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## Jewish leaders say Netanyahu gives 'Kosher seal' to Holocaust revisionism

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Written by Polina Garaev



*L to R: Israeli journalist Ronen Bergman, former head of Israel's military intelligence Amos Yadlin, former President of the European Jewish Congress Michel Friedman, US Congressman Tom Malinowski, and CER President Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt participate Polina Garaev / i24NEWS*

**'If states are rewriting history as if they were victims...then inaction is becoming increasingly dangerous'**

MUNICH -- Jewish leaders and experts urged Israel's government to stop giving the 'Kosher seal' to regimes that seek to rewrite Holocaust remembrance. During a side event of the Munich Security Conference devoted to the future of Jewish life in Europe, they warned that ignoring historic revisionism will stoke anti-Semitism.

Michel Friedman, former President of the European Jewish Congress, charged that the close ties Israel has fostered with the leaders of Hungary, Poland and Austria -- in defiance of criticism from local Jewish communities -- is a source of immense irritation to the Jewish diaspora.



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"If even the European Union is saying that this cannot continue and the Prime Minister of Israel is coming to Viktor Orban and giving him a 'kosher seal' on that, only because he hopes that Orban will veto policies of the European Union, then we must ask ourselves, how clear are we? What are our interests? Is any of them more important than the fight for human rights and against discrimination?"

"This is a clear message to the governments of these countries: 'don't worry about the critical voices of your Jewish population, the representatives of Israel are saying it's okay,'" Friedman added.

The panel, organized by the Conference of European Rabbis (CER), was titled 'Should Jews stay or leave? When antisemitism turns to lethal terror: How to secure Jewish communities around the world'.



The discussion was moderated by CER President Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, US Congressman Tom Malinowski, former head of Israel's military intelligence Amos Yadlin and Israeli journalist and security expert Ronen Bergman.

The discussion came amid a [reignited row between Israel and Poland](#) following remarks by Netanyahu which tested the boundaries of a recent Polish law that controversially deemed



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accusations of Poland's complicity with Nazi crimes a criminal offense.

"East European countries aren't denying the fact that the Holocaust happened but they are denying any participation on their part," noted Bergman. "Israel has to make sure it speaks with one voice towards this kind of Holocaust denial and unfortunately, we have not seen this sort of message coming from Prime Minister Netanyahu."

Last year at the Munich Security Conference, Netanyahu confronted Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki over the controversial new Holocaust law. Morawiecki attempted to defend the bill, explaining that it would not be criminal to say that "there were Polish perpetrators, as there were Jewish perpetrators" in the Holocaust.



*FILE - Members of a far-right group wear masks of Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as they stage a demo criticizing Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki for having backtracked on parts of a Holocaust law. (AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski)*

"When that happened, it took Prime Minister Netanyahu 24-hours to react and he did only after attacks from the opposition," added Bergman. "The fact that Israel is running friendly relationship with countries in Eastern Europe should not undermine the clear message coming from Israel, saying we do not accept that, even if these countries are friendly towards Israel."

"I even had an Israeli official asking me to lower the tone towards the Poles because Israel is running





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clandestine relationship with Poland and this would undermine it," he revealed. "I do not accept it."

"We talk about remembrance not to induce guilt, but as a method to transfer the lessons of the past to today's time," concluded Friedman.

"We are now in time of transition for the memory of what happened in the Shoah [Holocaust] and not only Nazi and neo-Nazis groups have an interest to rewrite history – there are also representatives of states that are interested in doing this."

"But if states are rewriting the history as if they were the victims – even more than the Jews and perhaps even because of the Jews – and this is more successful than ever, because we are in a digital age and facts are now less important, then inaction is becoming increasingly dangerous."

*Polina Garaev is i24NEWS' correspondent in Germany.*

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