

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.
All praise and thanks belong to God, the Lord of the Worlds.
May peace and prayers be upon Prophet Muhammad and his family.



Council on American-Islamic Relations
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May 29, 2025

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Shaking Hands with a Wanted War Criminal: Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu

Dear Senator Rosen:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest American Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, I write to express our profound disappointment over your recently publicized meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In November 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Prime Minister Netanyahu following its investigation into Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza. Shaking hands with a sitting head of government wanted by the ICC, and publicly celebrating that meeting on social media, was not only deeply troubling but a betrayal of your Muslim and Palestinian constituents in Nevada.

That meeting took place just hours after the Israeli military assassinated two Red Cross workers and bombed a school shelter in Gaza, killing at least 36 displaced civilians, including 18 children.

Among those affected was five-year-old Ward Al-Sheikh, whose small frame was filmed silhouetted against the flames following the bombing of the Fahmi al-Jarjawi School in Gaza City. Thankfully, Ward survived. However, her mother, five siblings, and many children around her age, did not. The image of her amid the devastation has shocked the conscience of the world and laid bare the unrelenting horror of Israel's U.S.-backed assault on Gaza.

While you were touring Israel, members of Prime Minister Netanyahu's cabinet also stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque under armed protection, harassed Palestinian worshippers, and desecrated one of Islam's holiest sites, an act condemned by the international community. That moment of profound violation for Palestinian Muslims coincided with your visit, yet you chose to meet with the very leader enabling such acts.

Senator Rosen, your long-standing political alignment with hardline pro-occupation, now pro-genocide advocates, has become a source of serious moral concern. The Netanyahu government has openly declared its intent to permanently occupy Gaza and erase the Palestinian presence. Senior ministers have called for Gaza to be "completely destroyed." This is not a security operation, it is a campaign of forced displacement and annihilation.

It is time for you to confront the moral consequences of your choices. CAIR urges you to reverse course and stand on the side of international law and human rights by:

- Supporting congressional resolutions that condemn the mass killing of civilians and uphold international law
- Enforcing U.S. laws prohibiting weapons transfers to governments obstructing humanitarian aid or committing war crimes
- Supporting the reauthorization of U.S. funding to UNRWA to address the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza

Your Nevada Muslim constituents, and all Nevadans, whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or of any background, who oppose genocide and support human rights, deserve representation that reflects their values, not complicity in atrocity.

We welcome the opportunity to connect your office with concerned Nevada constituents who wish to share these concerns and urge a more just course of action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. McCaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert S. McCaw
Director, Government Affairs Department
Council on American-Islamic Relations