



Israel's weapons of mass destruction

Israel isn't a party to any of the three "weapons of mass destruction" treaties:

- the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [\[1\]](#),
- the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) [\[2\]](#) and
- the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) [\[3\]](#)

Israel possesses nuclear weapons, perhaps as many as 400 of them, though its leaders refuse to confirm or deny this.

In December 2013, Avraham Burg, a former member of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee with direct knowledge of Israel's weapons programmes, stated that Israel has nuclear (and chemical) weapons [\[4\]](#).

For more than 40 years, Israel has stood outside the international non-proliferation regime, refusing to join the NPT so that it would be free to develop nuclear weapons. It is guilty of nuclear proliferation on a grand scale.

It introduced nuclear weapons into the Middle East in the 1960s. Without this, the Middle East would be a nuclear weapons free zone today, since no other Middle East state has developed nuclear weapons.

Israel is the only state in the Middle East which is not a party to the NPT. To become a party to the NPT, it would have to give up its nuclear weapons and join as a non-nuclear-weapon state.

Israel's nuclear facilities are shrouded in secrecy and not subject to IAEA inspection, even though as long ago as 1981, the Security Council called "upon Israel urgently to place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards" in resolution 487 [\[5\]](#). However, Israel has ignored the resolution and the Security Council has taken no action to compel Israel to comply.

Israel has a variety of delivery systems for its nuclear weapons: land-based aircraft and ballistic missiles and submarine-based cruise missiles, using submarines supplied at knockdown prices by Germany in recent years.

The US never mentions Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. It took a vow of silence on the issue in 1969, when President Nixon made a secret, unwritten, agreement with Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir, in a one-to-one meeting in the White House. Since then, to the best of our knowledge the phrase "Israel's nuclear weapons" has never come out of the mouth of a US spokesperson.

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References:

[\[1\] disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt](http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt)

[\[2\] disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/bwc](http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/bwc)

[\[3\] www.opcw.org/about-opcw/non-member-states/](http://www.opcw.org/about-opcw/non-member-states/)

[\[4\] www.timesofisrael.com/avraham-burg-panned-for-breaking-nuclear-ambiguity/](http://www.timesofisrael.com/avraham-burg-panned-for-breaking-nuclear-ambiguity/)

[\[5\] www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/487%281981%29](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/487%281981%29)