

jns 2026 International
Policy Summit



**2026 JNS INTERNATIONAL
POLICY SUMMIT**

POLICY FORUM COMPENDIUM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS - FORUM

POLICY FORUMS OVERVIEW	4
I COMBATING ANTISEMITISM, ANTI-ZIONISM AND HOLOCAUST DENIAL	5
II ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN REALITIES	9
III REGIONAL SECURITY & BORDER CHALLENGES	13
IV INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ISSUES: U.N., ICC, ICJ	17
V JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY: THE COURTS & THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION	21
VI NARRATIVE WARFARE	29
VII U.S.- ISRAEL AFFAIRS	33
VIII JUDEA & SAMARIA: HISTORICAL RIGHTS VS. CURRENT CHALLENGES	37
IX ISRAEL'S VIBRANT DEMOCRACY: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES	41
X CHALLENGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA	45
XI THE CHRISTIAN-ISRAEL ALLIANCE	49
XII THE RESERVISTS	53

Policy Forums Overview

At a pivotal moment for Israel and the Jewish people, the 2026 JNS International Policy Summit and the JNS Forums stand as premier convening points of the world's leading minds dedicated to confronting today's most urgent challenges and shaping tomorrow's strategic thinking in the context of global realities.

As a leading global media organization, JNS has emerged as a central platform for ideas, influence and impactful innovative initiatives—bringing together top policymakers, diplomats, security experts, legal and other scholars and thought leaders, alongside the foremost organizations, think tanks and institutes committed to strengthening Israel, the Jewish people and allies from all walks of life throughout the globe. In an increasingly fragmented landscape, JNS serves a unique and vital role: enabling and uniting these voices under one framework to deliberate, challenge assumptions and forge forward-thinking policy solutions grounded in clarity, courage and strategic vision.

This JNS Forums Booklet presents an overview of each of the twelve JNS 2026 Policy Forums, highlighting the distinguished speakers who shaped these critical discussions.

Together, these Forums reflect a wide-ranging and deeply informed engagement with many of the key issues facing Israel and the Jewish people today, while bringing together a distinguished group of participants committed to serious and substantive dialogue.

We are deeply grateful to the expert speakers and panelists of the JNS 2026 Policy Forums for their time, dedication and thoughtful contributions. Their willingness to engage with rigor and collaboration is what gives the JNS Summit its depth and enduring impact.

We express our thanks and appreciation for their leadership and vision.

Richard D. Heideman, Chairman, JNS International Policy Summit & Forums
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**COMBATING ANTISEMITISM,
ANTI-ZIONISM AND HOLOCAUST
DENIAL**

FORUM I



SUMMARY:

The events of Oct. 7 should have prompted a necessary strategic shift from reactive measures to a proactive "CENTCOM" model focused on global engagement. This new approach must consider the ideological assault on Western civilization as an "eighth front," rather than merely a series of isolated incidents. Traditional responses are inadequate, due to organizational inertia and the underestimation of information warfare compared to physical threats. A unified command structure is essential to address the systemic weaponization of international law and the "moral inversion" affecting institutions like the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, which has compromised its mission by hosting biased "Nakba" exhibits.

The Forum proposed key pillars to ensure institutional accountability and reclaim the global narrative, starting with the universal adoption of the IHRA working definition as a legal baseline. This will enable organizations like StopAntisemitism to hold perpetrators of hate accountable professionally and reputationally. Curricular reform is necessitated through the IMPACT-se methodology, which aims to mitigate state-sponsored incitement of violence in global textbooks. A standardized lexicon must be established to label Oct. 7 revisionism similarly to Holocaust denial, while May 14 should be recognized as "Declaration Day" to legitimize Israel's status as an indigenous right.

The framework aims to protect Zionist identity and holds international bodies like UNRWA and the ICC accountable for disseminating false narratives. Ultimately, safeguarding the Judeo-Christian values underpinning Western civilization requires a shift from mere conflict management to proactive disruption, with a unified command structure as the only method of countering this existential threat and maintaining global democratic stability.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Mandatory IHRA Working Definition Adoption: Adoption of the full IHRA working definition, including its specific examples regarding the State of Israel, must be the non-negotiable standard for all government training and police unions. Without this standard, institutions remain strategically blind to the mutation of antisemitism into modern anti-Zionism, rendering their "zero tolerance" policies effectively useless.

Integration of Zionism into Holocaust Pedagogy: Educational frameworks must be overhauled, using the proven methodology of the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se), to define the Jewish state as the realization of indigenous Jewish rights rather than a "reparation prize" granted after 1945. This reform is the only way to counter the "moral inversion" where Holocaust memory is hijacked to demonize the Jewish state as the perpetrator of the very crimes it was established to prevent.

Professionalization of Police-Community Partnerships: Law enforcement agencies must move beyond symbolic outreach to create formalized "Engagement Officers" and sign binding Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with federal police unions. These partnerships must treat antisemitism as a primary "canary in the coal mine" indicator for broader societal extremism and direct threats to democratic stability.

Pre-emptive Extremist Monitoring: The Forum proposed adopting a security strategy that involves infiltrating extremist groups and monitoring online accounts to identify and neutralize threats before they reach Jewish doorsteps. This approach moves security beyond reactive physical presence at synagogues; it establishes a proactive intelligence-gathering operation that identifies violent actors in the planning phase, preventing attacks before they manifest.

Global Adoption of "Declaration Day" (May 14): Promoting a global initiative to institutionalize May 14 as "Declaration Day." Currently, this initiative has reached a milestone level of viability, with planned announcements from the Knesset floor. Institutionalizing an official day of recognition creates a recurring global platform. It utilizes sovereign weight to validate Jewish history and identity challenging hostile narratives through high-level international endorsement.

Oct. 7 Massacre Remembrance Day: Promote a global campaign to establish Oct. 7 as a day to commemorate the victims of Hamas's massacre, rape, torture and hostage-taking in 2023, and to combat revisionist narratives of that fateful day in Jewish and Israeli history—including the genocide libel (genocide inversion), Oct. 7 minimization and the broader campaign to frame the Oct. 7 war as a story about Israel's putative "disproportionate response" to Hamas's invasion, rather than on the antisemitic-inspired terrorist atrocities themselves.

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ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN REALITIES

FORUM II



SUMMARY:

The Israeli-Palestinian Realities Forum highlights urgent Palestinian matters and international and regional dynamics pertaining to Israeli Palestinian relations, including those influenced by Iran and Lebanon. The Forum emphasizes the need to reevaluate strategies, given recent volatility, especially with internal Palestinian political shifts taking precedence.

Local governance emerges as a crucial indicator of both the stability of Palestinian leadership and the overarching security of the region. Recent municipal elections reveal a significant divide, where Fatah's electoral success appears largely superficial, evidenced by systematic suppression of opposition in 26 communities, ensuring uncontested victories. Notably, in Jenin, the official leadership has weakened in the face of coalitions led by the radicalized Jenin Brigade, reflecting the ascent of local power structures. In Hebron, tribal affiliations overshadow central political ideologies, with the leadership manipulating voting laws to engage tribal heads, resulting in fierce clan rivalries, notably between the Jaabari and Kawasmeh families. These political shifts underscore a marked decline in President Mahmoud Abbas's popularity and the enduring influence of tribalism amid fiscal and security pressures, while it also reflects the strong adherence to the narrative of the struggle against Israel and the widening rifts among the Fatah supporters and in Palestinian society in general, as Abbas's long term as the leader of the Palestinians is nearing its end.

Furthermore, Palestinian ability to promote reform is threatened by issues of financial transparency and disarmament. The Forum expresses skepticism about the Palestinian Authority's (P.A.) statements on ending "Pay for Slay" policies, suggesting attempts to evade the Taylor Force Act through a shift to flat-rate social payments. Additionally, claims of Hamas's partial disarmament are viewed as tactical maneuvers to safeguard military capabilities while managing civil liability. Amid this instability, the Forum outlines critical policy recommendations aimed at tackling fiscal and security challenges.

