



ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel
From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

and UJAs on the one side and the grassroots groups like Tafsik and Unapologetically Jewish and even B'nai Brith."

Korobkin argued that some Canadian politicians are more concerned with electoral considerations than confronting

Commentary...

Mounting Antisemitic Attacks, Institutional Failures Leave Canadian Jews Asking: Stay or Go? By Atara Beck

Rabbi Daniel Korobkin, spiritual leader of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, Canada's largest Orthodox synagogue, moved from Los Angeles to the Greater Toronto Area in 2011.

Comparing Canada then and now, "I think it's two completely different countries," he told The Algemeiner. "This isn't just my opinion. I speak to Canadians who have lived here their entire lives."

Korobkin and his wife moved from the United States to Canada "because we saw it as a goldene medina, just like the United States," he explained.

However, after then-Prime Minister Stephen Harper was unseated by Justin Trudeau in 2015, the prominent rabbi described a slow decline in the Canadian economy, followed by infringements on individual freedom during the COVID pandemic. But that "does not necessarily spell disaster for the Jewish community because the Jewish community had not been singled out," he noted — until everything changed.

"Then we got to Oct. 7, 2023," Korobkin said, referring to the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas's invasion of and massacre across southern Israel.

Korobkin's story is one of several relayed by Jewish leaders, activists, and experts who spoke to The Algemeiner about what has become an alarmingly hostile environment for Canadian Jews, many of whom are now actively discussing whether to emigrate from a country they once considered a haven.

Just last month, the national statistical office of Canada revealed that Canadian Jews were the targets of more than 70 percent of religion-motivated hate crimes and 16.7 percent of all hate crimes, regardless of category, reported to police in 2025, despite making up less than 1 percent of the country's population.

According to observers on the ground, one source of this surging antisemitism is a growing Muslim population comprised largely of immigrants from regions where animus toward Israel is rampant.

"There are at least five or six times as many Muslims as Jews in Canada today, and the Muslims have organized themselves," Korobkin said. "They have really got their act together ... and part of the Islamist philosophy or creed is to bring sharia law to wherever they live."

Korobkin stressed that this is "not representative of the entire Muslim community." However, he noted, "in many of the radicalized Muslim voices that we see today, just like we see it in the UK and France and Australia, the creed is to dominate and silence all dissenting voices."

According to Korobkin, the Jewish establishment in Canada is not handling the problem the way it needs to.

"I think there's a certain amount of kowtowing to Canadian political leaders. It's a strategy that I don't think will work," he lamented. "When the UJA [United Jewish Appeal] tells you that they scored a great victory in getting more security funding, all that means is that they managed to convince the government to give us more money to build higher walls and barbed-wire fences around our institutions. That's not a good way to fight antisemitism, but that's all they've got right now."

In contrast, the grassroots movements are "pushing back hard," Korobkin explained. "They're saying, 'We're going to be in your face. We're not going to take this lying down. We're not going to retreat into our ghettos and our higher-walled fences.' And that, I think, is the difference between the CIJAs [Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs]

extremism. "And that, I fear, is a recipe for a very dark future for the Jewish community in Canada."

"That doesn't mean that all is lost and there's no possibility for course correction," Korobkin added. "But I will say this: There has never been a worse time to be Jewish in Canada than today, perhaps with the exception of during World War II."

Prof. Irwin Cotler, international chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights and a former justice minister, served as Canada's first special envoy on preserving Holocaust remembrance and combatting antisemitism from November 2020 to October 2023.

Cotler said antisemitism had historically been viewed through a "triangular paradigm" of threats from the far right, far left, and radical Islam.

"However, my principal finding at the conclusion of my first year as special envoy in 2021 was that while this conventional paradigm remained, what we were now witnessing was the mainstreaming, normalization, and legitimization of antisemitism in the political culture, the popular culture, the entertainment culture, the sports culture, and, in particular, the campus culture, the whole amidst indifference and inaction, let alone the absence of outrage," he explained.

In February, Prime Minister Mark Carney eliminated both the office of the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism and the office of the Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia, replacing them with a broader Advisory Council on Rights, Equality, and Inclusion.

On June 1, in an address to the Jewish community at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, Canada's largest synagogue, Carney acknowledged the rise in antisemitism and announced the official launch of the Advisory Council, chaired by Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture Marc Miller, saying its first priority would be tackling the antisemitism crisis.

