

OSINT Report: Benjamin Netanyahu's Use of Racist Language, Incitement to Violence, Warmongering, Provocations, and Lies

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Abstract

This report provides an open-source intelligence (OSINT) analysis of selected public statements and actions by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, focusing on allegations of racist language, incitement to violence, warmongering rhetoric, provocative statements, and demonstrable falsehoods. Drawing on a range of reputable news outlets, fact-checking organizations, and international legal developments, this document assesses the extent and potential impact of these communications on regional stability and human rights.

1 Introduction

Benjamin Netanyahu, serving his third non-consecutive term as Israel's Prime Minister, has been both a pivotal figure in Middle East politics and a lightning rod for controversy. His public rhetoric and policy positions have drawn intense scrutiny from international media, human-rights bodies, and fact-checking organizations. This report systematically examines instances of:

- Racist or dehumanizing language
- Incitement to violence
- Warmongering and aggressive military rhetoric
- Provocative statements framing adversaries negatively

- Verified false or misleading claims (“lies”)

to inform policymakers, researchers, and the interested public.

2 Methodology

The analysis is based on open-source reporting from leading international media (Reuters, The Guardian, AP, BBC, The New York Times, Anadolu Agency, etc.) and fact-checking outlets. All references are cited in the text and listed in the bibliography.

3 Findings

3.1 Racist and Dehumanizing Language

- In a widely scrutinized speech on October 28, 2023, Netanyahu invoked the biblical reference to ‘Amalek’ while addressing Israeli soldiers, a statement cited by South Africa in its International Court of Justice (ICJ) genocide case as evidence of “genocidal intent” against Palestinians in Gaza [2].
- In March 2015, Netanyahu publicly apologized for a comment widely criticized as racist toward Israel’s Arab minority, acknowledging it had “offended some of Israel’s citizens” and signaling recognition of problematic rhetoric in his election campaign [1].
- In March 2019, Netanyahu stated that “Israel is not a state for all its citizens, it is the state of the Jewish people only,” a declaration condemned by Turkish and Palestinian officials as a highly racist statement that denied the presence and rights of the Palestinian people on their homeland [3, 4].
- Prime Minister Netanyahu has been criticized for defending National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir’s statements suggesting that Jews have more rights to movement in the West Bank than Arabs, which the U.S. State Department condemned as “racist rhetoric” [5].
- In February 2020, then-U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders controversially called Netanyahu a “reactionary racist” during a primary debate, highlighting international perception of his rhetoric [6].

3.2 Incitement to Violence

- While direct sanctions for incitement against Netanyahu himself are not evident, several individuals within his broader government and settler movement have faced international sanctions from the U.S., UK, and other allies for ‘inciting extremist violence’ against Palestinians, reflecting global concern over the rhetoric emanating from his coalition [7, 8].

- The U.S. State Department publicly urged Netanyahu to disavow his Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich’s call to “erase” the Palestinian village of Huwara—an act characterized as incitement to violence—highlighting the administration’s expectation of clear condemnation from the Prime Minister [9].
- Following an incident in June 2025 where a Supreme Court window was smashed during a right-wing protest, Netanyahu condemned the violence. However, opposition leader Yair Lapid accused the government’s “incitement” against the court for inspiring such acts [10].
- In April 2025, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid accused Prime Minister Netanyahu of driving incitement and holding him responsible for potential “political murder” within the country, citing threats against Shin Bet Director Ronen Bar [11].
- In March 2025, National Unity chairman Benny Gantz also accused Netanyahu’s government of inciting violence after police clashed forcefully with anti-government demonstrators [12].