To transform international policy and address the root causes of conflict, the Forum advocates for a narrative shift acknowledging Jewish historical ties to the land, essential for achieving long-term coexistence. It asserts the necessity of strict enforcement of the Taylor Force Act and of adopting this policy by other Western countries to prevent international aid from inadvertently supporting violence and corruption. Moreover, in view of failures in centralized governance, the "Palestinian Emirates" plan that proposes a decentralized approach informed by tribal sociology, diverging from traditional nationalist or Islamist frameworks, was presented as a potential avenue to overcome the persisting problems of the Palestinians. These strategies aim to prepare for a post-Abbas landscape and recalibrate the dynamics of Middle Eastern diplomacy.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Narrative Change and Political Reform through Electoral Integrity and Candidate Vetting: The P.A. must be compelled to adopt legislation that explicitly bars any candidate or party advocating for racism or utilizing unlawful means to achieve its aims. This standard should lead to a narrative change toward Israel and would eliminate the "ambiguous pledges" currently used by Abbas, which allow genocidal groups like the PFLP to participate in the political process while maintaining violent agendas.

Financial Accountability and Oversight: To preserve the integrity of the Taylor Force Act (TFA), international partners must close legal loopholes and strengthen oversight to ensure the P.A. annuls the law of paying salaries to terrorists and that no donor funds facilitate "Pay-for-Slay" rewards. These measures must account for at least 3.7 billion shekels in terror payments documented since 2018 and prevent the P.A. from using financial crises as a pretext to prioritize terror salaries over public services.

Disarming Hamas and Activation of Gaza Transitional Governance: The international community should insist on disarming Hamas and immediately thereafter activate the "Board of Peace" and the technocratic government for Gaza to manage its redevelopment as a deradicalized zone, explicitly chaired by President Donald J. Trump and including international figures. This transitional oversight body must bypass the P.A. for all municipal and public-service functions in Gaza until the P.A. has satisfactorily completed its verified reform program.

Local Leadership Transition: Diplomatic efforts should consider transition toward engaging with "biological" or clan-based leadership structures under the "Emirate" model as a pragmatic alternative to the failed ideological nationalism of the PLO. Empowering traditional local leadership in cities like Hebron and Nablus may provide a stable governance structure that is fundamentally more resistant to extremist capture than current theological or nationalist models.

Samer Sinijlawi dissented, arguing that the recent Palestinian elections prove a rejection of extremism from the majority of the population. An embrace of democratic values by youth movements in cities shows that the old-guard focus on conflict can be defeated by strengthening democracy with new national elections and genuine political participation.

Regulation of Dual-Use Goods and Monetary Transfers: Pressure must be applied to the European Union and the Palestinian Monetary Authority to implement strict regulatory practices on dual-use commodities, particularly in the agriculture and construction sectors. Enhanced oversight is required to ensure that materials intended for civilian development are not diverted by the "relaxed" policies of international donors toward military infrastructure.

Conditioning Statehood on Narrative and Educational Reform: Any pathway toward self-determination must be strictly conditioned upon a verified, long-term transformation of the Palestinian education system and the total cessation of institutional incitement. This enforcement is justified by the finding that 60% of the population supports the Oct. 7 massacre, demonstrating that a total shift in the national narrative is a non-negotiable prerequisite for security.

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**REGIONAL SECURITY &
BORDER CHALLENGES**

FORUM III



SUMMARY:

The Oct. 7 catastrophe unveiled the inefficacy of containment strategies and highlighted vulnerabilities in intelligence-driven defense systems. In response, the Forum has introduced "Prevention" as a crucial pillar in a revamped national-security doctrine, moving beyond the traditional four-pillar structure. This shift underscores the necessity for a society that relies on mobilization rather than permanent militarization to prepare for unexpected threats. The security approach is shifting from reactive measures to a proactive stance aimed at neutralizing enemy capabilities and ideological movements before they evolve into kinetic threats, establishing a foundation for reasserting the Geographic Imperative.

In a complex security environment, physical territory is essential for securing safety. Traditional strategic depth is lacking over Israel's northern border, with Lebanon and Syria, and Israel's southern border with Gaza; thus, the Forum proposes topographical dominance through enhanced buffer and demilitarization zones in regions like Lebanon and Gaza, where the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) can maintain control and protect civilian life from surprise attacks. This proposal represents a tangible application of the Prevention pillar, enhancing the security of border communities by transforming them into resilient front lines.

Additionally, the Forum advocates for the formal recognition of "Narrative Warfare" as an eighth front in national security, aiming at the systematic dismantling of radical ideological frameworks. This reclassification treats such ideologies as hostile forces and national-security threats rather than mere public-relations issues. The focus is on challenging the Iranian regime's religious institutions and fostering alliances with local groups, such as the Maronites and Druze, alongside international partners like India and Azerbaijan, to counter an evolving threat landscape marked by the convergence of radical Sunni and Shi'ite movements.

In conclusion, the Forum aims to pivot from a reactive stance to a proactive strategy, seeking to develop a comprehensive post-Oslo regional framework that emphasizes the restoration of indigenous sovereignty instead of the historically failed policies of the previous century.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

The Forum broke down their Policy Proposals into sections pertaining to five categories: Prevention, Defensible Borders, Psychological Warfare, Public Diplomacy and Regional Alliances. Implementation of the "Prevention" Doctrine: The traditional four-legged security model (Deterrence, Warning, Decision and Defense) has proven inadequate against sophisticated irregular warfare. A fifth leg—Prevention—must be formalized. This doctrine moves beyond reacting to intelligence warnings and utilizes permanent buffer zones and preemptive strikes to eliminate emerging threats before they materialize. This is a shift from a reactive mentality to a proactive shaping of the battlespace, ensuring that the security zone is a permanent operational reality.

Expansion of the Red Sea Footprint via Somaliland: Israel must leverage its December 2025 recognition of Somaliland to secure a logistical foothold near Berbera. This presence provides a critical vantage point for naval interdiction and intelligence-gathering, effectively countering the convergence of Houthi and Al-Shabaab threats in the Red Sea corridor.

Prioritization of Iranian Regime Change: Strategic stability is unattainable as long as the Islamic Republic remains the regional hegemon. Policy must shift away from the delusion of limited nuclear deals that trade temporary uranium concessions for permanent economic lifelines. The argument that we can see and strike physical enrichment facilities but cannot easily undo the strength of a rehabilitated economy dictates that Israel must prioritize permanent economic isolation and the fostering of internal dissension. Regime-dismantling, rather than containment, must be the primary objective to neutralize the "head of the snake."

Formalization of Community Defense (First Responders): To prevent vulnerability of static IDF positions, and ensure immediate survival during the initial moments of an incursion, the military-civilian divide must be bridged. The proposed "Tel Hai" model would formally integrate border-community civilians into the IDF hierarchy as equipped, trained and drafted First Responders. This total-defense posture ensures that every border community is a formalized, resilient component of the national-security apparatus, capable of immediate response while waiting for a larger IDF mobilization. By institutionalizing these local units, the State can reduce the 100-day reservist burden to a sustainable 30-day cycle, preserving the national economy while maintaining a high-readiness posture.

Integration of Cognitive Warfare into National Security: Israel must catch up to the sophisticated influence operations of the Qatari-Turkish-Iranian axis. To counter this, Israel must embrace an Indigenous Middle Eastern identity. By asserting its presence as a native power rather than a Western outpost, Israel can more effectively challenge the ideological and religious structures of its enemies. Cognitive warfare must be centralized as a primary security front, funded and prioritized on a par with kinetic operations. Israel must treat the enemy's ideological and financial networks as high-value military targets to be turned, destroyed or conquered.

Regional and Minority Alliances: The current situation necessitates a return to more organic regional structures. Proponents advocate for a strategy of supporting decentralized, federalized entities in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. This includes reviving the "Al-Mutasar Rafiyah" (Mount Lebanon) model by fostering a natural alliance with Maronites and other indigenous minorities. By supporting these decentralized blocs, Israel can help create a buffer of Western-oriented "Emirates" or confederations that disrupt the territorial contiguity of radical axes. In Lebanon, the security establishment must formalize strategic partnerships with the Maronite and Aramaic communities to challenge Hezbollah's dominance and reclaim Lebanese sovereignty. Establishing a federalist buffer through these allies provides a long-term alternative to permanent IDF ground presence while securing the northern frontier.

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**INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ISSUES:
U.N., ICC, ICJ**

FORUM IV



SUMMARY:

The International Legal Issues Forum outlined a significant shift in response to the changing reality following the Oct. 7 attacks. The Forum represents members who are all aiming to evolve from mere reactions to antisemitism, anti-Zionism, anti-Israelism and the demonization of Israel at the U.N. and in the international courts, toward a proactive strategy grounded in international law. This involves not merely contesting jurisdiction and thumbing noses, but rather serious strategic and active engagement with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to ensure accountability, moving past traditional institutional inertia that has historically prioritized domestic calming measures over robust defensive and other strategies.

