

Israel may toss millions of vaccines. Why won't it give them to the PA instead?

With unwanted AstraZeneca doses on the way, and the majority of the Palestinians not vaccinated, there would seem to be a win-win solution. Except it's not that simple

By [Lazar Berman](#) 5 May 2021

Israel, a world leader in COVID-19 vaccination rates, has the kind of problem most countries would love to be facing.

In November 2020, while the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine was still in its trial phase, Israel contracted to purchase ten million vaccine units from the British-Swedish company. Jerusalem has since decided it will not use the vaccines, relying instead on the more expensive Pfizer and Moderna versions. But the millions of doses are on their way, and Israel is still not sure what it is going to do with them.

[...]

This might also be part of the reason why the vast majority of the doses pledged to the Palestinians by the international community have yet to arrive in PA areas. "If it was so simple, then they would have received many thousands of vaccines from multiple sources, and would have vaccinated," said **Kobi Michael**, senior research fellow at **INSS** and former head of the Palestinian desk at the Ministry for Strategic Affairs. "The fact that it hasn't happened means there is some difficulty, on the level of infrastructure, on the technical level, and also on the political level."

[...]

"In the West Bank, the Palestinians prefer relatively limited cooperation," argued **Michael**. "There are implications for the political leadership in terms of public opinion: 'Look, Israel is doing what the PA is incapable of doing. Once again the PA proves it doesn't know how to operate, that it needs Israel to deal with the health issue as well. So what do we need the PA for? Let's dismantle it.'"

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