



In the current war, winning the battle for international public opinion is of utmost importance. The unwavering support of our friends around the world is a significant force multiplier, and we must cultivate this support over the long term. Parliamentary diplomacy and the international media are essential components in accomplishing this. Members of Knesset, chairs of parliamentary friendship groups, all mobilized for the task. With the help of the International Relations Department, they have held many talks, briefings, and interviews with their counterparts in parliaments, assemblies, and various organizations around the world. The purpose has been to familiarize them with the situation in Israel following the atrocities committed by Hamas, which caused the evacuation of tens of thousands of people from their homes and turned them into refugees in their own country. During the discussions, MKs explained the objectives of Swords of Iron, as well as additional messages that will crystalize during the course of the fighting.

AUSTRIA

- The Speaker of the Knesset, Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and other MKs met with a solidarity delegation of MPs from Austria and other countries.
- An online meeting held at the initiative of the Austrian Parliament was attended by Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana and MKs Idan Roll, Moshe Roth, and Michael Biton.



BULGARIA

An online call took place between MKs Yasmin Fridman, Merav Ben Ari, and Hanoch Dov Milwidsky and their counterparts from the Bulgaria–Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group in which they expressed their sympathy and unwavering support for Israel.

MK Milwidsky said, "On behalf of the Knesset, I thank you for your unequivocal support. This is very heartwarming, and we'll pay you back in kind."

MK Ben Ari: "We yearn for peace, but these people, Iran's proxies, came to brutally kill our children and burn down our homes. We have not experienced anything like this since the Holocaust."



MK Fridman: "This war was forced upon us. We'll respond and fight back. We are all united – coalition and opposition."

Member of the National Assembly of Bulgaria Hristo Gadzhev said, "We'll always be by your side, because that's the right side. What kind of animals do things like this? Our door is open to assist you in any way possible."

Member of the National Assembly of Bulgaria Georg Georgiev said: "The Bulgarian National Assembly backs Israel in doing whatever is needed to ensure peace for its citizens into the future. In addition, we prohibited a rally in support of the Palestinians in our capital Sofia."

CZECH REPUBLIC

MKs Yonatan Mashriki, Sharon Nir, and Tatiana Mazarsky held an online meeting with dozens of MPs from the Czech Republic. They were also joined by the Czech Foreign Minister.

MK Mashriki thanked the MPs for the resolution expressing support for Israel and condemning Hamas. He also expressed appreciation for displaying Israeli flags in the parliament.

The Czech Foreign Minister called for the immediate and unconditional release of all the hostages, and assurance that the humanitarian aid being sent to the Gaza Strip does not reach the hands of Hamas. The Chair of the Czech Republic–Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group added that "at a more appropriate time, we'll consider moving the Czech embassy to Jerusalem."



DENMARK

MKs Yoram Lahav-Hertzanu, Moshe Roth, Idan Roll, and Michael Biton held an online briefing for ten Danish MPs, among them the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Chair of the Danish Foreign Affairs Committee said that the Danish Parliament was loud and clear in its support for Israel and its right to defend itself.

Chair of the Israel–Denmark Parliamentary Friendship Group, MK Lahav-Hertzanu said: "We are mourning a terrible loss of life and are deeply concerned about the hundreds of hostages and missing. We are united with regard to the need for security and peaceful lives for our citizens. An entire country is losing sleep as a result of the crime against humanity perpetrated against us."



MK Roll: "Your support for us is not something we take for granted. The battle on social media is not symmetrical. Israel is careful to present reliable information, even if it takes a bit of time to verify it; and all the while Hamas is incessantly spreading completely fake news."

MK Roth: "We expect the entire free world to stand on the right side of history and remember their commitment to Israel further down the line."

MK Biton: "The policy of 'Quiet for Quiet' failed, and will no longer be. Iran supports terrorist organizations and enables them to pose a significant threat to Israel. We received a wake-up call, and the whole world must wake up."

ESTONIA

- A solidarity visit was held with the Chair of the Estonian Foreign Affairs Committee and his Baltic counterparts, during which they met with the Speaker of the Knesset, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and other MKs. During the visit, the four chairs of the foreign affairs committees signed a declaration supporting Israel and condemning Hamas.



- Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group MK Simon Davidson met with the Estonian ambassador.

FINLAND

Chair of the Israel–Finland Parliamentary Friendship Group MK Tatiana Mazarsky spoke with the head of the Finland–Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, and met with the Finnish ambassador to Israel to provide a briefing on the situation.

FRANCE

- President of the National Assembly of France Yaël Braun-Pivet held a solidarity visit to Israel as a guest of the Speaker of the Knesset.



- The Speaker of the Knesset, Co-Chairs of the Israel–France Parliamentary Friendship Group Yosef Taieb and Karine Elharrar, and other MKs met with a delegation of members of the National Assembly that arrived for a solidarity visit in Israel.



