

Reasons for the Escalation of Verbal Tensions Between Türkiye and the Jewish Entity

(Translated)

[Al-Rayah Newspaper - Issue 596 - 22/04/2026](#)

By: Ustaadh Asaad Mansour

Jewish Prime Minister Netanyahu escalated his rhetoric against Türkiye and its President Erdoğan, accusing him of “tolerating Iran’s proxies.” His Defense Minister, Katz, echoed this sentiment, calling Türkiye a “paper tiger” for not retaliating against the Iranian missiles that landed in Türkiye.

This escalation stems from Türkiye’s inaction against Iran. It’s worth noting that Türkiye did not condemn the 40-day US-‘Israeli’ aggression against Iran. The Jewish entity wants Türkiye not only to refrain from condemnation but also to openly support it.

However, the US, the de facto power in the region, did not ask Türkiye’s intervention to play a more significant role, such as delivering messages or mediating. While the Iranian-American negotiations were supposed to take place in Türkiye, they were instead held in Pakistan, which the US is considering for a specific role in the region. This also serves to exert pressure on Iran, given Türkiye’s position as Iran’s gateway to the West. Similarly, the US did not ask Türkiye to intervene against Russia during its invasion of Ukraine, thus preventing Türkiye from acting as a conduit for communication with Russia and using these relationships to exert pressure.

The Iranian Supreme Leader praised Türkiye, Pakistan, and Oman, exempting them from attacks, as potential gateways for negotiations with the US. Netanyahu’s actions serve his declared goal of establishing a “Greater Israel” and its dominance over the region as the undisputed regional superpower. He views Iran and Türkiye as rival regional powers. He joined forces with the US in striking Iran. He also seeks to influence Türkiye, and incite the US against it, in order to politically weaken it, knowing that Türkiye is aligned with the US and implements its policies, and that it is completely satisfied with its role and its president, Erdoğan. On 28 March 2026, Trump, while reviewing other countries’ stances on the American-Jewish aggression against Iran, said, “I think Türkiye was fantastic. Actually, fantastic. They stayed out of things we asked them to,” and described its president, Erdoğan, as a “great leader.” In other words, the US asked him not to oppose its aggression against Iran, and he complied, just as he complied with its orders not to intervene to support Gaza during the genocide perpetrated by the Jewish entity with US support.

Similarly, last year Netanyahu asked the US to end Türkiye’s role in Syria, but Trump refused, saying on 8 April 2025, “Well, I have great relations with a man named Erdoğan, have you heard of him? And I happen to like him, he likes me.” He told Netanyahu, “Look he’s a tough guy, and he’s very smart. He did something that no one else was able to do (success in Syria). You got to hand it to him. Any problem you have with Türkiye, I think I can solve it. I mean as long as you are reasonable. You have to be reasonable. We have to be reasonable.” Erdoğan achieved America’s greatest victory in Syria by preventing the fall of its regime and preserving its agent, Bashar al-Assad, until Türkiye found a replacement, Ahmed al-Sharaa, whom Türkiye had promoted. He prevented the establishment of Islamic ruling governance in Syria and the erosion of American influence there, reinforcing it with a new agent.

As for Erdoğan’s description of the leaders of the Jewish entity as “child killers who will not threaten Türkiye or its president,” and his Foreign Minister Fidan’s statement that “Jewish

entity is trying to classify Türkiye as a new enemy,” this does not change Türkiye’s stance towards the Jewish entity in any way. Erdoğan described “Turkish-Jewish entity relations as vital and indispensable.” Such verbal sparring and tensions have occurred before, only for relations to eventually return to normal.

Erdoğan is committed to preserving the Jewish entity, not harming it, and not severing relations with it as a guarantee for his continued rule. When he sold himself to America, he made this pledge and proved it in practice:

In 2005, he paid an official visit to the Jewish entity and met with its then-Prime Minister, the war criminal Ariel Sharon, who perpetrated the Sabra and Shatila massacres. He visited the Holocaust memorial and laid a wreath, assuring Sharon that “his party considers anti-Semitism a crime against humanity and that Iran’s nuclear ambitions pose a threat to the entire world, not just Israel.” Erdoğan thus affirmed his support for the Jewish entity against Iran's nuclear activities.

In 2007, he received the President of the Jewish entity, Shimon Peres, in Ankara and allowed him to address the Turkish Parliament.

No matter how tense relations become, once a period of time passes and he believes that people have forgotten the Jewish entity’s crimes, he returns to normalization. Relations between the two sides became strained after the Jewish entity attack on Gaza in 2009, and again after the Jewish entity attack on the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara, which resulted in the killing of 10 Turks on May 31, 2010. Relations were then normalized in March 2015.

When Jewish entity accused Türkiye of exposing its agents in Iran, relations became strained again, but returned to normal in June 2016. Erdoğan threatened to sever ties with Jewish entity when the US recognized Jerusalem as its capital in 2017, but he did not follow through; he is too cowardly to do so.

In 2022, Erdoğan received the Jewish entity president, Herzog, with a hero's welcome at his presidential palace in Ankara.

Erdoğan described Jewish entity as an apartheid state, and Netanyahu as a terrorist with blood on his hands, yet he shook those same hands and reconciled with him as if nothing had happened. He met with Herzog in New York in September 2023 and announced he would visit “Israel” the following October. However, the Jewish entity aggression against Gaza after October 7, 2023, canceled that visit.

On December 27, 2023, Erdoğan condemned Jewish entity for the massacres in Gaza and likened Netanyahu to Hitler. Despite this, he did not sever diplomatic or trade relations. Türkiye remained one of Jewish entity’s largest suppliers of all kinds of goods, commodities, raw materials for weapons manufacturing, and oil and gas from Azerbaijan. Erdoğan is exploiting these tensions and verbal sparring to garner sympathy, after losing much of the public’s trust. He hopes people will forget his betrayal of the people of Gaza, Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa, and the Palestinian prisoners facing the death penalty, as well as his acceptance of Trump’s ceasefire plan for Gaza, which saved the Jewish entity. He also hopes they will forget his participation in Trump's peace council and his failure to protect Syria from the Jewish aggression that destroyed its army and seized control of its south, while his own army stands idly by, protecting American interests.

In short, unless Türkiye severs its relations with the Jewish entity, withdraws its recognition of it, and declares all of Palestine an Islamic land usurped by the Jews, that must be liberated, these tensions and verbal sparring will not change the treacherous stance of the Turkish regime and its president towards the Jewish entity, which threatens Türkiye itself.