



Israeli-Chinese relations: What will happen after the current crisis?

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Tel Aviv -

Chinese envoys and Israeli Foreign Ministry officials met in Jerusalem in mid-March for the first time since fighting broke out in Gaza more than five months ago. Despite the low level, it sparked cautious speculation: are Sino-Israeli relations about to get back on track?

At the start of the Israeli-Hamas war last October, the Chinese government lost ground with Israel when it failed to condemn the sudden infiltration of thousands of Hamas militants from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel, who tortured, raped and massacred more than 1,200 people. The militants have also taken more than 240 Israeli hostages. Six months into another week, 134 hostages are still being held by Hamas in Gaza.

[...]

"China has lost favor with the Israeli people," **Tuvia Gering**, a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global China Center, told Voice of America. "China is using Israel as a pawn against the United States."

Looking ahead, however, Gering predicted that "when Israel needs to revitalize its economy after the war, it will need Chinese trade and investment, and Israel's technological advantages will reinvigorate Chinese investment in Israel."

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