Key areas of focus have been identified, particularly focusing on territorial-jurisdiction issues. The strategy leverages the “Trump Plan” and the “Gaza Police Plan,” both endorsed by the U.N. Security Council, to argue that Palestinian statehood is nonexistent under current international legal definitions. This assertion includes an analysis, proposed by Ron Soffer, that the Palestinian Authority (which has taken execution action to be called the State of Palestine) cannot sign the Rome Statute, as it is not a state, and which the Security Council itself makes clear is an eventuality but not a reality, thereby providing a legal basis for tribunals to dismiss cases due to lack of jurisdiction. This initiative is part of a comprehensive plan aimed at restoring objective legal standards over politicized judgments.

To reshape the global legal narrative, the report advocates for a coalition involving “third-party” states to counter institutional biases. It suggests using Fiji as a case study for correcting misleading U.N. reports and rallying Argentina to lead third-party litigation against countries that sponsor terrorism, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, the world’s worst state sponsor of terror. Additionally, it proposes civil-litigation strategies within national frameworks, using mechanisms, like the Material Support statutes and the Torture Victims Protection Act, to hold perpetrators accountable. This multifaceted and quite assertive approach seeks to confront bureaucratic obstacles and disseminate focused legal arguments worldwide, ensuring that the principles of international law are universally acknowledged and upheld.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

NGO-State Coalition-Building for Amici Filings: This proposal advocates for a transition from independent, isolated NGO filings toward the construction of broad coalitions with Christian, Zionist and varied allied groups. The objective is to produce both consolidated amici curiae submissions that carry significantly more diplomatic and legal weight and that provide important narrative fuel for op-eds, speeches, writers, thinkers and activists. Current experience demonstrates that independent small group NGO briefs are frequently disregarded and often fail even to be entered into the official court record. Building state-backed coalitions ensures that these arguments are formally integrated into the permanent judicial record. By amplifying the volume and diversity of voices, the wide pro-Israel community can force the courts to acknowledge, and be more inclined to consider, arguments that are currently being sidelined as partisan or parochial in their views.

Jurisdictional Challenge via the “Statehood” Argument: A primary legal objective is to contest the locus standi of the Palestinian Authority, aka the State of Palestine, and the ICC’s territorial jurisdiction. The panel identified a critical “window of opportunity” following the ICC Appellate Division’s decision to remit the jurisdiction issue back to the first instance. The argument hinges on the U.N. Security Council’s adoption of the “Trump Plan,” which establishes that Palestine has not yet achieved statehood and must fulfill specific criteria before doing so. Challenging the competence of the court provides the ICC with a near-term “honorable way out.” It allows judges to dismiss politically volatile cases and vacate wrong-headedly issued arrest warrants against the Israeli prime minister and former defense minister on technical procedural grounds without having to rule on the merits of the conflict.

The forum identified Germany as an optimal sovereign lead for this intervention, given its preeminent influence within the ICC hierarchy. Overcoming internal Israeli Ministry inertia that traditionally precludes many initiatives is an obstacle to be considered in finding the essential path forward.

Behind-the-Scenes Technical Assistance to Sympathetic States: This strategy involves providing “voluntary drafting assistance” to sympathetic U.N. member states in relation to international proceedings and tribunals. Because sovereign states possess a level of standing and authority that NGOs cannot match, this “force multiplier” approach helps allies file robust submissions that challenge hostile and false narratives in the ICJ and ICC. This mechanism leverages the standing of friendly nations by assisting them to counter mendacious claims. By acting as a technical drafting house, the legal community ensures that state-level filings—which the courts are obligated to consider—reflect accurate legal and factual realities.

Enforcement of the Security Council-Adopted Gaza Disarmament Plan: This proposal seeks to pressure the U.N. Security Council to enforce the disarmament requirements of the previously adopted “Trump Plan.” It frames the plan not merely as a political proposal, but as a formal U.N. mandate that remains unfulfilled by the Palestinian side, including with regard to the requirement that Hamas disarm and demilitarize. This creates a critical legal offense/defense for Israel’s continued military operations, for the purpose of achieving disarmament and demilitarization, not only for the benefit of Israelis on Gaza’s border lines, but for the future of the Gazans themselves. By highlighting that disarmament is a mandatory prerequisite for peace endorsed by the Security Council, this strategy provides a “green light” for Israel to continue doing what is necessary as a matter of enforcing the U.N.’s own security requirements. It effectively shifts the burden of implementation and the blame for regional instability back onto Hamas, where it belongs, as well as on the P.A. and the U.N. itself.

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**JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY:
THE COURTS & THE COURT OF
PUBLIC OPINION**

FORUM V



SUMMARY:

The Justice & Accountability Forum's mission is to unify views, strategy and action in the form of litigation in the courts, public discourse in the court of public opinion and in the activating of public-policy thinkers and legislators in the battle against systemic antisemitism, acts of hatred, discrimination and acts of violence and terror targeting members and supporters of the Jewish community globally[1]. The initiative demands accountability from federal and international institutions[2], challenging the obstruction of bureaucracies, institutional indifference and those who enable hate-filled education and dissemination of information, often under the guise of freedom of speech. Hate, discrimination and acts of violence and terror violate various laws, civil and criminal, mandating powerful action and a zero-tolerance approach.

Legislation:

The United States, Canada, Israel and Europe all have national and local Laws of which an aggrieved plaintiff may avail him/herself when seeking redress from antisemitism, hate-based discrimination, religious discrimination, acts of violence, assault, defamation and terror. These include, but are not limited to, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in U.S. federally funded programs. While Title VI does not explicitly cover religion, the United States Federal Government interprets Title VI to protect Jewish and Israeli students from acts of antisemitism and religious discrimination when based on shared ancestry, ethnic characteristics or perceived nationality. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

The Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA) and the Anti Terrorism Act (ATA/JASTA) in the U.S. has been weakened by recent Supreme Court losses that have made it nearly impossible for aggrieved victims of terror, as well as Holocaust survivors, to succeed in U.S. Federal Court, in violation of the intent of Congress, which adopted the legislation for the purpose of providing true access to the courts by American victims of terror. Recent decisions have also precluded recovery for Holocaust survivors to sue for anything other than high-value art, excluding hundreds of thousands of persons whose families were stripped of all non-art assets. The Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery (HEAR) Act's extension, however, is a recent tactical success that exposes a glaring strategic gap: The legal system currently provides more protection for a stolen painting than for the recovery of stolen lives and non-art property. We must bridge this gap by expanding restitution frameworks beyond the "fine art" exception. We must also encourage Congress and the administration to adopt legislative fixes designed to put teeth back into statutory remedies and causes of action for victims of terror who have been murdered, maimed or injured as a result of acts of international terror.

[1] The term antisemitism has become a milquetoast term. What is happening the world over is evil assaults, verbally and physically against Jewish and other people who express support for their Jewish beliefs and practices, including against those who support the State of Israel. It is blatant, open, noxious, notorious and grossly unacceptable conduct.

[2] Antisemitism and outright hatred of Jewish people and of Israel is pervasive and must be stopped. This document addresses federal laws only, although action at the state and local levels are not only possible, but must be encouraged and included in strategic actions to be taken at the local, national and international levels.

It should be noted that in Canada, victims of terror are presently able to pursue actions based upon statutory remedies adopted a decade or more ago. In addition, legislation adopted in Israel presently permits victims of terror to seek redress against the P.A. for having provided material support to Hamas and other terror organizations. Israel's Ministry of Finance has been paying out funds to victims, charging those monies against P.A.-collected tax funds.

In the U.S., the P.A. and PLO continue to resist all attempts by U.S. victims seeking justice for those entities having provided material support for terror by seeking dismissal of actions filed in the U.S. if the victims have also filed (albeit under different statutes) in Israel.

Litigation:

- American Victims of Terror Actions against State Sponsors of Terror and Arising out of acts of terror committed by designated Foreign Terror Organizations.

While aggressive legal actions arising out of the Oct. 7 barbaric attacks by Hamas continue, and are pending against Iran, Syria and North Korea, the litigation is now pushing into novel frontiers, including against Binance for facilitating terror finance and high-stakes actions against UNRWA. In the D.C. District Court, Judge Royce Lamberth is overseeing a pivotal challenge to UNRWA's immunity, while in New York, a federal judge has dismissed claims against UNRWA based upon immunity, which is presently on appeal to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Critically, the Trump administration has filed an excellent Statement of Interest, both in the Second Circuit, and also in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, asserting that UNRWA does not enjoy immunity for its alleged material support of Hamas. The acts of the Trump administration are bold and constitute a significant tactical filing that we must leverage to override conflicting, more restrictive rulings currently emerging from other courts.