3.3 Warmongering Rhetoric

- Netanyahu has frequently employed highly charged rhetoric, such as vowing “we will not have a second Holocaust,” to justify pre-emptive strikes or strong action against Iran’s alleged nuclear program, portraying an existential threat that critics argue escalates regional tensions [13].
- In various public statements regarding Iran, Netanyahu’s rhetoric has often framed Israeli military actions, or the justification for them, as necessary to avert ‘global nuclear terrorism’ or an ‘existential threat,’ underlining a hardline stance that frequently risks broader conflict and has been criticized for heightening regional instability [14].
- On June 13, 2025, Netanyahu announced the launch of “Operation Rising Lion” against Iran, reiterating the existential threat by declaring “never again is now” and framing the operation as a historic moment of national defense to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear arms [15].
- Netanyahu has suggested that Operation Rising Lion against Iran could trigger a regime change, calling for Iranians to rise up against their government, a stance criticized for aiming for regime change which could be catastrophic [16].

3.4 Provocations and Negative Framing

- During the October 2023 Gaza offensive, Prime Minister Netanyahu explicitly described Hamas as “human animals,” a dehumanizing trope that echoes earlier animal-stereotype rhetoric and fuels societal divisions and justification for military action [17].
- Netanyahu’s rhetoric and actions, such as his long-standing pledges to annex parts of the West Bank, are consistently framed as necessary for Israel’s security but are

widely condemned internationally as illegal provocations that undermine international law, violate peace agreements, and jeopardize future peace prospects [18].

- In February 2025, Netanyahu suggested that Palestinians should establish their state in Saudi Arabia, rather than their own homeland, a comment widely condemned by Arab nations as "irresponsible, provocative and thoughtless," and a direct violation of international law and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination [19, 20, 21, 22, 23].

3.5 False or Misleading Claims (Lies)

- A comprehensive fact-check of Prime Minister Netanyahu's statements regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict, including claims about humanitarian aid to Gaza and Hamas-Israel negotiations, identified multiple misleading or false assertions. These included overstatements of Israel's compliance with international law and understatements of civilian harm and humanitarian crisis in Gaza [24].
- On numerous occasions, Netanyahu has insisted that Iran was "on the verge" of weaponizing uranium or developing nuclear weapons, directly contradicting assessments from U.S. intelligence agencies that found no evidence Iran was actively pursuing a bomb. This persistent divergence has led to significant diplomatic disputes over the factual basis for potential military action against Iran [25].
- In a May 2025 press conference, Netanyahu inaccurately attempted to downplay the extent to which Qatari money—which his government approved for years—assisted Hamas in building capabilities for the October 7 attack, claiming Hamas used "flip-flops, Kalashnikovs, and pickup trucks" [26].
- In an August 2024 interview with TIME magazine, Netanyahu falsely claimed he had "not sought annexation" of West Bank territory, despite previously promising to annex the Jordan Valley and West Bank settlements in January 2020 [27, 28].
- Also in his August 2024 TIME interview, Netanyahu denied "bankrolling Hamas," a claim fact-checked as false given his government's direct involvement in facilitating Qatari cash transfers to Gaza from 2014, a policy some of his own ministers acknowledged was intended to keep Hamas as a counterweight to the Palestinian Authority [27, 28].
- Netanyahu's claim in July 2024 that civilian casualties in Rafah were "practically none" was widely fact-checked as an outright lie, given documented incidents such as the May 2024 strike on a tent camp that killed dozens of civilians [29, 30].
- His assertion that if Palestinians in Gaza weren't getting enough food, it was because "Hamas is stealing it," was contradicted by UN and international relief groups who repeatedly reported on Israeli restrictions on aid entry and movement, and attacks on humanitarian convoys [29].

4 Conclusion

Open-source evidence indicates that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s public discourse includes instances of dehumanizing language, encouragement or failure to denounce incitement, aggressive warmongering rhetoric, and demonstrable misrepresentations of key security issues. Such communications have drawn international criticism, legal challenges, and widespread concern from human-rights advocates and fact-checking bodies. Continued monitoring and analysis of official statements are essential for understanding their impact on regional dynamics and efforts toward conflict resolution.

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