The Advisory Council includes lawyer Avnish Nanda and former Transport Minister Omar Alghabra.

Nanda has represented anti-Israel students who were evicted from an encampment at the University of Alberta.

Alghabra is the former president of the Canadian Arab Federation, which, after his tenure, lost federal funding over its support of Hamas and Hezbollah. In 2022, he defended his attendance at a Canada-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group reception hosted by Nazih Khatatba, editor of an Arabic-language newspaper accused of spreading antisemitism. In 2005, Alghabra criticized then-Toronto police Chief Bill Blair for participating in a Walk with Israel event and traveling to Israel.

Carney's speech "acknowledged the scourge of antisemitism and that the covenant with the Jewish community had been breached, but there was no reference to Israel, no reference to anti-Zionism as a cover for antisemitism, and there was no mention of the ongoing delegitimization, dehumanization, and demonization of Israel, which is what has, in effect, put a target on the back of every Canadian Jew," Cotler said.

"Regarding the Advisory Council, as I said when it was announced, such a council, while necessary to combat all forms of hate, tends to marginalize or erase the singularity of anti-Jewish hatred, its globality, and its descent into standing threats of intimidation, harassment, violence and even terrorism."

However, Cotler added, "the inclusion of Omar Alghabra and Avnish Nanda on the committee is not the problem — it is the establishment of yet another advisory council, with a broad-based agenda and without the requisite expertise to understand and combat antisemitism, when what is needed is moral, political, and juridical

leadership at the highest levels, as an expression of what Prime Minister Carney has himself called a ‘whole of government’ policy.”

For some community leaders, the post-Oct. 7 surge in antisemitism reveals not just a troubling level of hostility toward Canadian Jews but also the end of a “golden” era of acceptance and flourishing for them.

“I think the golden age of Canadian Jewry effectively ended Sept. 21, 2025. That was the date that Carney recognized the sovereign state of Palestine. That was the message to the Jews that you’re no longer welcome in this country,” Frank Dimant, former executive vice president of B’nai Brith Canada, told *The Algemeiner*.

As for the Advisory Council, “it’s ridiculous,” he said. “The time for studying antisemitism is long past. We know what antisemitism is. We know who’s behind it. We know the demographics in this country that are driving some of the antisemitism. We understand that.”

Dimant called out the council’s membership for including individuals who do more to foster than combat animus toward Jews.

“To add insult to injury, appointing a man who thought Hamas should be legitimized in this country, a man who supported the actions against Israel, a man who is no friend of our community should sit on an advisory committee on how to deal with antisemitism. That is literally spitting in the face of the Jewish community,” he decried.

“I would have expected a major outcry from the Jewish liberals,” Dimant continued. “I thought that this would be a moral test for them — a moment of truth, because the hypocrisy is so great and so evident. There was a whimper. Quite frankly, I would have expected Marc Gold to resign.”

The *Algemeiner* contacted Gold, a former law professor and senator who is the lone Jew on the council, but he was reluctant to grant media interviews before knowing “more about how the council will operate, what its work plan will be, and so on.”

The council met on June 29 to get to know one another, Gold said. “However, the draft workplan has not yet been circulated for our comments and input, so it is still premature for me to comment.”

As of this writing, he said, “there is no update.”

Miller told *The Algemeiner* that the council “met for the first time on June 29 to begin its work to advise on key actions to tackle antisemitism, strengthen social cohesion, rally Canadians around our shared identity, and combat all forms of racism and hate.”

“In the meantime, Canada is taking significant action to combat antisemitism and hate through a coordinated, whole-of-government approach,” he said.

“In 2024, the government launched Canada’s Action Plan on Combatting Hate. Since then, Canadian Heritage has provided approximately \$18 million in funding to over 115 anti-hate projects across the country.”

Some in the Jewish community knew there would be “an outburst of antisemitism, but we didn’t know when it would come,” Dimant said.

“But we saw it developing in academia. We saw it being transmitted to students, the future leaders. Very often, I would speak on the dangers of the next generation that has been inculcated with so much hate against us and against Israel.”

Dimant recalled “the fight that B’nai Brith led against having Israel Apartheid Week at University of Toronto,” where it was launched in 2005.

“It was the trial balloon for having it throughout the world,” he said. “I remember our delegation met with the senior leadership of U of T, and we warned them that they’re opening a Pandora’s box that no one will be able to close.”

