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Why Taiwan stands with Israel

By Tuvia Gering / April 25, 2024

“Israel Alone,” blared the Economist’s cover story in late March. This sentiment resonated deeply with Israelis. Since Hamas’s devastating attack on October 7, the fight to free hostages and defend itself from vicious terrorism feels like a solitary battle.

Six months into the conflict, 133 Israeli hostages still languish in Gaza, tens of thousands of Palestinians have perished, and the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip worsens by the day. Hamas has suffered major setbacks but remains entrenched.

Iran’s unprecedented April 13 attack on Israel, which included more than three hundred drones and missiles, saw Israel’s supporters rise up in its defense—both militarily and in the court of public opinion. But six months have taught Israel that sympathy can be fleeting. Global solidarity waned in the aftermath of the October 7 massacre, and it will likely do so again. Jerusalem’s staunchest allies will likely dither once more in their support as domestic pressure mounts to, for example, tie arms sales to a ceasefire and treat Israel as a pariah.

But Israel is not alone. It has found support in unexpected places.

“We condemn the Hamas terrorist attack and stand in solidarity with Israel. Our position hasn’t changed,” Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu told me in a March meeting with Israeli academics in Taipei. The visit was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

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