

Normalization with Saudi Arabia is a golden opportunity for Israel

Despite the Israel-Hamas war, efforts for Israel-Saudi normalization persist, driven by unchanged U.S. and Saudi motives.

By Yoel Guzansky, Udi Dekel / July 9, 2024

Notwithstanding the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, and perhaps even because of it, diplomatic contacts aimed at advancing a normalization agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia have continued. The fundamental motivations of the United States and Saudi Arabia in this context have not changed since before October 7.

Normalization will lead to the establishment of a regional security alliance and the reversal of the negative strategic trends for Israel since October 7. The moderate alliance will stand up against Iran and the resistance camp and open the door to PA participation while establishing a governing alternative to Hamas in the Gaza Strip and renewing a political process in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict arena.

The United States wants to forge a new regional order, which will make it easier for itself and for Middle Eastern nations to deal with Iran—and also to indicate that it is not abandoning the region. [Saudi Arabia](#) wants to cement its regional standing and bolster its status and security, particularly vis-à-vis Iran, by strengthening its ties and a defense alliance with Washington.

Moreover, the war that has been raging since October 7 on several fronts has made it clear to the Saudi royal family that the Palestinian problem is not secondary, cannot be contained, and cannot be ignored. Therefore, Saudi Arabia wants to distance itself from being identified with Israel as long as the [war](#) in Gaza continues and is showing solidarity with the Palestinians. Accordingly, it has increased the price that it is demanding from Israel in terms of commitment, accompanied by practical measures, to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within the framework of the two-state reality.

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Yoel Guzansky and Udi Dekel are senior fellows at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), Tel Aviv University.

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