



[Incoming National Security Advisor's Remarks Raise Concern Regarding the Protection of Civil Liberties](#)

The soon-to-be national security advisor (NSA) in President-elect Donald Trump's second administration, U.S. Representative Mike Waltz (R-FL), has raised eyebrows over his recent remarks to Fox News' Mark Levin. Waltz elicited concern about the protection of civil liberties, or lack thereof, that could potentially be seen under some of the new administration's policies. He discussed plans for a cross-governmental initiative that would alarmingly surveil universities, mosques, and other entities that are deemed to be a so-called threat to the United States. One aspect that was particularly concerning was Waltz's demonizing of university protesters who are merely exercising their right to free speech, as he warned that individuals on student visas who engage in these types of civil liberties would be swiftly deported. The incoming NSA also claimed that "terrorists have infiltrated our borders," despite the fact that the recent perpetrators of terror attacks in the United States have been domestic U.S. Army veterans, not individuals who in any way infiltrated the country illegally and committed acts of violence as Waltz's comments would imply.

In his comments, Waltz conveyed his belief that "the problems in the Middle East by and large originate from Tehran, not from Tel Aviv." While the Iranian regime certainly bears culpability for some of the instability in the Middle East, any fair-minded observer or analyst should also rebuke the Israeli government for its destructive role in perpetuating conflict and hostilities across the region as well. Over the past 15 months, Israel has drawn widespread criticism from an array of independent entities for its war crimes and human rights violations in Gaza, and concurrently, has been denounced for provoking further animosities in Lebanon, Yemen, Iran, and elsewhere. Thus, for Waltz to not allude to this, and instead signal unwavering support for Israel despite legitimate and warranted concern over its actions, is problematic. When referencing Trump's foreign policy agenda, Waltz discussed the intent to revive the Abraham Accords as a way of allegedly promoting peace and prosperity in the region, however, the oft-criticized agreements have been justifiably excoriated for sidelining the Palestinian' struggle for justice – the root cause that must be addressed in order to pave the way for enduring peace in the region.

The incoming NSA is not the only member of the new U.S. administration to garner attention with his remarks. President-elect Trump himself has done so too with some of his recent comments as well. This has included refusing to rule out using potential military force to take control of Greenland. Countries such as France and Germany have even taken Trump seriously enough to both issue statements defending Greenland's territorial integrity and warning against the threat of any military action. Additionally, Trump has also raised eyebrows for floating the idea of turning Canada into a U.S. state, refusing to rule out using economic or military action to pursue acquisition of the Panama Canal, and suggesting changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. Analysts have speculated that the Trump remarks related to the Panama Canal and Greenland in particular are aimed at trying to combat the influence of China on the global stage. While some have brushed off Trump's threats as part of a negotiating playbook, others have concerns about whether he will cross over from harsh rhetoric and economic warfare to actual military intervention.

Mike Waltz has echoed Trump's sentiments regarding Greenland, arguing that purchasing the autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark is "essential to America's national security" and that it is about "critical minerals and natural resources like oil and gas." In another recent interview, Waltz also linked Trump's desire to acquire Greenland to some of the president-elect's other proposals related to the Panama Canal, the designation of Mexican cartels as terrorist organizations, and the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico by stating that "This is about reintroducing America in the Western Hemisphere, whether that is taking on the cartels, the Panama Canal, Greenland, the 'Gulf of America' – which I love, I'm waiting to see the maps redrawn...You can call it Monroe Doctrine 2.0, but this is all part of the America First agenda and it's been ignored for far too long."