In actions against non-state actors under the Anti Terrorism Act, judges are increasingly throwing out Anti-Terrorism Act and JASTA cases for aiding and abetting on jurisdictional grounds, or demanding a level of "specific knowledge" by the funder that is nearly impossible to prove without intelligence-level access. We must advocate not only for a lower evidentiary threshold for "knowledge" in cases involving known terror proxies, but also for the Israeli government, which possesses massive intelligence and evidence that has been gathered, to release the evidence to the various law firms that are advocating on behalf of aggrieved victims in the U.S, Israel and elsewhere.

- Antisemitism Cases:

The court's failure in the Ann Arbor Synagogue Case to recognize that 20 years of weekly intimidation outside a house of worship constitutes a violation of religious practice—not "protected speech"—is a systemic failure. The First Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in the MIT Case shows a pattern of judges dismissing the trauma of Jewish students. The same judge who was criticized for dismissing the impact of the Boston Marathon bombing on its victims recently wrote the MIT opinion, which also ignored the trauma-inducing conduct of those celebrating the Oct. 7 massacre. Perhaps most alarming is a Jewish judge in California who recently ruled at the motion-to-dismiss stage that symbols like the swastika and "Heil Hitler" chants are not necessarily antisemitic in a legal context. This refusal to recognize visceral acts of hatred against Jewish people and supporters of the Jewish community, and of Israel, as a matter of law effectively denies Jewish citizens equal protection.

Suggested Next Steps: The opinion of the Forum is that the debate, both in the courts and in the court of public opinion, including with regard to influencing public-policy-makers and legislators, presently revolves around the battle between free speech and acts of outright hatred, discrimination and violence. Many of the issues further expose the widening gap between those who support not only the acts of, but the very existence of, Israel as a nation-state member of the family of nations, notwithstanding its full membership in the U.N., which regularly not only criticizes, but passes resolutions and takes focused action against Israel. The issues relating to Zionism cannot be ignored.

It has become fashionable, and acceptable, to criticize Zionists as supporters of the alleged wrongful acts of Israel, which is accused of being an apartheid, racist, colonial state. In 1975, the U.N. adopted the Zionism=Racism resolution, which, although abrogated in 1991, has manifested itself more particularly throughout the 25 years since the infamous U.N. Conference against Racism held in Durban, South Africa—a hatefest against Israel and the Jewish people.

Many believe that it is acceptable to bash Zionists and Zionism under the belief that all things around Zionism are fair game, which includes those who espouse anti-Israelism, antisemitism and anti-Zionism itself. The Forum believes that is critical to address issues relating to defining Zionism as being a recognized, core element of Jewish ancestry in order to secure Title VI and other protections and to prevent misuse as pure expressions of political opinion by harassers. Indeed, beyond its application to Title VI, the use of Zionism as a means to cover for antisemitism must be addressed in the court of public opinion. Invoking the “we are not against the Jews, just against Israel” position is a false and dangerous scapegoating narrative. The truth is the Jewish people’s historic ties to Israel as the one and only ancient homeland of the Jewish people is bound up tightly with and as an integral part of Jewish identity. Many in the Forum believe that the bashing of Israel/Zionism is not a “political” matter and must be clearly distinguished from legitimate discussion and critique of a governmental policy or its political leaders.

Forum member Jeffrey Ballabon dissented on the litigation strategy and prepared for the Forum an extensive submission, which is made available to all in the embedded link here. He argues that while anti-Zionism is almost always a contemporary euphemism for antisemitism, attempting to couple Zionism with Jewish identity as a legal strategy is counterproductive, because it invites courts to recharacterize ethnic and religious targeting as mere opposition to a political position, handing defendants a ready-made defense. Ballabon instead advocates a conduct-based approach—demonstrating that “anti-Zionist” harassment targets individuals as Jews based on perceived ethnic and religious identity, regardless of their actual views on Zionism—which preempts that defense and is more consistent with existing Title VI precedent. Other Forum members were not in agreement with this position, but recognized the importance of a serious debate to address not only definitions, but also strategic actions needing to be taken with regard to nomenclature, discourse, legal actions and messaging in the court of public opinion.

The Forum also calls for enforcing international extradition treaties to prevent the sheltering of terrorists, such as the unconscionable harboring by U.S. ally the Kingdom of Jordan, which treats convicted Hamas murderer Ahlam Tamimi like a celebrity, thumbing its nose at the indictment against her issued by the U.S. Department of Justice and refusing to hand her over for trial in the U.S. Such failures in seeking justice are egregious. The U.S. and other governments must prosecute, punish and incarcerate those who commit acts of terror and assault, not permit the perpetrators to

get away with murder or become heralded as martyrs for their targeting of Jewish people, Israelis, Americans and such people as those from more than 40 countries who were killed, injured or taken hostage over the past many decades.

Legislative changes to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act are necessary to remove judicial restrictions on those victims and their families seeking redress in the courts, as well as with regard to expropriation proceeds, allowing Holocaust survivors the right to seek justice for property loss. Ultimately, the goal is to bypass bureaucratic obstacles and solidify a compelling narrative for global justice.

The Forum believes in a zero-tolerance approach, which requires resources to bring cases and work with investigators and experts handling matters in the courts and the court of public opinion on behalf of aggrieved victims who deserve justice and accountability.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Legislative Reform of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA): There is an urgent need for statutory harmonization to clarify the "knowledge" and jurisdictional requirements of the ATA, preventing the dismissal of valid claims on narrow technical grounds. Advocacy must target and fix the wrong-headed judicial creation of a "near-certainty" standard for intention, perhaps mirroring the definitions found in the Israel Counter-Terrorism Law.

Establishment of a Unified Legal Convening Authority: The Forum believes that a group should be established to enable the bringing of litigation and provide support for the battle in the court of public opinion. This entity will serve as the primary remedy to the current leadership vacuum, acting as a catalyst for experts, investigative researchers, law firms and NGOs to share evidence and common legal strategies. By centralizing the "common tools" of litigation, and providing assistance to the various firms willing to make their services available on behalf of aggrieved victims and other plaintiffs, this authority should be committed to preventing, exposing and providing legislative remedies in the battle against unfavorable judicial precedents.

Formal Recognition of Shared Ancestry and Ethnicity in Hate Crime Law: This proposal advocates for a legal framework that recognizes Jews as an ethnic and national group. This is essential for addressing "Zionist" targeting, where law enforcement often fails to classify harassment as a hate crime because it is framed as a political rather than a religious bias. By enshrining "shared ancestry and ethnicity" as the legal basis for Title VI protections, the landscape shifts for Jewish students and other citizens. It prevents perpetrators from using "anti-Zionism" as a shield to mask ethnic discrimination, ensuring that Jews who identify with their ancestral homeland receive the same civil-rights protections as other ethnic and national minorities.

Legislative Reform of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA) and the Anti-Terrorism Act: This initiative seeks a legislative fix to the FSIA and the ATA to overcome restrictive Supreme Court precedents regarding "traceability" and the judicially created knowledge doctrine. The goal is to restore the ability of victims to sue for justice and compensation and of Holocaust survivors to sue foreign sovereigns and others for the expropriation of property beyond high-value art restitution.

Current interpretations by the Supreme Court have effectively limited access to justice to a small fraction of victims. This reform would reinstate on behalf of Holocaust survivors previous Court interpretations, expand the scope of sovereign accountability and allow hundreds of thousands of survivors to finally have their day in court for the full range of historical atrocities.

Assertive Diplomatic Pressure for Terrorist Extradition: This proposal demands that the U.S. government exert meaningful pressure on Jordan to honor its 1995 extradition treaty. It specifically targets the "perverse argument" of the Jordanian Court of Cassation's 2017 ruling, which claimed a failure of process to avoid surrendering Tamimi.

Breaking the institutional silence surrounding Tamimi would signal an end to the era in which diplomatic convenience supersedes the legal rights of American victims. It mandates justice by utilizing the U.S. Justice Department's various means, in conjunction with much-needed pressure from the U.S. Department of State, to require Jordan to extradite Tamimi for trial in the United States, as has been done in other cases, making it certain that major allies cannot harbor confessed terrorists with impunity.

