor the implementation of the MOU.

The United States commits to work with other international and regional actors to counter Iran's destabilizing activities.

- The United States will work to increase sanctions on Iran and others that provide arms to Hamas. The United States also commits to expanding the enforcement mechanisms for those who violate prohibitions on providing material support to Hamas.
- The United States commits to work with regional and NATO partners to address the routes used to ship weapons to Hamas, specifically, the Mediterranean Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and eastern Africa.
- The United States will enhance security and intelligence cooperation with regional governments on actions to prevent weapons and explosives flows to Gaza that originate in or transit their countries.
- The United States will enhance shared intelligence collection and analysis with key international and coalition naval forces and other appropriate entities to address weapons supply to Gaza.