“Sadly, at that time, we were undermined by someone from the Jewish establishment who said it was a matter of academic freedom,” he said, declining to name the individual. “And the rest is history.”

The Jewish community was “caught totally off guard” in the aftermath of Oct. 7, Dimant continued, but the anti-Israel side was not.

“The fact that you had demonstrations the day after Oct. 7 throughout the world with the same kinds of slogans and the same kinds of placards shows they were prepared.”

While Dimant maintains that the Jewish establishment did not take the looming threat seriously enough, he praised the grassroots groups that emerged after the Hamas attack.

Matthew Taub had never been a community activist, but when his neighborhood became a battleground, he rose to the challenge.

His grassroots organization, Unapologetically Jewish, has 70,000 followers and a team of volunteers. It does not fundraise.

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January, there was “a beautiful ceremony in Ottawa attended by a couple of Jewish locals, a couple of rabbis, and organization representatives,” Taub said.

A week later, on the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia, “the Muslims brought 200 youth to Parliament to meet with MPs and show them their culture,” he said. “And what do Jews do? They stand outside with their CEOs and make statements.”

“I want to bring a proud Jewish voice back to Parliament,” he said. “An unapologetic voice, because growing up, we were taught to be quiet.”

Taub has focused on direct activism, speaking with lawmakers, meeting with police, and helping bring cases to authorities that resulted in arrests.

“We’re in the middle of a forest fire. Everywhere we turn, there’s another tree on fire — antisemitic rallies, school boards. So much to deal with.”

“I believe there’s a future for Jews in Canada, but we have to fight for it. The pendulum is swinging one way. It has to swing back, but it’s only going to happen if everybody does something about it.”

“Like any other Jewish person feeling any connection to their people and to Israel, I was deeply traumatized by the events of Oct. 7,” said immigration lawyer Guidy Mamann, president of the Toronto Zionist Council.

Hamas leader Khaled Mashal called for a “Global Day of Jihad” on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, Mamann recalled.

“Mainstream Jewish organizations advised parents to keep their kids home from school, not to wear kippot or Jewish symbols, and so on,” he said. “I didn’t agree with that.”

That Friday, Mamann and a couple of friends went to the corner of Sheppard Avenue and Bathurst Street, in the heart of the Jewish community, and stood waving Canadian and Israeli flags.

Many drivers stopped to thank them, some in tears, Mamann said. It became clear how deeply the situation had affected people, so they began gathering weekly. The crowd eventually grew to dozens.

“I vowed to go until every hostage in Gaza is returned,” Mamann said. “We went for 107 weeks straight — we didn’t miss a week, not even on Yom Tov — until every hostage was back home, dead or alive.”

In May 2024, retired attorney Mark Sandler founded the Alliance of Canadians Combatting Antisemitism, or ALCCA, a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to combating rising antisemitism.

“What we’re finding in Canada is that there are so many instances of antisemitism that it’s an all-consuming exercise,” Sandler said. “And so, I deal with antisemites in the morning, in the afternoon, and in the evening.”

“I was the national chair of B’nai Brith Canada’s League for Human Rights in the ’80s,” he explained. “I was dealing with campus activity at Concordia and at McGill and York University and so on. But it wasn’t mainstream antisemitism at that point in time, and we were far more focused on neo-Nazi extremism and white supremacists at the time. The so-called progressive left was not the focus like it is now. And I think the Jewish community became complacent about its role in Canadian society.”

“We thought we had won the battle on antisemitism and that the people who were engaging in it were outliers,” he said.

“And I think a bunch of things contributed to that complacency,” he continued. “The first is that I don’t think the Jewish community was aware of, or monitoring, the extent to which foreign money was influencing hiring at universities and the kind of education being provided. And I think that snuck up on us and has been a real revelation. The other is that I just don’t think we took seriously what was going on in terms of indoctrinating young people at universities.”

Sandler also discussed antisemitism at the preschool and

elementary school levels.

He cited “A Survey on Antisemitism in Ontario’s K–12 Schools” by Robert Brym, S.D. Clark professor of sociology emeritus at the University of Toronto. The survey documented 781 antisemitic incidents reported by 599 Jewish parents, nearly half of which were not investigated by schools.

