

# [***US Congressman Blasts Netanyahu: 'Maniac'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BNY-X0T1-DY68-12NK-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 523 words

**Byline:** Maura Zurick

**Highlight:** Representative Jamaal Bowman, a New York Democrat, slammed Israel's prime minister on Saturday over "children starving to death in Gaza."

**Body**

Representative [*Jamaal Bowman*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/jamaal-bowman?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) slammed Israeli Prime Minister [*Benjamin Netanyahu*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/benjamin-netanyahu?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) on Saturday, referring to him as a "maniac" and calling for his ousting from office.

Bowman, a Democrat who represents New York's 16th Congressional District, made the remarks on Saturday while appearing on [*MSNBC*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/msnbc?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)'s *Alex Witt Reports*.

During the segment, Bowman told host Alex Witt that he fully agrees with [*Senate*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/senate?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) Majority Leader [*Chuck Schumer*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/chuck-schumer?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), a New York Democrat who earlier this month [*called for new elections in Israel and described Netanyahu as an "obstacle to peace."*](https://www.newsweek.com/netanyahu-rebukes-chuck-schumer-ridiculous-israel-elections-1880061?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)

Witt and Bowman discussed his thoughts on the U.S. State Department recently authorizing the transfer of 25 F-35A fighter jets and engines worth about $2.5 billion to Israel. The transfer was approved by [*Congress*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/congress?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in 2008, so the State Department was not required to get new approval or re-notify lawmakers, *The Washington Post* reported. Witt asked the congressman "given the ***politics*** of it," whether the Biden administration should have provided Congress with notice of the arms transfer.

"Forget the ***politics*** of it, this is about our humanity, and this is about our morality," Bowman said. "We have hundreds of thousands of children starving to death in Gaza right now, as we speak. The majority of the American people support a permanent ceasefire. The majority of my district supports a permanent ceasefire. We need a permanent ceasefire, we need to bring in hundreds of trucks that are five miles away from Gaza right now of aid to save as many lives as possible. There's a humanitarian crisis. The majority of Gaza has already been destroyed through act of collective punishment by this maniac Benjamin Netanyahu. I am 100 percent with Senator Schumer. He needs to be removed."

*Newsweek* reached out via email on Saturday to representatives for Bowman and Netanyahu for comment.

Israel's military offensive in Gaza was ignited by [*Hamas*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/hamas?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)' surprise attack on October 7, 2023, that left roughly 1,200 dead and an estimated 250 taken hostage. The war has left more than 32,000 Palestinians dead and more than 75,000 injured, according to the Associated Press, citing figures from Gaza's Health Ministry. Women and children make up a majority of the death toll in Gaza, the ministry reported. Before the war, Gaza was home to roughly 2.3 million people, but the violence has displaced more than 80 percent of the population. [*United Nations*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/united-nations?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) (U.N.) officials have warned that at least a quarter of the people left in the war-torn territory are facing imminent starvation.

The mounting Palestinian civilian death toll and harrowing images of dead children among the rubble of bombed buildings have ignited international calls for a ceasefire and have heightened pressure on the Biden administration to take a tougher line on Israel, an ally to the U.S.

Bowman has been among the U.S. lawmakers who have been calling for a ceasefire and condemning Netanyahu.

In a post on X, formerly [*Twitter*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/twitter?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), earlier this month the congressman wrote: "Sen. Schumer is right: Netanyahu is an obstacle to peace. We need to use the full leverage of the US government to put an immediate end to the violence."

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2370509/bowman-slams-netanyahu.jpg)

**Graphic**

Bowman Slams Netanyahu

Alexi J. Rosenfeld, Leigh Vogel/Getty

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, on December 8, 2023 in Herzliya, Israel. : U.S. Representative Jamaal Bowman, right, on April 27, 2023 in Washington, DC. Bowman on Saturday slammed Netanyahu during an appearance on MSNBC.

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