

Unlike the US, many countries are moving in the opposite direction and shying away from importing or exporting military equipment with Israel. In particular, the withdrawal of Brazil's ambassador now threatens key arms sales as the biggest customers of Israel's arms industry - the sixth largest in the world - are the US, India, and Brazil, according to Shir Hever, a leftist Israeli economist. Britain is also a prominent military trading partner and its announced "review" could imperil government-approved exports to Israel worth more than \$13.1 billion, according to a report by a parliamentary committee last month. These include the sale of body armor, drone components, and missile parts. After the 2008-2009 Israeli-Palestinian war, the British government announced a similar review of military export licenses. Also in response to the same war - only Venezuela and Bolivia cut diplomatic ties, with Nicaragua following in 2010. During the latest conflict, a smaller exporter, Spain, decided to "temporarily halt" its five million-euro annual arms sales to Israel, reported El Pais, after more than 1,800 Palestinian died, most of them civilians killed on questioned legal ground. According to the statistics sent to Spain's Congress by the secretary of state for commerce, the sale of Spanish arms to Israel in 2013 included parts for pistols that were to be exported to the US, components for a missile that were to be used by the army, all-terrain vehicles, grenade fuses, mortar systems and a prototype aiming system, "reported El Pais. An Israeli embassy spokesperson declined to comment on news of the Spanish and British arms embargoes. In terms of the recalled ambassadors, the Israeli foreign ministry expressed "disappointment" in the five countries.