Nearly one in six incidents involved a teacher or school-sanctioned activity, according to the report, which was commissioned by the now-defunct Office of the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism and released in July 2025.

“It’s a shocking report because they’re not formally teaching APR, anti-Palestinian racism, in the public schools, even though the Toronto District School Board passed a motion to introduce anti-Palestinian racism. It hasn’t been operationalized yet,” Sandler said.

“The incidents include everything from saying, ‘Hitler should have finished the job,’ ‘You Jews should be put in a gas chamber,’ to ‘You are a baby killer,’ and ‘You’re only half human.’ Non-Jewish children are saying that to little kids in elementary school.”

The report also noted underreporting, Sandler said, because many people are afraid to come forward.

Sandler said he was disappointed by Carney’s speech on June 1 “because although he acknowledged that Canada is failing in its commitment to the Jewish community, he never uttered the word ‘anti-Zionism.’ He never uttered the word ‘Israel.’”

“You cannot effectively address antisemitism unless you acknowledge how contemporary antisemitism is being manifested,” he argued. “And it’s being manifested in part through the demonization and delegitimization of Zionism, of anyone who supports Israel’s right to exist, which, of course, is the vast majority of Canadian Jews and Israeli Canadians.”

Sandler was invited to address the government advisory council’s first meeting and said he told members they could not succeed unless they wrestled with anti-Zionism and Islamist extremism, while distinguishing between Muslims and radical Islamists.

The prime minister “has rightly elevated Canada’s antisemitism crisis from a concern for the Jewish community to a national issue that should matter to every Canadian,” according to Noah Shack, CEO of the Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs. “His acknowledgment that antisemitism is ‘specific, severe, and demands a targeted response,’ and that Canada is failing its Jewish citizens, reflects the seriousness of the moment.”

But Shack was quick to follow up that words must be followed by specific, “concrete” steps.

“Recognition must now be matched with action,” he said. “Instead of announcing urgent, concrete measures, the government established an advisory council to further examine a crisis that has already been studied extensively. Equally concerning, the council includes individuals whose records raise serious questions about their suitability to help lead the government’s response to antisemitism.”

Carney’s address to the community was “a missed opportunity,” said Aron Csaplaros, B.C. regional manager for B’nai Brith Canada.

“We don’t have an awareness problem about antisemitism. We know how bad the problem is. We have reports such as our audit.”

B’nai Brith Canada’s Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents for 2025 recorded a record 6,800 anti-Jewish incidents, a 9.3% increase from the previous year and the highest number recorded since the audit began in 1982.

Furthermore, 27 violent antisemitic incidents have been documented in 2026 up to the end of July, putting the country on track for its most violent year for the Jewish community in recent memory. On Aug. 1, a kosher restaurant in Montreal was burned to the ground.

“The prime minister’s address was lacking in terms of concrete action that should be taken,” Csaplaros said.

While Western Canada has not experienced the same level of physical violence seen in cities such as Toronto and Montreal, he said there are serious concerns, including Islamic hate preachers whom B’nai Brith reported to police 22 years ago.

“It’s still an ongoing file,” he said.

“I don’t want to say it’s only a matter of time because I hope it

doesn’t happen here,” Csaplaros added.

He also pointed to problems involving unions, schools, and college campuses that are “very similar to what people are feeling in eastern Canada.”

Entrepreneurs Amir Epstein and Bryan Lipovsky co-founded Tafsik, Hebrew for “Stop,” a new Jewish civil rights organization, in the aftermath of Oct. 7.

“It became clear that we could no longer rely on the major Jewish organizations, many of which appeared more focused on fundraising than on confronting the rising threat,” Epstein said. “We felt a responsibility to take direct action to protect the community.”

Epstein said Tafsik was created after Oct. 7 to pursue advocacy, build alliances outside the Jewish community, and provide community protection.

“When I recently asked an audience of approximately 1,000 people how many were seriously considering leaving Canada, two-thirds raised their hands,” he said.

“We are not encouraging Jews to leave Canada. Not at all,” Epstein said. “Rather, we provide information and options to those who have already decided to relocate. ... While we consistently recommend Israel as the first and most meaningful choice, many face practical barriers, including distance from family, cost of living and security concerns. After exploring several countries, Panama emerged as a particularly strong alternative.”

The United States, he said, “is experiencing many of the same challenges. Islamist networks have gained influence in several major cities.”

