

Israel and Terrorists

by

Phil Rasmussen

One week ago, HAMAS openly attacked Israel by launching missiles and violent incursion into Israel from the Gaza Strip. Over 4,500 people in Israel have been either killed or wounded in the attack and Hamas' continuing rocket firings.

From its inception in 1987, Hamas has always been a militant organization that was declared an international terrorist organization in 1997 by the US State Department. However, in spite of Hamas' killing, dismembering, and raping babies, children and the elderly in their murderous attacks last week, the United Nations still has not declared Hamas a terrorist organization.

While Israel has brokered several peace accords with some Middle East countries, Iran has vehemently opposed the Jewish people and Israel since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Since 1985, Iran and Israel have been engaged in a proxy war that has significantly affected Middle East geopolitics.

Iran has supported state sponsored terrorism by using Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen to conduct direct conflicts with Israel. Additionally, the Iranian leadership has provided significant financial, weaponry, and training support to various terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthi rebels. This proxy war is a complex and ongoing conflict that significantly impacts the political and security dynamics of the Middle East.

As Iran continues the proxy war by supplying Hamas and Hezbollah with aid, both groups are comprised mostly of Muslims. While there are 73 sects of Islam, the two largest sects are the Sunni and Shiite. Hamas is comprised of Sunni Muslims (10-20%) while Hezbollah members are primarily Shiite (80%).

To take advantage of the Israel-Hamas war, Iran, this past Friday, Iran ordered Hezbollah to attack Israel along its northern border (Lebanon and Syria).

From a geographic perspective, Hezbollah is simply a terrorist organization with its headquarters in Lebanon. Hamas on the other hand, while a terrorist organization, currently rules the Gaza Strip and West Bank, both of which are "geopolitical states" within Israel's borders.

While Iran is the major benefactor for terrorism support to Hamas and Hezbollah, it is not the only one. Other benefactors include: Russia, China, North Korea, and the United States. Yes, you read that correctly.

Since 2007, when Hamas took over the Gaza Strip, the US has funneled more than \$400 million of taxpayer money into the region (U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID]). The Biden administration has already sent more than \$95.5 million to Gaza as “cash assistance and health care” programs.

In 2022, Biden announced that he would send another \$316 million to Gaza to construct 4G wireless networks.

Although Biden’s plans are to spend over \$500 million in “aid” programs in the West Bank and Gaza regions, he is essentially supporting the Hamas terrorist government within the two regions. This should not be surprising given his proclivity for disastrous foreign policy mistakes and actions. For example, Biden, thinking that he knew better than his military advisors, unconditionally pulled out of Afghanistan in 2021, leaving behind \$7+ billion worth of military equipment in the hands of terrorists. And yet, in the “fog of war,” Biden clearly stated “Hamas offers nothing but terror and bloodshed with no regard to who pays the price.” Just how deceitful can he be?

Many of the US weapons left behind in Afghanistan are showing up in the hands of Hamas militants. Other foreign policy failed actions include

- poorly negotiated prisoner swaps with Russia, Iran, al-Qaeda and the Taliban,
- restricted military aid to Ukraine in its defense of Russian invasion, and
- the release of \$6 billion of Iranian assets.

While Biden calls the Hamas attack horrific and evil, and that Israel has the right to defend itself, direct US military aid has not yet been sent to Israel. Biden’s action, instead, has been to direct his team to “work with their Israeli counterparts on every aspect of the hostage crisis, including sharing intelligence and deploying experts from across the United States government to consult with and advise Israeli counterparts on hostage recovery efforts.”

Biden is well known for his lack of empathy for people. Regardless of his current rhetoric to support Israel and its people, we will probably see a lack of any needed support. Consider his administration’s stance on requiring American citizens to sign a promissory note saying they will reimburse the government for evacuation costs prior to

departure. While this requirement has been law for 79 years (PolitiFact) it is reprehensible and such signing is done under duress.

Just as many countries condemned Putin's attack on Ukraine, the Hamas and Hezbollah attacks are also condemned. However, regardless of world opinion, Israel will probably have little real and physical support from most countries around the world given the rise of global anti-Semitism.

While anti-Semitism is on the rise in the US, so is the call for isolationism, both internally and internationally. Some people believe that by being more isolated as a nation, we will have less involvement in international affairs, lead to spending more money on us and less abroad. That is a very simplistic view and is very narrow-minded. There are benefits to isolationism, but there are also drawbacks to it. One major drawback is that isolationism breeds mistrust among people and nations. It is politically, economically, and socially divisive.

Prior to the Hamas attack, it was fairly easy to argue that the US-Israel relationship should be questioned. The problem with such arguments was that they were based on a false understanding of regional politics that date back before 500BC. We also keep beating the "dead horse" that other countries and groups will honor their promises and treaties, even though we constantly see promises and treaties broken. Such was the agreement between the Israeli government and Hamas when Hamas carried out its horrific attacks last week.

Many people and governments see this Israeli-Hamas war as an internal conflict since Gaza and the West Bank are political states within the borders of Israel. Unfortunately, they have not considered the influence and support of Iran and other terrorist groups. In fact Iran has directed Hezbollah to attack Israel, and has threatened direct intervention if Israel invades Gaza (Axios, Al Jazeera).

While, on the surface, it appears that Iran is the only country which may be involved in the latest attacks on Israel, we need to remember that there are many interlocking agreements between Iran, Russia, China, North Korea, Pakistan, Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cuba, Eritrea, Laos, Nicaragua, Syria, Venezuela, and other countries. The majority of these agreements include political, economic and military support. The outcome of these agreements can be observed with Putin's invasion of Ukraine, where Iran, China, and North Korea has supplied a lot of military assistance to Russia.

It is prophesied in the **Bible's** "Book of Revelation," that Magog and Persia, along with other allies, will attack Israel. Biblical scholars believe that Magog is Russia and Persia is Iran. Although a military alliance has not yet been formed between the two countries, each has exchanged military weaponry (missiles to Iran and drones to Russia) in order to advance their war agendas.

Furthermore both countries, along with their allies, hate the west and in particular, the United States. Biden's open border policy has allowed illegal aliens from Russia, Iran, and its allies into our country, putting US security at risk. If we are to maintain our own security – politically, economically, and socially – we must stand with Israel in its fight against terrorism, unthinkable atrocities, and all evil. Throughout hatred for the Jews has existed, and yet, God has intervened in every case and his final judgment will come with the second coming of Christ.

Meanwhile, we must. . .

"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near"

Luke 21:28