



[Israel's Reckless Doha Attack Violates Qatar's Sovereignty and Proves It Has No Intent on Reaching a Gaza Ceasefire and Hostage Release Deal](#)

Israel is facing yet another wave of worldwide denunciation following its reprehensible attack on Qatar earlier this week. The airstrike which targeted a residential area that houses foreign embassies in the capital city of Doha was not only a deplorable violation of Qatar's sovereignty and norms of international law, but it also affirms that the Netanyahu government has no intention on reaching a ceasefire agreement in Gaza. Throughout the course of the ongoing conflict in Gaza, Qatar has served as the hub of regional mediation efforts and as one of the chief negotiators and intermediaries, using its diplomatic channels with Israel, Hamas, the United States, and others to facilitate countless rounds of talks. As such, the Israeli attack aimed at assassinating negotiators who were meeting to discuss a ceasefire proposal to bring the war to an end demonstrates a complete disregard for diplomacy and a clear desire to instead sabotage peace talks, perpetuate conflict, and initiate further destabilization in the region. Analysts also point to how the attack on Qatar highlights Israel's increasingly reckless and criminal behavior as a rogue state.

The attack marked a new red line crossed by Israel, with many observers lamenting that a failure to hold the Netanyahu government accountable for its repeated transgressions has emboldened more and more egregious violations like this. The recent attempt to assassinate negotiators in the capital city of a major U.S. ally cannot be labeled as anything other than the actions of an outlaw state that is continuously displaying it is uninterested in peace and stability. As one commentator remarked, for anyone who doubted Netanyahu's commitment to destructively prolonging the Gaza War, this latest attack should remove any uncertainty. The current Israeli government has persistently violated and ignored international law during its assault on Gaza while also attacking neighboring countries and seeking to fuel further instability and violence. In the absence of concrete punitive measures, particularly from those like the United States who possess the means to stop these repeated Israeli violations, they are likely to continue taking place. Some have also found it hard to believe that the U.S. did not know about the planned Israeli attack on Qatar, and as a result, have wondered if President Trump gave a green light for it. Back in late June, American air defense systems and anti-aircraft weapons were activated to counter an Iranian missile attack on the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar which was carried out in retaliation for the bombings of several Iranian nuclear sites. The fact that this was not the case during the recent Israeli attack has further fueled speculation that the U.S. may have known about the strike and deliberately failed to thwart it.

The Israeli attack on Qatar has shown the lengths that the Netanyahu government is willing to go in order to derail Gaza ceasefire efforts. Over the course of the now 23-month long conflict, Netanyahu has repeatedly subverted and sabotaged negotiations – driven by political motivations and self-preservation. He has prolonged the conflict knowing full well that his political survival is intrinsically linked to the continuation of the war due to criminal corruption charges and being beholden to extremists who would otherwise collapse the coalition government. In their response to the attack, Qatari officials even accused Netanyahu of “wasting time” in the negotiation process and acting in bad faith, while describing the strike in the midst of ongoing talks as a form of state terrorism that was aimed at undermining any chance of peace in Gaza. The attack is made even more appalling considering that multiple international entities – including the United States – have supported Qatar's hosting of a Hamas political office to enable channels of communication and mediation efforts. Thus, Israel decided to carry this out in spite of

Qatar's accepted and understood role as an intermediary. All of this raises serious questions as to how ceasefire talks can possibly continue, with one Qatari official understandably commenting that "When one party chooses to bomb the mediator and one of the negotiating delegations, what kind of talks can be considered valid?"

The United Nations Security Council condemned the Israeli attack in a statement that was unanimously agreed upon by all 15 members, including the United States. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Dorothy Shea issued remarks echoing those from Trump administration officials days earlier in the aftermath of the attack, stating that "Unilateral bombing inside Qatar, a sovereign nation working very hard and bravely taking risks alongside the United States to broker peace, does not advance Israel's or America's goals." Other UN ambassadors noted Israel's pattern of reckless and bellicose behavior, citing its attacks against Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen as the conduct of an extremist government emboldened by impunity. Even as the entire international community rebukes Israel for its illegal and outrageous attack on Qatar, Netanyahu has shamelessly suggested that he might order another attack despite Trump demanding a commitment that he not strike Qatar again. Ultimately, it is the lack of tangible punitive actions that go beyond occasional words of criticism that have created an environment which has allowed Israel to repeatedly commit these types of heinous violations.