

BARACK OBAMA ON ISRAEL



Barack's Plan to Strengthen the U.S. Israel Relationship

Barack Obama has established a strong record as a true friend of Israel, stalwart defender of Israel's security, and an advocate of strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship. He believes that Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state should never be challenged.

Ensure a Strong U.S.-Israel Partnership: Barack Obama strongly supports the U.S.-Israel relationship, believes that our first and incontrovertible commitment in the Middle East must be to the security of Israel, America's strongest ally in the Middle East. Obama supports this closeness, stating that that the United States would never distance itself from Israel.

Support Israel's Right to Self Defense: During the July 2006 Lebanon war, Barack Obama stood up strongly for Israel's right to defend itself from Hezbollah raids and rocket attacks, cosponsoring a Senate resolution against Iran and Syria's involvement in the war, and insisting that Israel should not be pressured into a ceasefire that did not deal with the threat of Hezbollah missiles. He believes strongly in Israel's right to protect its citizens.

Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons: Concerned about Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and regional ambitions, Barack Obama has been a strong voice warning of the dangers to both the United States and Israel if Iran successfully develops these weapons. While taking no option off the table, including military action, sustained and aggressive diplomacy combined with tough sanctions should be our primary means to prevent Iran from building nuclear weapons. Calling for stronger international sanctions against Iran to persuade it to halt uranium enrichment, Senator Obama has also authored and introduced the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act in May 2007. Obama's bill makes it easier for state and local governments to divest their pension funds of companies that invest in Iran's energy sector, which provides the revenue Iran uses to pursue nuclear weapons and sponsor terrorism. Divestment is a useful tool to bring additional economic pressure to bear on Iran.

Support Foreign Assistance to Israel: Barack Obama has consistently supported foreign assistance to Israel. He defends and supports the annual foreign aid package that involves both military and economic assistance to Israel and has advocated increased foreign aid budgets to ensure that these funding priorities are met. He has called for continuing U.S. cooperation with Israel in the development of missile defense systems.

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