

Israel spies US officials; bill pushes intel sharing with Tel Aviv

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate address new intel reports warning of "critical" Israeli spying on US officials and American troops as Congress debates a new bill to provide record levels of US intelligence and data to Israel. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

#Max

So the intelligence-sharing bill is being introduced at a time when U.S. intelligence, especially military intelligence—the DIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency—but also various other three-letter agencies and U.S. officials are running to the media. U.S. officials in the White House are running to the media complaining that Israel is spying on U.S. officials and U.S. troops, and on the American public as a whole, at a critical level, and that they're unhinged, according to language used by one source to The New York Times. The Pentagon sees a growing espionage threat from Israel.

The Defense Department has increased the counterintelligence threat assessment to its highest level, and Israel is believed to have eavesdropped on American negotiations with Iran. Steve Witkoff, Michael D'Andrea, who's one of the key White House advisors on Iran, and Elbridge Colby at the NSC are some of the figures that Israel has targeted. It's said that Israel has planted surveillance, I guess malware like Pegasus, in their phones to eavesdrop on them. And it's also reported that Israel has been eavesdropping on American troops who are stationed in Israel. Two senior U.S. military officials said that American personnel, particularly those serving in Israel or with Israeli counterparts, were well aware of the counterintelligence risks before the new report.

The officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal assessments said U.S. personnel employ a range of security measures to counter the threat of spying inside Israel. Cooperation between the two militaries is very close, but each side also needs to keep its most sensitive information secret. So as the U.S. deepens its military footprint in Israel, as I said earlier, they're building a joint base in Kiryat Gat, and they operate on separate floors because of the fear of spying. Israel's stepping up its spying. The U.S. is basically just handing Israel control of the military's sensitive data by bringing so many soldiers there to defend the apartheid colony.

#Aaron Mates

Max, the biggest takeaway for me from that story is it underscores to me how terrible you are at self-promotion. Because you haven't mentioned yet that that story confirms something you put up on The Grayzone a long time ago, right? Which was that Israel was caught putting surveillance devices on, like, a Secret Service vehicle. Didn't you have that a long time ago?

#Max

You know, I buried that in one of my Charlie Kirk reports because there was just so much there at that time that I was getting from White House sources. I had to get it all out there, but I highlighted it in my interview with Tim Dillon in September 2025, which was right after Charlie Kirk was assassinated. And I mentioned that a White House source told me that it was, I think, during one of Netanyahu's many visits to Washington that Shin Bet agents placed a tracking device on a Secret Service emergency vehicle, which happened to be the vehicle that would have responded to an emergency involving the president, including a potential assassination attempt, an attempt on his life. Why would they do that? Well, also, I think maybe people dismissed me for saying that or called me a conspiracy theorist or something. The New York Times explicitly confirmed that report.

#Aaron Mates

Yeah, yeah.

#Max

Which is shocking. I mean, why are they trying to track the vehicle that would respond to an assassination attempt? Why are they interested in, you know, attempts on the president's life or emergencies around the White House?

#Aaron Mates

Yeah, the Times did confirm exactly what you reported a while ago, of course, without acknowledging your reporting. But, you know, you're not doing yourself any favors by even forgetting to—yeah, true. But that just speaks to how, you know, you're focused on the actual work of journalism itself and not promoting it. But congrats on that, because that's—I mean, yeah, I remember when you came out with that. I would see people dismissing it, but now it's even confirmed by the New York Times, although many months later.

#Max

Yeah. I was always wondering who else knew about that, but it looks like Trump knew at the time, which would color Trump's thinking on his relations with Israel. One thing the source told me is that Trump is actually concerned about threats to his physical security, which could even come from elements, you know, in the Israel-first world, or, you know, that's something he thinks about. But of

course, Mike Waltz, who, you know, we played a clip of him earlier, the UN ambassador, when he was in the House on the committee to investigate the Butler shooting, where supposedly a shooter nicked Trump's ear with a bullet and nearly ended his life and campaign.

Mike Waltz was attempting to push Trump into believing that the IRGC, Iranian intelligence, was behind Butler. So those are the forces that have really been working on Trump psychologically. And at the same time, we have a report going back to, I think, 2018 from Politico. Three former senior U. S. officials say Israel has planted Stingray surveillance devices throughout the White House to spy on the president and his advisers. That was in the first Trump term. How'd they get in the White House? Who can get into the White House?

#Aaron Mates

And meanwhile, what was actually happening in terms of the public conversation and Democrats is they were freaking out because there was this fake Russiagate thing about Russia planting surveillance devices in Vodafone or something like that. Remember, it was a big Russiagate thing. The Mueller team even investigated it. So just one more example of all this hysteria over fictional Russian surveillance and Russian interference was happening just as actual Israeli surveillance, Israeli influence was going on, and nobody cared because that infiltration, that influence is supported on a bipartisan basis.

#Max

Definitely. And, I mean, the scandal—I think the scandal is titanic. If you actually entertain my question to its logical conclusion, how did they get into the White House? You have to assume that it was someone, it was an Israeli who had come into the White House to meet with Donald Trump or his team that planted those devices. How else can you get in? It's not like you're throwing them over the fence—you wouldn't even get away with that. So that could potentially be Netanyahu, who was caught by former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson planting a listening device in his personal toilet at his home. Boris Johnson wrote about that in his memoir. So Netanyahu, it seems, is directing the spying on Donald Trump, if not planting devices. And that's something that, if these reporters have access to all of these figures in the White House and the DIA—it's definitely harder for me to get sources these days—but if they have access, they should be asking these questions about Netanyahu's personal role.