



## China Envoy Meets Hamas Leader as Beijing Steps Into Israel Conflict

By [Stephanie L. Freid](#) / March 19, 2024

Tel Aviv, Israel —

China's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday acknowledged a meeting between its diplomat Wang Kejian and the political leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, on Sunday in Qatar to discuss the conflict in Gaza. In a short statement, the ministry said Wang and Haniyeh discussed the conflict but did not elaborate.

[...]

"In light of China's actions and declarations from October 7, Israel does not consider China a fair or relevant party," said **Galia Lavi, deputy director of the Israel-China Policy Center at the Israel Institute for National Security Studies**.

"Beijing's declarations almost claim that this war was started because of Israel," Lavi told VOA. "At the same time, China still altogether ignores Hamas' actions on October 7."

Lavi argued that despite China's claims of attempts to foster Israeli-Palestinian ties, it is hampering prospects.

"China's repeated calls for the so-called right of return are harming any future talks between Israel and the Palestinians and pose a blatant interference in Israel's internal affairs," Lavi said.

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