

## Israel insists it's emerged from Gaza fight with diplomatic ties largely intact

A clear pro-Israel bloc in Europe stood firm, Jerusalem argues, while Arab states that have no interest in seeing Hamas get stronger maintained their peace with Israel

By Lazar Berman / 26 May 2021

Israel was riding high.

Countries around the world saw the Jewish state as an example to follow due to its successful national vaccination campaign, and Jerusalem even began sending its extra doses to allied states as part of a diplomatic campaign.

[...]

“It was quite striking,” said **Sarah Feuer**, a fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv. “Their statements were quite restrained and even-handed, and you saw in a number of their media outlets pretty clear criticism of Hamas.”

Significantly, none of the countries with diplomats in Israel — Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, or Morocco — recalled their envoys in protest.

Still, interactions between civil society organizations did slow down during the escalation. A planned event between the INSS and a UAE think tank was delayed at the request of the Emiratis. Events between Israeli and Moroccan business organizations were also canceled. And the prime minister of Morocco reportedly sent a personal message to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh congratulating him on his “victory” over the “Zionist entity.”

“My sense is that as long as we don’t head into another round, these agreements have held,” said Feuer.

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