- Co-Chairs of the Israel–France Parliamentary Friendship Group held an online briefing for members of the National Assembly of France.

GERMANY

- The Speaker of the Knesset spoke with Bundestag President Bärbel Bas who expressed her support for Israel.
- The Chair of the Israel–Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group gave an online briefing to 15 Bundestag members from the friendship group.
- The Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee held a phone conversation with his Bundestag counterpart and held an online briefing for members of the Bundestag Committee on Foreign Affairs.

GUATEMALA

MK Ohad Tal, chair of the Israel–Guatemala Parliamentary Friendship Group, held an online conversation with his counterpart. During the discussion, the head of the Guatemalan friendship group expressed his strong support for Israel: "We are horrified by the terrible things we saw and support Israel at this difficult time."

ITALY

The Speaker of the Knesset held a discussion with his counterpart, the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy.

LATVIA

- The Chair of the Latvian Committee on Foreign Affairs, together with his Baltic counterparts, made a solidarity visit. They met with the Speaker of the Knesset, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and other MKs.
- Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group, MK Simon Davidson, met with the Latvian ambassador.

LITHUANIA

- The Chair of the Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Committee, together with his Baltic counterparts, made a solidarity visit. They met with the Speaker of the Knesset, Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and other MKs.



- Chair of the Israel–Lithuania Parliamentary Friendship Group, MK Simon Davidson, met with the Lithuanian ambassador.

NORWAY

Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group, MK Naama Lazimi, met with the newly appointed Norwegian ambassador.

POLAND

An online meeting was held between Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group MK

Amit Halevi, MK Shelly Tal Meron, and Polish MPs. Deputy Chair of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Committee Wladyslaw T. Bartoszewski said that Hamas is an existential threat. "It's not just any terrorist organization. The younger generation in Poland and Europe has a hard time understanding that."



PORTUGAL

Members of the Parliamentary Friendship Group MKs Shalom Danino, Tsega Melaku, and Hanoch Dov Milwidsky, held an online conversation with their colleagues from the Parliament of Portugal.



ROMANIA

An online meeting was held between Chair of the Israel–Romania Parliamentary Friendship Group MK Eli Dallal and his counterpart in the Romanian Parliament, Silviu Vexler.



SWITZERLAND

Chair of the Israel–Switzerland Parliamentary Friendship Group MK Yosef Taieb and MK Debbie Biton held an online briefing for members of the Swiss National Council.



THAILAND

A conversation was held between the Chair of the Israel–Thailand Parliamentary Friendship Group Naor Shiri and the Thai ambassador. It dealt mainly with the issue of the foreign workers murdered or taken hostage in the Gaza Strip.

THE PHILIPPINES

A conversation between the Chair of the Israel–Philippines Parliamentary Friendship Group, Naor Shiri, and the Philippines ambassador dealt mainly with the issue of the foreign workers who were murdered or taken hostage in Gaza.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Speaker of the Knesset spoke with his British counterpart, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, who expressed shock and dismay in view of Hamas' attack on Israel.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- The President of the European Parliament and the President of the European Commission held a solidarity visit in Israel as guests of the Speaker of the Knesset.



- The Speaker of the Knesset, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defense

Committee, and other MKs met with a European Parliament delegation in the communities around the Gaza Strip.

- Head of the Knesset Delegation to the European Parliament, MK Ariel Kallner, toured with members of the European Parliament in the communities around the Gaza Strip.
- The Head of the Knesset Delegation to the European Parliament held a telephone conversation with his counterpart in Brussels.

IPU

- The Speaker of the Knesset held a telephone conversation with IPU President Duarte Pacheco, who expressed his solidarity with the people of Israel.
- At the IPU Assembly in Angola, the Israeli delegation distributed explanatory materials, pictures, and video clips reflecting the situation to more than 50 parliamentary delegations.
- Our delegation succeeded in preventing

a discussion on the emergency item submitted by Iran.

OSCE

The Speaker of the Knesset held an online briefing for the OSCE President.

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

- Twenty-one MPs spoke at the meeting entitled: "The Escalation of Violence in the Middle East Following the Recent Hamas Attack on Israel."

MK Merav Ben Ari described the events of that Saturday, and the atrocities committed by Hamas. She added that these attacks hurt us as a nation, and exposed the true face of radical Islam. She said that we must not turn a blind eye to those who supply money and weapons to terror organizations.

- MK Merav Ben Ari also held a separate briefing for the Canadian delegation to the Council of Europe.



AT THE KNESSET

- When the war broke out, the Speaker of the Knesset sent 220 official letters to his counterparts around the world to acquaint them with the events of 7 October 2023.
- At the opening of the Knesset's winter assembly, the Speaker of the Knesset briefed the 63 ambassadors in attendance. Present also was Sderot Mayor Alon Davidi, who described to the ambassadors the horrific acts that befell his city.

