

## Despite threats, Egypt is not about to tear up peace treaty with Israel

Cairo, eager to see war end and economy back on track, is open about its frustrations, but its long-standing interests in preserving deal with Jerusalem have not changed

By Lazar Berman / May 23, 2024

Based on frantic media coverage emanating from Cairo, the long-standing ties between Israel and Egypt seemed like they were about to unravel.

After Israeli troops finally embarked on the ground incursion into the Rafah border area on May 7, Cairo's public reaction was swift and furious.

[...]

“Egypt's reaction is meant to make clear to Israel that its presence at the border crossings is illegitimate in Cairo's eyes, and that uncoordinated decisions will have a price – damage to bilateral ties,” explained **Ofir Winter, senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies** in Tel Aviv.

Egypt has another important motivation for its refusal to accept Israel's presence at the Rafah border.

“It is also meant to signal to critics of the Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi regime in Egypt and in the Arab world that Cairo is not cooperating with Israel on the capturing of the Rafah Crossing,” said Winter.

[...]

“Muslim Brotherhood officials outside Egypt are trying to incite protest and criticism against the Egyptian regime through messages on satellite channels and social networks,” Winter said. “Although it is likely that the majority of the Egyptian public is more concerned with the economic hardship and the daily war of existence than with the war in Gaza, public opinion considerations influence the conduct of the regime.”

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