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ELECTIONS

# Sanders: U.S. Should Withhold Military Aid Unless Israel 'Fundamentally Changes' Relationship With Gaza

By TOBIAS HOONHOUT | October 29, 2019 10:23 AM



Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks during the Democratic presidential candidates debate in Westerville, Ohio, October 15, 2019. (Shannon Stapleton/Reuters)

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who has earned endorsements from Ilhan Omar (D., Minn.), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D., NY), and Rashida Tlaib (D., Mich), supporters of an Israel boycott, said during the annual J Street national conference on Monday that the U.S. should “leverage” military aid to Israel in order “to demand respect for human rights and democracy.”

“My solution is to say to Israel: you get \$3.8 billion dollars every year, if you want military aid you’re going to have to fundamentally change your relationship to the people of Gaza,” Sanders said. “In fact, I think it is fair to say that some of that should go right now into humanitarian aid in Gaza.”

The U.S. has agreed to give Israel a massive military-aid package. The latest aid package was approved by the Obama administration and commits to giving Israel \$38 billion in military aid to Israel over 10 years. The memorandum of understanding for the aid runs through 2028.

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Sanders denounced the situation in Gaza as “absolutely inhumane,” “unacceptable,” and “unsustainable.” He also criticized President Trump and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu: “One is going to be impeached, the other one may end up in jail, so I don’t know how much credibility they have, actually in terms of integrity.”

“The Palestinian people have a right to live in peace and security as well. It is not anti-Semitism to say that Netanyahu’s government has been racist,” Sanders continued.

The Gaza strip is run by the terrorist organization Hamas, which in May **launched** nearly 300 rockets into Israel. In July, Hamas official Fathi Hamad told Palestinians that “there are Jews everywhere! We must attack every Jew on planet Earth — we must slaughter and kill them, with Allah’s help. Enough warming up!”

Sanders’s remarks drew criticism from prominent conservatives, including former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, who last year **defended** Israeli “restraint” in clashes with Palestinian protestors.

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**TOBIAS HOONHOUT** is a news writer for NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE. [@tjhoonhout](#)

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By ZACHARY EVANS

The FBI is looking into reports that Representative Ilhan Omar (D., Minn.) married her brother in order to ease his immigration to the U.S., the New York Post reported on Sunday. Two agents interviewed a person with knowledge of the case in Minnesota in mid-October. The person presented a trove of documents ... [Read More](#)

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By JOSH HAMMER

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By ARMOND WHITE

Singer Alicia Keys shut down the Grammy Awards show almost as soon as she started last night, by praising her profession as “the one thing that has the power to bring all of us together — and that’s music.” Then she dropped a semi-improvised political bomb: Tonight we must unite in spite of all the

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By TOBIAS HOONHOUT

Ukraine’s former national security council chairman said that he left the Volodymyr Zelensky administration after becoming “uncomfortable” with American efforts to coerce the opening of politically advantageous investigations. Oleksandr Danylyuk, speaking with The Daily Beast in his first on-the-record ... [Read More](#)

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By KATHERINE TIMPF

During Elizabeth Warren's campaign stop in Iowa on Monday, a man asked the presidential hopeful whether her student-loan debt-forgiveness plan would also reimburse people who had already paid for school. "My daughter is getting out of school," he told Warren, while standing in her (what else!) selfie ... [Read More](#)

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By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON

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By RICH LOWRY

Adam Schiff did most of the heavy lifting for the House managers, and if he performed ably, he also relied on arguments and tropes that don't withstand scrutiny. The Democratic case for impeachment and removal is now heavily encrusted with clichés, widely accepted by the media, meant to give their

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