The Court of Public Opinion: All of the above legal approaches, and many others in the arsenal of strategic options, must be overlaid simultaneously with a comprehensive, defined and unified communications approach to educate the public about antisemitism, anti-Israelism, anti-Zionism and outright hatred for Israel and the Jewish people. This includes combating the false narrative that anti-zionism is not antisemitism, because it is.

It also includes standing against the pervasive and defamatory message that has taken hold on campuses and in communities that Israel is the perpetrator of all things bad, including apartheid, racism and even sexual assault. The lies must be addressed directly, understanding that the conspiracy of the liars has gathered support across all lines, mandating a rejection of old approaches and the creation of strategic initiatives that include reaching the younger generation, which is turning on Israel, Jews and Zionists in record numbers not seen since the Holocaust.

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FORUM MEMBERS:

Chair: Richard D. Heideman

Co-Chair: Yifa Segal (available only on the 21st)

Alyza Lewin

Lori Lowenthal-Marcus

Steven R. Perles

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Julie Levin Strauss

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NARRATIVE WARFARE

FORUM VI



SUMMARY:

Modern conflict is fundamentally hybrid; narrative and kinetic operations have converged into a singular, existential battlefield. The Narrative Warfare Forum mandates a total institutional overhaul to counter the systematic “poisoning of the public mind” that is identified as the unavoidable precursor to physical destruction. This is a critical national-security imperative. To prevail, we must pivot from a reactive, defensive posture to a proactive offensive. This architectural shift replaces disjointed, amateur advocacy with a synchronized defense, reclaiming the narrative arena as the primary theater of modern warfare and shifting from defensive hasbara toward absolute strategic dominance.

Central to this victory is the Narrative Nerve Center, a “Joint Chiefs of Staff for Narrative Warfare” modeled after the Innovation Authority. As a professional, depoliticized and government-funded body, it serves as the only functioning model for high-stakes execution in a fractured political landscape. Institutional depoliticization is the essential factor; it eliminates the provincialism and vanity projects of politicians who currently fracture global messaging. By centralizing authority under experts rather than political appointees, the Nerve Center ensures that hubs in Jerusalem, Washington and London operate in synchronicity. This professionalization terminates the cycle of uncoordinated responses, providing the institutional backbone required to project a disciplined, global strategic vision.

This strategic architecture integrates diverse actions into a unified mosaic to fill the identity vacuum exploited by adversaries. “Identity inoculation” builds Zionistic conviction over legacy complexity, flipping the algorithm against the 80,000 bots of our enemies. Publicizing jihadism victims flips the narrative by pointing the finger at the accusers, while a legal and financial assault to name and shame the funder-enablers of terror-linked NGOs rounds out the broad media strategy. Finally, we break the adversary’s frame through satire, recognizing laughter as the strongest media tool available. Combined, these pillars of strategy create a quick reaction force against toxic narratives.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Formalization of the U.S.-Israel Bilateral Defense Pact: Secure a formal treaty leveraging our “model ally” status to institutionalize long-term technological cooperation and military aid under the “peace through strength” doctrine. This material shield ensures that American support remains a foundational strategic constant, regardless of shifting political tides in Washington.

Establishment of a Unified Narrative Command: The National Information Directorate must be institutionalized as a professional, non-partisan body to synchronize military, diplomatic and civil communications. This command will neutralize strategic vacuums by addressing the 26,000+ annual cyberattacks—95% of which are Iran-linked—that currently target our national truth-base.

The Weaponization of Comedy and Satire: Comedy is a definitive tactical tool in narrative conflict. By making an adversary’s narrative absurd, we ensure the movement can never recover its former gravity or influence. This strategy focuses on transitioning opposing movements into a “comedic nature,” rendering them the “butt of the joke.” Once adversaries are viewed through a lens of ridicule, their credibility becomes irrecoverable.

Professionalization of Advertising Standards: Current narrative efforts often fail, due to amateurish execution. This pillar calls for recruiting "million-dollar" advertising professionals to match the sophistication of high-level political campaigns. Professionalizing the medium ensures that the message is viewed as a legitimate communication rather than dismissed as propaganda. It allows us to compete in mediums we do not currently master, moving from reactive defense to proactive market competition.

RESOURCES:

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FORUM MEMBERS:

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Jeff Kahn

Shabbos Kestenbaum

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Daniel Rosen

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Kenneth Abramowitz

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Bruce Pearl

U.S.- ISRAEL AFFAIRS

FORUM VII



SUMMARY:

The U.S.-Israel Affairs Forum signified a definitive transition in the U.S.-Israel bilateral relationship, moving from an archaic “Big Brother/Little Brother” dynamic toward a mature, peer-to-peer strategic partnership. This evolution was underscored by the seamless interoperability demonstrated during “Operation Epic Fury” and “Midnight Hammer,” where tactical and intelligence coordination reached unprecedented levels of effectiveness. This performance has established Israel as a global benchmark for power projection, leading Indo-Pacific partners—specifically Japan—to look toward the U.S.-Israel alliance as the vital template for their own regional security models, as they seek to become the “Israel of the Pacific.” Ruth J. Lieberman argues that the interests of the U.S. and Israel are one in the same, making U.S. support of Israel more of a force multiplier than a traditional obligation toward a foreign government. The recent military successes now necessitate a modernized regulatory and economic infrastructure that reflects this high-functioning strategic reality.

Central to this realignment is the strategic shift from “Aid to Trade,” characterized by the proposal to phase out the \$3.8 billion in Foreign Military Sales credits. While these credits served past needs, they now create economic distortions that inadvertently encourage the transfer of Israeli personnel and the domestic tax base to the United States. The Forum recommends replacing this model with an independent defense-production framework supported by increased private-sector investment. By easing International Traffic in Arms Regulations and establishing a “Five Eyes-style” defense-procurement network, both nations can streamline co-production and accelerate advanced weaponry acquisition. This evolution in physical defense provides the necessary groundwork for deeper, more resilient integration within the digital and technological sectors.

Technological integration remains a primary pillar of the alliance, as evidenced by the U.S.-Israel Tech Steering Committee and the strategic frameworks provided by the Heritage Foundation’s Tidal Wave project. Policy advancements in joint AI research and R&D tax reform are essential to securing the technology supply chain against Iranian and Chinese encroachment, while serving as a professional beacon for younger demographics. Critically, the Forum identified a direct causal link between the physical degradation of Iranian military capabilities and a measurable decline in “Global Intifada” social-media activity, confirming that much of the digital conflict is a state-sponsored disinformation effort. Domestically, the Mamdani Act serves as a vital legislative safeguard, prohibiting foreign religious legal frameworks such as Sharia law to ensure the absolute preservation of U.S. constitutional supremacy.

The global landscape reveals a widening bifurcation between the stagnation of “Old Europe” and the proactive stance of “New Europe” nations like Poland and the Baltic states, which increasingly prioritize bilateral U.S.-Israel cooperation. The Forum warns of worldwide influence of Qatar and Turkey and directs attention to the latest report by FDD on Qatari Investment in the U.S. Chinese, Russian, Qatari and Iranian investments in the cognitive war has resulted in a significant rise in antisemitism, especially in the Democratic Party. The future of U.S.-Israel relations could become party-dependent if not managed urgently.

Sarah Stern contributed a paper entitled, “The Gravity Of The Problem,” which reminded us that the relationship between Israel and the U.S. has historically been tense following war, with the U.S. often pressuring Israel to soften its stance to appease Arab neighbor states. Ultimately, the deliberations emphasize that the alliance’s future rests upon a proactive, regional leadership that rejects reactive

diplomacy. By prioritizing self-determination and mutual innovation, the United States and Israel can secure a stable, technologically superior and ideologically resilient partnership for the coming decade.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Security and Defense Interoperability: The evolving U.S.-Israel military relationship highlights the need to emphasize total interoperability over mere cooperation. Recent military operations have validated this approach, though the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) present challenges, as they restrict Israeli export flexibility due to stringent U.S. controls. The current Foreign Military Sales (FMS) model, which provides \$3.8 billion in annual credits, limits Israel's industrial autonomy and fosters dependency. A proposed Strategic Investment Model suggests shifting to co-production and private-sector investment to enhance Israeli independence, correct job-market distortions and boost joint research and development. This model aims to empower Israel militarily, while fostering a stronger collaborative environment for defense innovation.

