

US Senate's Schumer Sparks Furor for Call on Israel to Hold Elections, Replace Netanyahu

Israeli and U.S. leaders reacted to what some are calling an unprecedented call by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer for new elections in Israel.

Schumer wants elections so Israelis can replace the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The comments came in the face of the worst crisis the Jewish people have faced since the Holocaust.

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Schumer called on the Senate floor Thursday for a change in Israel's government because he believes Netanyahu has lost his way.

The New York Democrat said, "By allowing his political survival to take precedence over the best interest of Israel, (the) Netanyahu coalition no longer fits the needs of Israel after Oct. 7. The world has changed radically since then."

Schumer's speech comes as a growing number of Democrats are urging the Biden administration to step up public pressure on Israel. The Senate leader said Netanyahu has put himself in a coalition of "far right" extremists, and as a result has been too willing to tolerate the toll of the war on Gaza civilians.

"Israel cannot survive if it becomes a pariah," Schumer stated.

Netanyahu responded in a statement, saying Israel expects Schumer “to refrain from undermining the Israeli government.”

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Other reactions were more pointed.

Israel’s Ambassador to the United States, Michael Herzog posted on X, “Israel is a sovereign country. It is unhelpful, all the more so as Israel is at war against the genocidal terror organization Hamas, to comment on the political scene of a democratic ally.”

Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said of Schumer’s comments, “We are an independent nation, not a banana republic.”{eo}

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