
BALTICS' BIG BEAR HUG OF ISRAEL IS A STRATEGIC BLUNDER

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As the European Union struggles to agree on a coherent response to Israel's war on Gaza, Estonias and Latvias foreign ministers recently warmly welcomed their Israeli counterpart, Gideon Saar.

This diplomatic embrace, occurring as Israel stands accused before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and International Criminal Court (ICC) of crimes against humanity and plausible acts of genocide, reveals a profound and damaging hypocrisy. It is also a strategic blunder.

Estonian Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna this week welcomed Saar to open the Israeli Embassy in Tallinn. During the ceremony, Tsahkna and his Latvian counterpart Baiba Braze reaffirmed Israel's right to self-defense and condemned Iran's destabilizing role. This is the second visit by Israel's foreign minister to the region in the last few months: Sa'ar's first destination after the "12 day war with Iran was to the Baltic trio of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, where his narrative of the conflict received a sympathetic hearing.

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