“Independently of running Tafsik Organization, my dream is to build a moshav in Panama,” Epstein said. “A large, beautiful Jewish community just 15 minutes outside Panama City, on the beach.”

It appears that some community leaders fear a mass exodus.

“This is not a moment for retreat,” Shack said. “It’s a time to redouble our efforts, draw strength from those who came before us, and work alongside our fellow Canadians to restore the promise of a country where everyone can live in safety, dignity, and freedom.”

Bnei Akiva, the official youth wing of the religious Zionist Mizrachi organization worldwide, is dedicated to raising generations of Jews committed to building a society devoted to Torah and the Jewish people in the State of Israel.

Toronto is home to the only Bnei Akiva high schools outside of Israel: Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot Girls School.

In an unprecedented address to the 2026 graduates in June, Rabbi Dr. Seth Gauer, the Rosh Yeshiva and Head of School, expressed pride that more than 30% of the schools’ graduates have made Aliyah in the 53 years since their founding.

However, he then pleaded with those who were not planning to move to Israel to remain in Toronto. “The antisemitism that we have seen and endured here in Toronto is real, and somewhat as a result of that, we have heard a chorus of many within our community either calling for increased Aliyah or, at a minimum, to at least leave Toronto and head south of the border,” he said.

“I have therefore decided to use this platform to suggest a countercultural move – to tell our families to stay, and to you, our graduates: Please return to Toronto.”

According to Mamann, the situation “will not get better” in Canada, largely because of political influence. Canada’s Jewish population is approximately 335,000 to 400,000, compared with approximately 1,775,715 Muslims, who make up 4.9% of the country’s population.

“This is not to say that we are at odds with Muslims in Canada,” Mamann said. While stressing that he is not anti-Muslim, Mamann said he takes into consideration “the jihadist element of the Muslim faith that poses a significant threat to us.”

“It’s time to go,” Dimant said. “I encourage young people who talk to me to make the move — not to Florida or Texas, because that’s a temporary solution to the problem. If enough New Yorkers go down to Florida and vote in the Democrats in Florida, the whole scene there will change.”

“The best thing for young Jews is to move to Israel,” Mamann concurred. (Algemeiner Aug 17)

Hamas's Secret Weapon to Continue Ruling Gaza

By Khaled Abu Toameh

Is Hamas preparing to contest the Palestinian parliamentary election scheduled for late November? If so, the United States and its European allies need to make one thing clear immediately: Hamas must not be allowed to participate.

The Iran-backed Palestinian terrorist group that carried out the October 7, 2023 massacre in Israel cannot be permitted to reinvent itself as a legitimate political party. After October 7, Hamas has no right to exist as a military organization. It should have no right to exist as a political organization either.

Hamas's latest statements suggest that the terrorist group has no intention of disappearing from the Palestinian political scene.

On August 11, Hamas urged Palestinians to register for the upcoming election and update their details in the electoral registry: "Out of national responsibility, and in loyalty to the sacrifices of our people, and in commitment to safeguarding their right to choose their representatives and renew their national institutions by their free will.... Hamas calls upon the sons and daughters of our people to hasten in registering and updating their data in the electoral registry, thereby ensuring their right to participate in the upcoming Palestinian elections.... Registering in the electoral roll represents the fundamental gateway to exercising the right to choose and participate in national decision-making, and electing representatives of our people in its official institutions, foremost among which are the Legislative Council and the Palestinian National Council."

This sudden enthusiasm for elections should fool no one.

Hamas has not formally announced that it will contest the election. Why, however, is an organization supposedly on its way toward disarmament and removal from power urging Palestinians to prepare for the vote?

Hamas clearly intends to remain relevant to Palestinian politics.

The appeal comes amid reports concerning Hamas's response to the latest roadmap presented by US President Donald J. Trump's Board of Peace for the Gaza Strip, including provisions regarding the group's weapons: "Weapons of all the militias shall be decommissioned and stored under NCAG [National Committee for the Administration of Gaza] authority according to an agreed upon timetable."

Hamas, however, has not handed over its weapons or relinquished control over large parts of the Gaza Strip.

Even if Hamas eventually does surrender or store some of its weapons, allowing it to survive as a political organization would be a monumental mistake. What would be the point of disarming Hamas militarily only to rehabilitate it politically?

