

MEMMO

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With Israel Threatened, U.S. Must Stand Strongly By Ally

The severity of the challenges facing Israel is mounting on a daily basis. In the past few weeks alone, the Jewish state has faced an assault on its Cairo embassy, hundreds of rocket attacks from Gaza, and Ankara's decision to downgrade relations and threaten the use of force. Palestinians have launched a campaign to delegitimize Israel at the United Nations, while Iran repeats its crude threats to wipe out the Jewish state. At this critical moment, it is vitally important for American leaders to strongly and unequivocally support Israel's right to exist in peace and security free from threats of violence and isolation.

Israel is facing a dramatic increase in attacks and a major weapons buildup by Hamas and Hizballah.

- On Sept. 10, a mob of Egyptian protestors violently attacked Israel's embassy in Cairo, threatening the lives of Israeli security personnel and forcing the evacuation of Israeli diplomatic staff and their families.
- Last month, eight Israelis were killed in a major attack by Hamas terrorists crossing into Israel from Sinai.
- In the aftermath of the Sinai attack, Gaza militants fired more than 200 rockets into Israel, and security officials arrested dozens of individuals suspected of plotting attacks in the West Bank and Jerusalem.
- Eight people were wounded in south Tel Aviv in August when a Palestinian from the West Bank city of Nablus ran over policemen with a stolen taxi, and then started stabbing bystanders.
- Vowing the destruction of Israel, Hamas has smuggled into Gaza, and built an arsenal of, more than 10,000 rockets.
- In Lebanon, Hizballah has reportedly amassed more than 60,000 long- and short-range rockets and missiles—tripling the rocket inventory it had before its 2006 war with Israel.



Israel's embassy in Cairo was attacked by a mob, highlighting the recent upsurge in violence against the Jewish state.

Israel also faces security threats and damaging diplomatic attacks from long-time partners.

- Palestinians are beginning a form of diplomatic warfare at the United Nations by refusing to negotiate with Israel while seeking to delegitimize the Jewish state. U.S. leaders have warned that Palestinian statehood efforts in New York could undermine existing Israeli-Palestinian agreements and set back the prospects for a negotiated peace.
- President Barack Obama has described the Palestinian bid for statehood recognition at the United Nations as a “counterproductive” measure and a “distraction” that will impede efforts to create a Palestinian state living in peace with Israel.

- Unable to extract the apology it sought from Israel following the Palmer Report's justification of Israel's Gaza blockade, Turkey has expelled Israel's ambassador and suspended defense relations with the Jewish state.
- Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan has also threatened to employ Turkish warships to protect future Gaza-bound flotillas, despite the legality of Israel's naval blockade.

Iran continues to threaten the existence of Israel and aggressively advance its nuclear capabilities.

- The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) latest report raises great concern over Iran's advancing abilities to produce the enriched uranium needed to produce a nuclear weapon.
- The report, citing "extensive and comprehensive information," expressed increasing concern over the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program, including activities related to building a missile's nuclear payload. In a show of force, Iran has regularly conducted tests of long-range missiles.
- Iran has a global terrorist reach and undermines U.S. peace efforts through its support of such terrorist groups as Hamas and Hizballah. Iranian arms transferred to the terrorist groups include thousands of mortars and hundreds of rockets, including longer-range rockets capable of striking Tel Aviv from Gaza and southern Lebanon.
- Echoing a previous call to "wipe Israel off the map," Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad recently encouraged fellow nations to "rid themselves of the contagious cancerous growth of the Zionist regime," saying such actions would bring the "release of humanity from evil."

It is vitally important for the United States to strongly support Israel's legitimacy and right to defend its citizens.

- It is critically important now for the United States to reassert its support for its strong ally, its legitimacy and right to self-defense.
- The United States should use the power of its veto at the United Nations to reject efforts to delegitimize and isolate Israel, including the Palestinians' statehood gambit.
- The United States should continue efforts to ensure that Israel has the necessary resources to meet the growing threats and chaos in the region.
- The United States should also clearly convey to Egypt and Turkey the importance of honoring their commitments to the Jewish state, and should encourage all nations to enhance their ties with Israel.