Intelligence and Strategic Planning: Strategic planning is evolving toward a high-trust framework, with experts proposing a "Five Eyes for defense procurement," aiming for a treaty-based network of trusted nations to streamline weapons transactions and bypass bureaucratic hurdles. Key components include: Treaty-Based Procurement, advocating for Senate-approved treaties; "De-Europeanization" of regional diplomacy, suggesting Europe should exit both war and peace negotiations; and the Abraham Accords paradigm, which focuses on regional integration and economic cooperation, reducing external conflict influences. These strategies leverage advanced technology to enhance military collaboration. Furthermore, formal guarantees must be established to prevent political embargoes from interrupting essential supply chains during active military maneuvers. This policy is grounded in the tactical reality of combatants who were inside the Gaza Strip when the Biden administration's munitions embargo hit, directly altering maneuvers and emboldening regional adversaries.

Technology, R&D and Innovation: The tech sector plays a crucial role in U.S.-Israel relations, particularly in the realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Israel is seen not only as a consumer, but also a vital partner, with initiatives like the U.S.-Israel Tech Steering Committee and events such as the AI Expo shaping their collaborative future. Proposed reforms aim to address tax regulations that hinder Israeli R&D in the U.S., promoting deeper investment. This partnership is key for job creation and leadership in the AI field, particularly for younger generations, emphasizing their role in shaping the technological landscape. Ultimately, the bond is strengthened by shared values and resilience against ideological threats.

Culture, Resilience and the Information War: This pillar highlights the resilience of the Israeli public in confronting existential threats, particularly from Iran and its proxies, amid intense political debates; a national consensus exists with support for defense strategies. It also examines disinformation campaigns led by Qatar and Iran, aimed at undermining U.S.-Israel relations through soft dollars and a cognitive takeover of the United States. Common myths, such as claims of a "genocide" perpetrated by Israel, and portrayals of the P.A. as a peace-seeker, will be labeled as propaganda lies. Experts stress the importance of shifting from a defensive posture to proactively shaping the global narrative to combat these challenges. The alliance must address the staggering resource disparity in narrative defense, where adversaries like China invest \$50 billion annually, compared to a mere \$800 million from the U.S. Coordinated, increased budgets are required to synchronize global-engagement efforts and degrade the effectiveness of foreign information operations targeting Western youth.

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Anthony Benjamin
Fred J. Bernstein
Yossie Hollander

Gol Kalev
Morton Klein
Ruthie Lieberman
Dan Mariaschin
Sarah Stern

Jennifer Sutton
Jonathan S. Tobin
Harold Luks

**JUDEA & SAMARIA: HISTORICAL
RIGHTS VS. CURRENT
CHALLENGES**

FORUM VIII



SUMMARY:

The Judea & Samaria: Historical Rights Vs. Current Challenges Forum marks a historical move toward implementing high-level operational policy-making in the Judea & Samaria region. The Forum advocates for the de jure termination of the Oslo Accords, citing more than 30 years of systemic P.A. violations and the murder of thousands of Israelis by the P.A. and other terrorist organizations in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Current clinical assessments reveal a P.A. military buildup that quadruples the permitted strength, utilizing expressly prohibited weapons and conducting training exercises specifically designed to seize Israeli communities. This represents a clear and present danger to Judea, Samaria and the entire State of Israel.

A unified policy voice within community leadership is no longer a preference; it is a strategic imperative to ensure stability as the formerly grassroots movement transitions into state-level political initiatives. This evolution successfully bridges the conceptual debate on sovereignty with the specific legislative and administrative actions required to bring order to the heartland.

The current discourse has matured into an institutionalized framework for permanent infrastructure and governance based on relevant day-to-day issues, including security, land claims, the environment, (add others here) etc.

The Forum recognizes the game-changing public opening of the land registry and the positive impact it will have on civil normalization and property rights. This domestic progress is bolstered by the Regavim lawsuit settlement, in which the U.S. government provided a written commitment that it will not interfere in the sovereignty of the State of Israel regarding activities in Judea and Samaria.

To counter international pressure, the Forum recommends the urgent creation of a regional banking system that insulates domestic transactions from the IBAN system, therefore making it sanction-proof. Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich is identified as the vital actor to finalize these economic safeguards before the 2026 Knesset elections, ensuring the movement is resilient against future diplomatic shifts. This strategy signals a new direction that prioritizes domestic rule of law over the international consensus previously sought on the issue.

In addition, the Forum proposes an "environmental sovereignty" framework for aquifer protection—a common denominator for bipartisan engagement—and the "Derech HaTanakh" (Route 60) initiative. These measures institutionalize security, protect sovereignty, expand access to banking and regulate the environment, while reclaiming the modern and Biblical narrative of Israel's right to the land through physical infrastructure. This paradigm shift underscores the necessity of moving beyond failed diplomatic models toward a singular, cohesive policy voice.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

De Jure Termination of the Oslo Framework: Security data indicate that the P.A. military has exceeded size and strength limits set by agreements, utilizing prohibited weapons. This presents a legal basis for Israel to declare the Oslo framework null and void, thereby ending cooperation with

the P.A., which has failed to adhere to its treaty obligations and instead prepared for conflict. By independently defining the successor governance model, Israel reclaims the strategic initiative and counters the 2004 ICJ Advisory Opinion by asserting a new legal reality that rejects the P.A.'s "jud-enrein" narrative.

Formal Application of Israeli Sovereignty: Immediate sovereignty is essential to prevent the reversibility of settlement gains. A lack of a formal legal ownership claim implies that Israeli presence is temporary. By declaring sovereignty, the State transfers the legal burden of proof to the international community, changing the status from "belligerent occupation" to domestic administration, thereby neutralizing the risk of future political reversals and external "solutions." This move also provides the legal finality required to prevent the establishment of an Iranian-backed state in the heartland, functioning as a definitive security barrier against regional destabilization.

Administrative Land Registry and Normalization: The recent allocation of 80 million shekels by the government for land surveys marks a significant change in property-rights normalization. Previously classified records created a "legal fog" obstructing civil development. By making the land registry public and completing surveys, the government ends the "classification" regime, aligning Judea and Samaria administratively with the rest of Israel, which is essential for permanent civil integration. Normalizing these sectors transitions the region from a frontier to a stable economic engine, creating physical facts that make the regional administrative presence irreversible.

Integration of "Derech HaTanakh" into the National Narrative: This initiative adopts Yishai Fleisher's proposal to rename Route 60 as "Derech HaTanakh" (The Biblical Highway) and leverages Gideon's focus on American state-level recognition of ancestral names. This plan elevates biblical consciousness and serves as a potent diplomatic tool, grounding Israeli claims in historical continuity that directly challenges the "occupation" lexicon in international discourse.

Financial Sanction-Proofing and Economic Sovereignty: The movement aims to protect the regional economy from foreign interference and political purges by proposing an independent banking system in Judea and Samaria. This initiative seeks to shield financial institutions from the international IBAN system and global political pressure, establishing economic sovereignty for Israel. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich is tasked with creating sovereign safeguards to ensure the protection of citizens and organizations from external economic warfare.

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**ISRAEL'S VIBRANT DEMOCRACY:
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

FORUM IX



SUMMARY:

The Israel's Vibrant Democracy Forum highlights a growing gap between institutional norms and democratic accountability. It identifies the “deep state” and expanding judicial power as critical vulnerabilities, examining the ideological tensions challenging the State's democratic foundations.

One key concern was judicial encroachment undermining Western democratic norms. The Forum cites how the court's involvement in national security—intervening in the appointment of the head of the Shin Bet and curtailing targeted assassinations—illustrates this risk. The dismissal of the controversial “Force 100” case, seen as unjust, exemplifies this critique and reflects the power shift toward unelected elites, exacerbating societal alienation, especially among groups feeling unrepresented by a judiciary acting outside traditional democratic bounds.

Additionally, the Forum addresses the challenges posed by the integration of the Haredi community and the representation of women in politics. With Haredim constituting 40% of first-graders, their perception of democracy as foreign highlights significant “democratic challenges.” The exclusion of women in certain political contexts further complicates the interplay between religious self-governance and democratic ideals. This void in democratic education endangers Israel's long-term stability—economic and political—by risking national cohesion.

Participants argued that Israel's governance challenges are not solely institutional, but cultural as well. Democratic resilience depends not only on checks and balances, but on the successful transmission of Jewish identity from one generation to the next. Several participants expressed concern that progressive ideological frameworks imported from abroad have gained significant influence within parts of Israel's education system and public discourse, with the effect of marginalizing Jewish identity, Zionist values and national purpose. They argued that a democracy cannot remain strong if it loses confidence in the cultural and historical foundations upon which it was built.

