

Israel to ask U.S. for \$20billion extra in military aid because of Middle East turmoil

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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- Israel only likely to receive aid if Palestine relations improve
- PM Netanyahu expected to offer Palestinians a state



Hinting: Ehud Barak, the Israel defence minister, told the Wall Street Journal that his country might ask America for a further \$20billion

Israel are expected to ask for an additional \$20billion in U.S. military aid in order to help the country deal with potential threats arising from the ongoing uprisings in the Middle East.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal defence minister Ehud Barak was reported as saying his country are considering making the request while the Arab world survey the wreckage of the 'historic earthquake'.

Barak said Israel was worried that its top foes, Iran and Syria 'might be the last to feel the heat' of the revolts and that Egypt's new leaders might, under public pressure, back away from its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

'The issue of qualitative military aid for Israel becomes more essential for us, and I believe also more essential for you,' the U.S. newspaper quoted Barak as saying.

He continued: 'A strong, responsible Israel can become a stabiliser in such a turbulent region.'

Without making a 'daring' peace offer, however, Israel cannot seek additional aid, Barak was quoted as saying.

Israel already receives \$3billion in military aid a year from the U.S., but any increase in aid could hinge on the country's relationship with enemies Palestine.

It is perhaps little surprise, then, that Barak also said that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is likely to offer Palestinians a state within temporary borders, detailing for the first time an emerging Israeli plan for breaking the deadlocked peace negotiations.



State: The Gaza strip separates Israel and Palestinians, but they may be offered their own independent territory

Though the Palestinians repeatedly have rejected provisional statehood, Barak said that Israel or the U.S. would have to give assurances that a full-fledged agreement on permanent statehood would follow.

Only afterwards, would the two sides would resolve key issues of the conflict, such as competing claims to Jerusalem and the fate of Palestinian refugees, Barak added.

No details of the plan were given, however, but with popular protests shaking up the Middle East, Netanyahu is under fierce international pressure to prove he is serious about getting peacemaking moving again, especially after the U.S. vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's West Bank settlement construction last month.

The prime minister is said to be planning a speech - possibly to be delivered in Washington - in which he will outline his plans.



Under pressure: The U.S and U.N. want Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to prove he is serious about getting peacemaking moving again

It is not clear that the U.S. would support the idea of an interim accord, given the Palestinians' categorical rejection of the notion.

A temporary state would not only give the Palestinians less territory than they demand, but Israel would also retain military control of the area.

The Palestinians are also afraid that if they agree to temporary borders, then they will never win a full-fledged, independent state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

Israel captured all three areas in 1967, then withdrew from Gaza in 2005. Hamas militants overran the territory two years later.

'If and when Israel offers its own thoughts on how to move the process forward, we will be listening attentively,' White House spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters in Washington yesterday.

'We do not know what the prime minister and his government are thinking at the present time.'

U.S.-led peace talks, launched six months ago with the ambitious goal of striking a final deal by September 2011, broke down shortly after they began over Israeli construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

The Palestinians demanded a freeze in both areas, but Israel refused, arguing that previous rounds of talks took place while settlement construction was under way and that the issue should be settled in negotiations.

With peacemaking stalled, the Palestinians have launched a campaign to seek international recognition of Palestinian statehood.

Their tentative plan is to seek U.N. General Assembly recognition in the fall, a move that might not win them an actual state but might isolate Israel.

Last week, Barak predicted a 'tsunami' of international pressure on Israel in the autumn and said that to protect its standing, the Israeli government had to take unspecified initiatives.

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Israels economy is doing well so why can't they BUY weapons for once instead of looking for "aid" (handouts)? I'm sick of my hard earned tax money being wasted!!

- Jill, Michigan , 09/3/2011 11:20

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We already give them MORE than any other country on the planet (\$3bn) per year plus they have 100s of NUCLEAR WEAPONS. What more do they flipping want? They'll be asking for part of america soon!!!!

- James, New York , 09/3/2011 11:16

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Unfortunately whatever the American public at large want, their politicians are bought and paid for by the Israeli lobby and lots of Zionists and their sympathisers are in positions of power in the US. Until this changes the American taxpayer will continue to fund the obscenities in Palestine keeping an increasingly corrupt and unstable in power in Israel despite their own need of the money and assistance in this financial crisis. In Washington it is obvious that the American people and their interests come second place to the needs of this tiny state which sucks the US exchange dry and forever wants more. Not content with that they are the number one foreign spying operation in the USA and steal every bit of technology they can get their hands on - one ally the USA would be a lot better off without if they could find a

way of stopping the nuclear blackmail Israel flaunts in their face

- graham casey, perth australia, 09/3/2011 11:02

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Lisa, Jacksonville, Sorry you havent had a raise in 2 years, but the if the Feds were a private business, they would be OUT of business, simply run horribly. Most Fed workers arent exactly overworked. I work for a private firm, no raise in 5 years. Benefits cut, having to pay for everything. SO in reality, I've had quite the pay cut. Consider yourself lucky. Have any of your benefits been cut? Most American Tax payers feel the fed's who earn over 100K should have a 10% cut and those under a 5% cut and perhaps you can pay for your pensions and some more into your benefits. Get with the real world.

- Joanie, Memphis TN, 09/3/2011 10:46

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Israel is the greatest single threat to the entire Human Race that has ever existed, anywhere in the world. This money should never be given. It is a disgrace. Obama is a disgrace to the Palestinian people and a total puppet of the Zionist entity. The Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni asserts that her Government will have no dealings with Hamas, because they are terrorists. Tzipi Livni's father was Eitan Livni, chief operations officer of the terrorist Irgun Zvai Leumi, who organised the blowing-up of the King David hotel in Jerusalem, in which 91 victims were killed, including four Jews. Eitan Livni was arrested and sent to jail for 15 years for terrorism but escaped from prison. Her mother Sarah was also a leader of Irgun, involved in a train robbery and blowing up another train. It's a family history of which she can be proud, but one she denies in refusing to deal with 'terrorists'.

- tom, london ealing, 09/3/2011 10:44

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Why is our government giving WELFARE TO AN APARTHEID STATE while Americans are actually losing it all over here? Our leaders sure have their priorities BOUGHT.

- kalifani6, Philadelphia, PA, USA, 09/3/2011 10:41

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