Israel Faces Increasing Threats
For more than half a century, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee has worked to help make Israel more secure by ensuring that American support remains strong.

1951
The First Aid Package to Israel. AIPAC's lobbying efforts were crucial to Congress's approval of the first package of U.S. aid to Israel - $65 million, which helped the Jewish state absorb Holocaust survivors and Jewish refugees expelled from Arab nations.

1968
Arms for Deterrence. At Arab arms purchases soared, AIPAC worked with Congress to make the first sale of U.S. fighter jets to Israel for deterrence possible.

1973
Emergency Airlift to Israel. In the midst of the Yom Kippur War, AIPAC's efforts helped secure support for aid to Israel from 269 representatives and 70 senators, even as threats by Lebanese guerrillas mounted against the Jewish state's allies.

1985
Doubling U.S.-Israel Trade. AIPAC worked for the passage of the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement, the first between the United States and any nation.

1996
Securing $100 Million for Israel's Fight Against Terror. AIPAC urged Congress to act when Hamas fired 1,000 rockets into Israeli communities and forced Israel to spend millions on added security.

2003
Holding Syria Accountable. AIPAC worked with Congress to overwhelmingly pass the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, which included sanctions against Damascus for its support of international terrorism and occupation of Lebanon.

2009
Backing Israel's quest for peace and security with Congressional resolutions supporting Israel after terrorists launched thousands of rocket attacks from Gaza.

2010
Supporting Crippling Iran Sanctions Legislation. This legislation has helped limit Iran's nuclear program by imposing sanctions on banks and companies involved in Iran's nuclear activities.

2011
Securing $3 Billion in Critical Security Aid. This vital American aid helps Israel keep its citizens safe from the rising threats of enemies sworn to the Jewish state's destruction.

2012
Strengthening U.S.-Israel Security Cooperation. AIPAC urged Congress to support a bipartisan bill that has opened new avenues of U.S.-Israel collaboration in the fields of missile defense, homeland security, energy, and intelligence.
What America’s Leaders Say About Israel and AIPAC

America’s political leaders—from both sides of the aisle—know the value of the U.S.-Israel strategic alliance and the importance of AIPAC. Today, Democrats and Republicans rank AIPAC as one of the most important foreign policy advocacy groups in the country for our work to keep the vital U.S.-Israel bond strong.

“I know when I visit AIPAC I’m among friends... who share my strong commitment to make sure that the bond between the United States and Israel is unbreakable.”

— BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

“Lawmakers depend on AIPAC for good, honest information and that’s exactly what we’ve gotten.”

— MITCH MCCONNELL, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

“Before there was an AIPAC, securing American support for a Jewish state was the work of a dedicated few.”

— CONOR RODRIGUEZ, EDITOR, SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE

“AIPAC is an organization like no other.”

— KAREN KWESKIN, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

“Israel faces increasing threats in the Region

- Israel today faces growing security challenges, including a potential nuclear-armed Iran, increased Hamas rocket attacks from Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon armed with more than 60,000 rockets and missiles.

- In Egypt, Israel now faces the challenge of a government dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood, whose leaders previously called for the abrogation of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

- There is overall instability throughout the Middle East. On Israel’s northern front, the uprising in Syria has heightened fears that Syria’s large stockpile of chemical weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists.

“The special relationship between the United States and Israel is so strong as it is because of you (AIPAC’s) fidelity to that partnership.”

— NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER
Israel is surrounded by Arab nations and Iran. These countries outnumber Israel more than 650 to 1 in terms of land and 56 to 1 in terms of population.

Lebanon
- Dominated by Iranian-backed terrorist group Hizballah
- Hezbollah possesses 60,000 rockets and missiles aimed at Israel
- Violence and refugees spilling over from the Syrian crisis

Turkey
- NATO member with closest border to Syria
- Syria spill over from the Syrian crisis

Syria
- Ongoing civil war has killed 70,000
- Control of chemical weapons and strategic systems uncertain
- Instability spilling over to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey

Iran
- Seeks a nuclear weapons capability
- Engages in cyber warfare against U.S. and Gulf states
- Possesses advanced missiles that can hit Israel, American bases, and other American allies
- Supporting Assad's rule in Syria with weapons, soldiers, and oil

Egypt
- On verge of economic collapse
- Islamist radicals gaining in power
- Sinai remains lawless

Jordan
- Economy strained
- Syrian refugees flooding the country
- Traditional pro-Western rule under challenge

Saudi Arabia
- Aging leadership facing domestic challenges
- Uncertain succession and future orientation

Gaza
- Power struggle between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas
- Weapons smuggling into Gaza
- Hamas rockets threaten 5 million Israelis
Its narrowest point, Israel is only nine miles wide. Am the Mediterranean to the West Bank. Thousands of Palestinian terrorist attacks have emanated from the West Bank and Gaza, which lie in close proximity to Israeli population centers.