Despite these challenges, the Forum maintains an optimistic perspective, drawing on Israel's historical resilience. Citing Theodor Herzl, the discussions emphasized that Zionism inherently embodied democratic principles prior to statehood, fostering a representative structure. This “Jewish and Democratic” state, having endured continuous conflict, has remained resilient. Ultimately, the Forum concludes that the prevailing democratic spirit among the majority serves as a safeguard against institutional decline.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Reform Judicial Standing and Standards: The Knesset should legislate strict criteria for “standing” and “reasonableness” to ensure that the Supreme Court adjudicates cases involving direct injury rather than abstract policy preferences. This would restore the boundary between judicial oversight and executive prerogative, returning policy sovereignty to elected representatives. Participants also stressed the need to clarify the role of legal advisers as advisers rather than veto-holders and to ensure that elected governments can appoint and replace ministry legal advisers.

Mandate Equitable Representation in Publicly Funded Parties: Legislative frameworks must be established to ensure that any political party receiving state funding includes women on their electoral lists, specifically targeting sectors that currently exclude them. Enhancing gender representation is essential for the substantive legitimacy of a democracy that must reflect its entire constituency.

Institutionalize Civic Education within the Haredi Sector. The Ministry of Education should implement a curriculum focused on the “mother’s milk” of democratic values to transition the Haredi community from a “Pale of Settlement” mindset to full national integration. By instilling a “Pledge of Allegiance” level of civic commitment, the state can bridge the gap between sectarian isolation and active democratic participation.

Establish Independent Oversight for Investigative Cyber-Surveillance: The government must create a transparent, non-partisan body to regulate the use of “roglog” (spyware) and ensure that investigative abuses are subject to public accountability rather than internal burial. This mechanism is vital to protect civil liberties from the perceived encroachment of a “deep state” investigative apparatus.

Protect National Security Operations from Judicial Encroachment: New legal protocols should be enacted to shield rules of engagement and high-level security appointments from judicial interference, preserving the military’s operational effectiveness. This ensures that the executive retains the primary responsibility for defending the State without the constraints of a non-representative judiciary. Participants further emphasized that security agencies must remain accountable to elected civilian leadership within the framework of the law and that unelected security officials should not be permitted to effectively override lawful decisions of elected governments.

Restore Jewish and Zionist Education within the General School System: Participants argued that democratic resilience requires not only procedural knowledge of democracy, but also a strong understanding of Jewish identity, Zionist history and the historical foundations of the Jewish state. They called for greater transparency regarding external organizations and educational programs operating in schools and for periodic review of educational curriculum and materials to ensure they reflect Israel’s identity as a Jewish state.

Leverage Historical Traditions of Self-Governance: State-sponsored programs should emphasize the First Zionist Congress as a model of elected assembly that preceded territory and statehood. Institutionalizing these historical precedents reinforces the concept that democratic participation is an indigenous component of Jewish national identity rather than a foreign imposition.

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**CHALLENGES IN THE
INTERNATIONAL ARENA**

FORUM X



SUMMARY:

We are at a shaky time. This JNS Policy Forum is taking place, when Israel stands to evolve from reactive crisis management to a proactive “Pax Israeliana” doctrine of hegemonic stability. While the March 26 session occurred under the desperation of a 500-missile Iranian barrage, the subsequent meetings saw Israel establishing itself as a regional security anchor capable of transforming international challenges into strategic leverage. By asserting its role as a regional architect, Israel has shifted its posture from a state under siege to the primary guarantor of regional order. This transition ensures that Israeli sovereignty is no longer a defensive claim, but the foundation for an assertive statecraft that converts every external challenge into a point of enduring strategic advantage. This Forum discussed how to most effectively use Israel’s position in the international arena to bring order to the region and draw support from the Jewish community outside of Israel.

The landscape between the Feb. 28, 2026, commencement of the Iran war and the June summit was defined by the “Three Collapses”: Iranian deterrence, the traditional peace process paradigm and international institutional credibility. Israeli operations are thought to have had a significant impact on Iranian nuclear infrastructure and resulted in severely diminished production capacities, yet the diplomatic environment fractured as the “Hungarian veto” was lost at the E.U. Foreign Policy meeting. This erosion of Israel’s single-country firewall signals that international institutions have failed, making military reality the most valid diplomatic currency. Likewise, the Jewish response to antisemitism has become a strategic point of focus in how Israel functions in the international arena. We now require a coordinated attack against the U.N., Hollywood, universities and press houses that espouse antisemitic views.

To stabilize this environment, the Forum synthesized five policy pillars into a unified “victory doctrine.” Pillar I converts military success into a permanent “deterrence-first” posture, providing the foundation for Pillar II’s offensive lawfare. Israel must now initiate universal jurisdiction cases against Iranian and Hezbollah commanders, leveraging documented IRGC attacks on Saudi refineries and the Kuwait airport to build a coalition of co-plaintiffs. This security bedrock enables a Middle East “defense shield” (Pillar III), employing a “Saudi workaround” where integration into the Arrow 3 layered missile- defense architecture facilitates normalization via technological indispensability, despite public hostility. This is sustained by a “strategic communications command” (Pillar IV) that bypasses traditional media to frame the conflict as an offensive by enemies of the West against the West itself and serve as a wakeup call to the global Jewish community that support of Israel is the best way to fight antisemitism. Meanwhile, Pillar V utilizes the “Virginia Model” as a state-level legislative template to dismantle the antisemitism-delegitimization nexus.

Ultimately, this framework positions Israel as the indispensable security anchor of the post-war Middle East. As articulated by Forum leadership, Pax Israeliana creates a reality in which rational regional actors must seek partnership based on Israeli military and intelligence supremacy, regardless of prevailing institutional hostility. This doctrine moves beyond historical grievances to establish a new moral litmus test: To effectively combat antisemitism in the modern era, one must be pro-Israel. By prioritizing military effectiveness over reputational management, Israel ensures that its sovereignty remains the bedrock of regional order, establishing “victory doctrine” that serves as the definitive new baseline for international relations.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Establishment of a Strategic Communications Command: Israel must bypass legacy media structures to launch an offensive “moral-clarity campaign” that frames its national defense as the front line of Western interest-protection. This transforms the narrative from a localized conflict into a global necessity, forcing international partners to view Israeli security as synonymous with their own civilizational stability. This framework moves beyond traditional “hasbara” toward an offensive legal and political posture. It advocates for identifying and neutralizing the specific institutional engines and organizational centers driving modern antisemitism and delegitimization. By shifting from a defensive to an offensive posture, Israel can disrupt the supply chains of anti-Israel sentiment at their source, forcing adversaries to defend their own legitimacy rather than constantly responding to their accusations. (Further analysis can be found in this report by Shimon Cohen.)

Transition to a Mutual-Defense Architecture: The U.S.-Israel relationship should shift from an aid-dependent model to a peer-level mutual-defense partnership in which Israel manages regional security interests to allow U.S. outsourcing. This shift is essential to mitigating political volatility in Congress and addressing the decreasing utility of traditional aid models in a polarized Washington.

Launch of an Offensive Lawfare and Transparency Strategy: Instead of a defensive posture, Israel must actively delegitimize the delegitimizers—specifically biased international bodies like the ICC and ICJ—by exposing their institutional prejudices. This strategy erodes the authority of these institutions, making their legal maneuvers politically and diplomatically inconsequential on the world stage.

Creation of a Task Force to Track and Expose Qatari-Bought Influence: Israel should go on the attack against Qatari influence in universities, institutions, media outlets, think tanks and charities. Negative exposure could delegitimize the anti-Israel bias coming from organizations willing to take Qatari money. Additionally, the Financial Task Force can also investigate and bring to light cases of discrimination against Israel in international banking. Currently, the flagging of Israel as a “high-risk” counterparty is causing great costs and difficulties for financial institutions working with Israeli businesses and individuals. While no such policy officially exists, experts in the sector have noticed its impact and suggest that the Financial Task Force publicly expose this hidden discrimination.

Expansion of the IMEC Trade and Defense Corridor: Priority must be given to the India-Middle East-Europe (IMEC) corridor to integrate energy, trade and defense networks with Sunni Arab states. Successful integration turns temporary security cooperation into permanent economic dependency, making Israeli stability a prerequisite for regional prosperity.

