

## A Post-Afghanistan Chinese Push Could Impact Relationship With Israel

Israeli government sources tell Breaking Defense that if China attempts to expand its defense technology ties with Iran or other regional players of concern to Israel, then Jerusalem may look to curtail its economic agreements with Beijing in retaliation.

By Arie Egozi on August 23, 2021

TEL AVIV: As China seeks to use the American withdrawal from Afghanistan to drive a wedge between America and its allies, leaders in Jerusalem are considering their future relationship with Beijing.

[...]

Like many other countries, Israel has economic ties with Chinese firms. That issue was brought up explicitly by CIA director William Burns during a recent visit to Jerusalem; per Israeli outlet Walla News, Burns told Prime Minister Naftali Bennett that the US is very concerned about Chinese intrusion into the Israeli economy, especially in high-tech and large infrastructure projects.

But Israeli government sources tell Breaking Defense that if China attempts to expand its defense technology ties with Iran or other regional players of concern to Israel, then Jerusalem may look to curtail its economic agreements with Beijing in retaliation.

That would mark a serious shift in how Israel balances its longtime relations with the US and the monetary benefits of having ties to China, according to **Galia Lavi**, a senior researcher in the Israeli **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)**.

“China continues to support Iran and the Palestinians, with no significant harm to its economic relations with Israel, and at the same time continues its economic relations with Israel while being aware of Israel’s special relationship with the United States,” Lavi explained. “But as the rivalry between China and the US grows, Beijing is expected to step up its efforts to cast Washington as a two-faced and irresponsible power while brushing away any criticisms relating to human rights.

...

*For full article:*

<https://breakingdefense.com/2021/08/a-post-afghanistan-chinese-push-could-impact-relationship-with-israel/>