

Jimmy Carter: U.S. Must Recognize Hamas As 'Legitimate Political Actor'

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“ Hamas cannot be wished away, nor will it cooperate in its own demise,” Carter writes, along with Mary Robinson, in a [Foreign Policy op-ed](#) Tuesday. “ Only by recognizing its legitimacy as a political actor — one that represents a substantial portion of the Palestinian people — can the West begin to provide the right incentives for Hamas to lay down its weapons.”

Also in the op-ed, Carter faults Israel for stonewalling multilateral attempts at peace and for dangerously isolating Palestinians in Gaza, saying the “ necessary requirements for a human standard of living continue to be denied.” And though he accuses both Israel and Hamas of committing war crimes through their “ deliberate” attacks on civilians, he reserves his strongest criticisms for the IDF.

“ There is no humane or legal justification for the way the Israeli Defense Forces are conducting this war,” he writes.

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