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**THE CHRISTIAN-ISRAEL
ALLIANCE**

FORUM XI



SUMMARY:

The Christian-Israel Alliance Forum plays a crucial role in the evolving relationship between Christian and Israeli communities, emphasizing the necessity for their mutual survival in an increasingly unstable global environment. This partnership reflects a significant ideological shift from “Replacement Theology” to “Covenant Theology,” which underpins the assertion of ancestral rights and acknowledges Jews as the indigenous people of their land. At the core of this theology is the interpretation of Genesis 12:3, which establishes a dichotomy: While Israel embodies a positive global force through significant contributions in science and medicine, it also faces ramifications from international bodies like UNRWA and the ICC if they oppose the Jewish state. This theological perspective establishes a necessary moral and legal framework for addressing present geopolitical challenges.

The Forum advocates for the abandonment of the term “West Bank,” promoting “Judea and Samaria” instead, as part of recognizing sovereign rights rooted in historical and ancestral claims. There exists a stark disparity in human rights across the region; while areas in Northern Africa and the Middle East face systemic violence against Christians—as highlighted by the diminishing Christian populations in Bethlehem under Arab rule—Israel stands as the only nation safeguarding and promoting Christian communities. The Forum also supports democratic reform in a post-Iranian-regime era and warns against the risks posed by the “two-state solution,” especially regarding its implications for Saudi participation in the Abraham Accords, viewing it as detrimental to both biblical and historical contexts.

Additionally, in response to contemporary media narratives, the Forum stresses the importance of confronting malign influences, such as Qatari funding affecting American academia and the internal divisions it incites within the Republican Party and the MAGA movement. This influence has been linked to rising anti-Zionism, perceived as a contemporary form of antisemitism, fueled by media figures like Tucker Carlson and Candace Owens. To effectively engage with Generation Z, the Forum suggests a communication strategy that showcases Israel’s substantial humanitarian and technological impact on global issues, in addition to scriptural references.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Institutionalize Aggressive Counter-Measures Against Media-Driven Disinformation: Policy frameworks must explicitly identify and rebut the “mind virus” narratives promoted by figures like Tucker Carlson and Candace Owens, who weaponize replacement theology to alienate the Christian base. We must prioritize high-level briefings that expose these rhetoric-driven schisms as coordinated attacks on the stability of the Western pro-Israel coalition.

Formalize Nomenclature Reflecting Indigenous Rights and Biblical Sovereignty: Administrative and diplomatic protocols should mandate the use of “Judea and Samaria” over the term “West Bank” to correctly identify the region as Israel’s ancestral heartland and the seat of indigenous Jewish rights. This shift serves as a preemptive defense against international pressure for a two-state solution in a potential post-Iran regional landscape where Saudi influence may demand territorial concessions.

Standardize the Legal Definition of Anti-Zionism as Antisemitism: Policy directors must advocate for the universal adoption of frameworks that classify the delegitimization of the State of Israel as a contemporary manifestation of ethnic and religious prejudice. This clarity is essential for protecting Jewish and Christian students on university campuses currently targeted by extremist ideological movements and hybrid threats.

Enforce Transparency and Disclosure for Qatari-Funded Academic Influence: Legislation must be advanced to investigate and expose the impact of Qatari-funded university professorships that facilitate psychological operations against Israel under the guise of academic freedom. Monitoring these financial flows is vital to reclaiming the integrity of Western educational institutions and safeguarding the democratic process from foreign influence-peddling.

Highlight the Bethlehem Demographic Crisis as a Metric for Regional Human Rights: Foreign policy should leverage data regarding the decline of Bethlehem's Christian population from around 90% to below 10%, to contrast regional Islamic repression with Israel's model of religious protection. By framing Israel as the indispensable guardian of faith-based communities, the alliance can shift the international narrative from Israeli "oppression" to Israeli "protection."

Pivot Generational Engagement Toward a Framework of Universal Utility: To resonate with Gen Z, messaging must supplement the biblical mandate of Genesis 12:3, with a focus on Israel's role as a global humanitarian and technological superpower. Highlighting Israeli genius in solving water crises and medical challenges provides a tangible value proposition for a generation that increasingly prioritizes humanitarian utility over traditional theological tenets.

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THE RESERVISTS

FORUM XII



SUMMARY:

The Reservists Forum highlights a change in Israel following the mobilization initiated on Oct. 7, as the conflict shifts to a “continuous task” phase. The traditional model of citizen-soldiers is under unprecedented strain, prompting a call for a re-evaluation toward a substantive “national priority” framework that secures societal resilience. This transition emphasizes the need for economic stabilization for individual reservists as vital to maintaining the reserves system.

A modernized social contract is necessary, whereby the current restrictive voucher-based benefits are replaced with direct, flexible financial compensation. The existing salary structure, based on a standard 40-hour civilian workweek, fails to account for the operational demands on reservists, who may be on call for 168 hours a week. Introducing differential pay contingent on service intensity is critical for long-term retention of reservists and their morale. A 5% loss in national work hours has been observed, particularly impacting high-productivity sectors like construction (11% loss) and communications (8% loss), which adversely affects national GDP. To counter this vulnerability, it is essential for the government to prioritize procurement from small businesses owned by reservists, ensuring that they are not financially disadvantaged while serving the nation. Furthermore, bureaucratic hurdles undermining economic support must be addressed.

Forum members advocated a two-pronged approach to improving life for reservists in Israel. First, there are efforts to increase the size of benefits due to reservists, including more education, which should be paid for at the expense of entitlement programs benefiting portions of the population that do not serve in the IDF. Additionally, better supplies and equipment should come from standard government spending. However, Forum members also argued that volunteer organizations currently play an important role for field-equipment supply, and yet encounter significant regulatory challenges in the process. Recent import reforms by the Economy Ministry have hindered the entry of essential life-saving equipment for non-profits, forcing them into commercial import frameworks that are financially unfeasible. This situation threatens the donor pipeline identified as crucial for troop safety. There is an urgent need to reinstate tax exemptions and abolish the 17% Value-Added Tax on tactical gear to restore these critical supply chains.

Additionally, the Forum criticizes the “over-legalization” of military operations, labeling it a key barrier to national security. The proposal includes removing legal advisers from operational decision-making to enhance military effectiveness and fiscal responsibility. Achieving a decisive victory, characterized by the complete defeat of opposing forces and territorial losses, is argued to be more cost-effective than engaging in cycles of temporary ceasefires. A doctrine advocating for heightened lethality is proposed, suggesting that a robust army, capable of swift, overwhelming victory, is ultimately more sustainable than a smaller force requiring continuous mobilization. The shift away from a “small army” mentality to one focused on deterrent strength is deemed essential for enduring national security.

POLICY PROPOSALS:

Economic Parity and Tiered Compensation: Reservists frequently operate on a 20-hour daily combat cycle compared to a standard nine-hour civilian day, creating a severe hourly discrepancy that

standard salary equalization fails to address. This policy implements a tiered compensation model that reflects the physical intensity and existential risk of active service, ensuring that combat pay scales significantly exceed civilian benchmarks.

Veteran-Owned Small Business Procurement Preference: The State must establish a centralized database for reservist-owned enterprises to facilitate a national mandate for government and municipal procurement prioritization. Modeled on successful U.S. federal standards, this policy protects the professional livelihoods of entrepreneurs who are frequently absent from the market due to long-term deployment.

Legal Reform and “Victory-Oriented” Rules of Engagement: This policy streamlines judicial oversight to prioritize mission success and soldier safety. The objective is to remove the legalistic handcuffs that currently hinder the destruction of enemy capabilities in favor of ineffective containment strategies.

National Priority Status for Higher Education and Housing: Currently, reservists frequently receive a negligible 5% Arnona (city tax) discount, while non-serving demographics benefit from 95% exemptions, a discrepancy that must be inverted to reflect true national priorities. This policy further guarantees top-tier admission priority for medical schools and subsidized childcare to ensure defenders are not professionally penalized for their service.

Formalized Spousal and Family Support Infrastructure: Recognizing the spouse as “the engine” of the reserves system, the State will issue a digital “Reservist Family Card” to provide immediate civilian-sector benefits and recognition. This solution facilitates automatic discounts and priority services, acknowledging the immense strain placed on the home front during extended deployments. Recognizing the burdens of transportation to bases on a single-vehicle family, the government should cancel the purchase tax on one vehicle every five years for those performing active reserve duty.

Regulatory Framework for International Military Support: The State must establish a legal pipeline that distinguishes between “combat equipment” and “charitable support” to protect Diaspora donors from the regulatory risks recently observed in Canada and the United States. This streamlined framework resolves tax complications and charity-law hurdles, ensuring that global Jewish support can be harnessed effectively and legally to bolster IDF capabilities. Additionally, IDF spending on equipment should take precedence over other financial obligations, including general pensions.

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