



Mathurin Hybrid Initiative

Global Advisory  
Report

The Biden  
Administration and  
Israel: A Delicate  
Balance of Criticism  
and Support

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## Escalating Criticisms Amid Continued Support

President Joe Biden has recently escalated his criticism of Israel's actions in the Gaza war, labeling the military's conduct as "over the top." Despite this [criticism](#), the Biden administration has continued to support Israel militarily and diplomatically. The administration has provided humanitarian aid and pushed for pauses in the fighting but has stopped short of enacting a lasting ceasefire or acknowledging the Palestinian claims of genocide. Critics argue that Biden's administration has maintained its support by providing arms unconditionally while opposing global efforts for peace and rejecting allegations against Israel's military strategies. This dichotomy highlights a complex stance: vocal criticism paired with continued logistical and military support, drawing ire from various quarters for what some perceive as an incongruous policy.

## New Conditions for Military Aid

In a significant development, the Biden administration has introduced new conditions for U.S. military aid, targeting transparency and accountability, especially concerning humanitarian assistance. This initiative, led by Sen. Chris Van Hollen, marks a first in imposing specific oversight mechanisms on security assistance to allies, including Israel. While the memorandum exempts critical air defense systems vital for Israel's security, it requires a commitment from recipient countries to comply with international humanitarian law. This move has drawn [mixed reactions](#), with some viewing it as a step toward more responsible aid distribution, while others, like the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, see it as an unnecessary imposition that could undermine Israel's defense efforts against regional threats.

## International and Domestic Reactions

The Biden administration's stance has prompted a [range of reactions](#) both internationally and within the United States. The administration's nuanced position – urging Israel to reconsider its military strategies while continuing to supply military aid – mirrors past challenges seen in U.S. foreign policy, such as the early stages of the Iraq war. Former President Obama and other international figures have [expressed concern over Israel's tactics](#), warning of long-term repercussions. U.S. officials have been cautious, reflecting on previous U.S. military involvements and urging Israel to ensure the protection of civilians and adhere to international humanitarian principles.

## The Humanitarian Perspective

Amid the political and military strategizing, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza remains dire. The Biden administration's recent policy shifts towards advocating for humanitarian pauses and increased aid access reflect growing international pressure and the catastrophic human cost of the ongoing conflict. Yet, these gestures have been critiqued as insufficient by human rights advocates, political commentators, and [some in the Biden administration](#), who argue that real change requires more than temporary pauses but a concerted effort towards a sustainable peace solution.

## **Navigating Complexities**

The Biden administration's approach to the Israel-Gaza conflict underscores the intricate balance between political alliances, military strategies, and humanitarian concerns. While the administration's recent criticisms and conditional aid represent a departure from an unconditionally

supportive stance, the effectiveness and sincerity of these measures remain subjects of debate. The continued military support amidst vocal criticisms poses ethical questions about the U.S.'s role and responsibilities in international conflicts. As the situation evolves, the administration's actions will likely continue to be scrutinized for their impact on the conflict's trajectory and on the lives of those caught in the crossfire.

## **Concluding Thoughts**

The Biden administration's handling of the Israel-Gaza conflict encapsulates a multifaceted strategy fraught with contradictions and complexities. The interplay of diplomatic support for Israel, combined with the military backing amid escalating humanitarian concerns in Gaza, underscores a nuanced policy approach. The administration's shift towards imposing conditions on military aid, aimed at ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law, suggests an attempt to balance strategic security interests with ethical considerations. However, this approach has sparked varied responses, highlighting the deep divisions within U.S. politics and its international ramifications.

Critiques of this policy point towards a potential disconnect between the U.S.'s proclaimed values and its actions on the international stage. As the U.S. continues to supply military support to Israel, despite growing evidence of disproportionate responses in Gaza, the ethical implications of such support come under scrutiny. The situation is further complicated by internal political pressures, international diplomatic relations, and the long-standing U.S.-Israel alliance, which shape the administration's responses and strategies.

The effectiveness of these policies is a central point of contention. While the administration has been more vocal in its criticism of Israeli actions than previous administrations, the tangible impacts of these criticisms on Israel's military strategy and the humanitarian situation in Gaza remain to be seen. Critics argue that without substantive changes to U.S. military and diplomatic support for Israel, verbal criticisms may do little to alter the course of events on the ground or lead to a lasting resolution of the conflict.

Moreover, the ongoing debate reflects larger questions about the role of the U.S. in the Middle East and its approach to international conflicts. The challenge lies in crafting a policy that acknowledges the legitimate security concerns of Israel, respects the rights and needs of the Palestinian people, and aligns with international law and human rights

standards. The unfolding events and the administration's responses continue to test the bounds of U.S. influence and moral leadership on the global stage.

As discussions progress, the critical examination of U.S. policies toward Israel and Gaza remains a pivotal element of broader conversations about peace, justice, and the international community's role in resolving long-standing conflicts. The Biden administration's next steps will be closely watched, as they could set precedents for future U.S. foreign policy and its commitment to upholding humanitarian principles in conflict zones around the world.