Hamas cannot be permitted to exchange its rifles for ballot papers and then claim it has suddenly become a respectable political movement. The October 7 massacre should have put an end to that fantasy. The Hamas-led attack was the worst atrocity committed against Jews since the Holocaust. Thousands of terrorists invaded Israeli communities, murdered more than 1,200 people, and abducted 251 others to the Gaza Strip.

An organization responsible for such atrocities does not acquire democratic legitimacy merely by participating in an election.

The West has made this mistake before. In 2006, Hamas was permitted to participate in the Palestinian parliamentary election through its "Change and Reform" list without first being required to dismantle its terrorist infrastructure or abandon its 1988 charter, which calls for the elimination of Israel. The charter opens with a quote from Imam Hassan al-Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood organization: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."

The result of the 2006 election was disastrous. Hamas won 74 of the 132 seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council, compared with 45 for Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction.

One year later, Hamas violently seized control of the Gaza Strip, expelled the Palestinian Authority and established its own regime.

What followed should be remembered by anyone now contemplating allowing Hamas to participate, directly or indirectly, in another Palestinian election. Hamas turned the Gaza Strip into a massive terrorist base. It built tunnels, accumulated rockets and

missiles, recruited, armed and trained tens of thousands of terrorists, and fought repeated rounds of war against Israel.

Then came the massacre of October 7, 2023.

The lesson could hardly be clearer: allowing terrorists to participate in elections does not necessarily turn them into nice guys. Usually it just gives them the legitimacy and institutions they need to consolidate power.

Twenty years later, are the Americans and Europeans about to make the same mistake again?

Hamas has reason to be optimistic about elections. Despite the catastrophe it brought upon Palestinians in the Gaza Strip by launching the October 7 attack, Hamas remains popular among Palestinians.

Polling by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research has shown Hamas maintaining a substantial advantage over Fatah in party preference and in a hypothetical parliamentary election. The same polling reveals the depth of the problem.

Eighty percent of Palestinians surveyed wanted Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority, to resign. Among those who said they would vote in a presidential contest between Abbas and Khaled Mashaal, a Hamas leader, Mashaal would crush Abbas.

Even more disturbingly, 69% of the Palestinians oppose disarming Hamas to permanently end the war. An overwhelming 86% also said they did not believe that Hamas terrorists committed the atrocities against Israeli civilians depicted in videos from October 7.

This is the political environment in which the November election is supposed to take place. Why, then, should anyone assume that another Palestinian election would produce moderates committed to peace?

Hamas's leaders presumably know these numbers. Their enthusiasm about voter registration is therefore hardly surprising. They know that Abbas and Fatah are deeply unpopular. They know that many Palestinians continue to support "armed struggle" against Israel. They also know that a large majority oppose their disarmament.

Hamas may therefore see elections as its next route back to power and international legitimacy.

If Hamas cannot retain its control through weapons, perhaps it can retain or regain influence through the ballot box.

That is precisely why the United States and Europe should act now. There should be no repeat of 2006. Hamas and its affiliates should be barred from participating in any elections. Candidates who belong to Hamas, represent it, or openly advocate its terrorist program should not be allowed to use elections to legitimize an organization responsible for mass murder.

Hamas's political and military wings are not two separate organizations. They serve the same movement and the same ideology. The idea that Hamas could be dismantled militarily while being allowed to continue operating politically is grotesque.

Another party that would undoubtedly welcome Hamas's political survival is Iran. For decades, the Iranian regime has armed, financed, and supported Hamas as part of its network of terrorist proxies targeting Israel and destabilizing the Middle East. A Hamas victory in a Palestinian election would therefore be a victory not only for Hamas but also for the Iranian regime and its "Axis of Resistance."

The Iranian regime would be able to boast that despite October 7, despite the Gaza war, and despite international demands for Hamas's disarmament, its Palestinian proxy survived and returned to power through elections. That would be the message to terrorists throughout the Middle East: commit atrocities, start wars, sacrifice your own people, survive the military response, and eventually the international community will rehabilitate you as a legitimate political actor.

Did the Allies, after World War II, allow the Nazi Party to continue governing Germany?

The objective after the October 7 massacre should not be to find Hamas a new role. It should be to ensure that Hamas has no role. No weapons, no militia, no control of Gaza, no participation in Palestinian government — and no electoral rehabilitation whatsoever. (Gatestone Aug 13)