

Israel's Knesset Casts Vote for Sovereignty over Biblical Judea, Samaria

Israel's Knesset has moved to advance sovereignty over Judea and Samaria in a symbolic vote that could reshape the Middle East. Meanwhile, Israel slammed the United Nations and Hamas over aid delays in Gaza, and tensions spiked between U.S. and Iranian forces in the Gulf of Oman.

In a move that could have major implications for the future of the region, Israel's parliament on Wednesday passed a symbolic resolution calling for the full application of sovereignty over Judea, Samaria, and the Jordan Valley. While the vote has no immediate legal effect, it signals growing momentum within the ruling coalition to formalize control over the biblical heartland.

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Amir Ohana, the parliament's speaker, declared, "The Knesset approved a historic declaration to apply full Israeli sovereignty over our homeland, Judea and Samaria."



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More than 700,000 Jewish Israelis now live in those areas, while nearly 3 million Palestinians remain under Israeli military law, which has been in effect there since Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day War. The motion follows last year's resolution opposing a Palestinian state and could mark a turning point in Israeli policy.

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The vote was 71-13, with only the Arab parties voting against. Several center and left parties in the Knesset abstained.

The symbolic declaration reflects a growing sentiment in Israel since the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas killings and kidnappings, to formalize control of the territory.

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While eyes remain on the West Bank, Gaza continues to dominate international headlines. Israeli officials say they're doing everything possible to get aid to civilians, but they accuse Hamas of blocking deliveries and the United Nations of refusing to cooperate.

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