

MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT INSTITUTION

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DOCUMENT 191

A COVENANT WITNESS ON SECTION 219

SOVEREIGNTY, ENTANGLEMENT, AND THE TWO-OR-THREE WITNESS STANDARD

*A Three-Religion Covenant Response to the Proposed United States–Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative
(NDAA FY2027, Section 219)*

July 2026

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REACHING JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM

☆ JUDAISM	† CHRISTIANITY	⬢ ISLAM
The prophets bind covenant faithfulness to national sovereignty under Yahweh alone. Foreign military entanglement was repeatedly condemned as covenant unfaithfulness — never neutral statecraft.	Render to Caesar what is Caesar's (Matthew 22:21) presumes a nation retains its own sovereign house to render from. A nation that surrenders its defense architecture to a foreign power has nothing left of its own to render.	The Qur'an (5:51) counsels believers against taking those who war against justice as <i>awliya</i> (أَوْلِيَاءُ, protecting allies/patrons) in matters that compromise the community's own standing before Allah.

DOCTRINAL AUTHORITY — STANDING RULE OF MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT INSTITUTION

The sole binding authority of Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution is the *Tanakh* — the written covenant of **Yahweh**. No Talmudic tractate, Church council decree, papal encyclical, hadith collection, or extra-biblical tradition carries doctrinal weight equal to or greater than the written Torah. Where any tradition conflicts with the written covenant, the written covenant governs without exception. The Talmud, New Testament, and Qur'an are cited as historical reference and comparative witness — never as

superseding authority. Miqdash Bethel uses the Written Tanakh as its sole source for four reasons: it is the only text Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all recognize as originally given by **Yahweh**; it predates and underlies the Talmud, New Testament, and Qur'an, so testing those traditions against it follows the evidentiary direction of **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15** — the earlier witness governs the later commentary; every later tradition that departs from the *Tanakh* does so by addition or reinterpretation, never by overturning the text itself, so the text remains the fixed standard; and **Yahweh**'s own words declare the covenant unchanging (**Malachi 3:6; Tehillim (Psalms) 119:89**), making the written covenant — not evolving institutional interpretation — the only stable ground for doctrine. All three great covenant traditions — Judaism, Christianity, and Islam — are addressed simultaneously and equally in every Miqdash Bethel document, because **Yahweh**'s covenant belongs to every nation that will receive it. The **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15** two-or-three-witness evidentiary standard governs all textual claims in this document.

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

This document applies the sole authority of the written *Tanakh*. **Yahweh (יהוה)** and **Elohim (אלהים)** appear in bold throughout. Hebrew book names are given with English in parentheses, bold, at every occurrence. Hebrew transliterations appear in *bold italic* with English meaning in parentheses at every occurrence. Scripture references are bold. Three audiences are addressed simultaneously: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This document also examines a pending act of the United States Congress — Section 219 of the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) — and its constitutional dimensions. Legislative facts are drawn from the public legislative record and cross-checked against the two-or-three-witness standard; contested political and legal characterizations (including allegations of genocide, and claims about what the provision legally does) are identified as such and are not adjudicated by this document as settled fact.

TANAKH BOOKS CITED IN THIS DOCUMENT

DIVISION	BOOKS CITED	PURPOSE IN THIS STUDY
Torah	Bereishit (Genesis), Shemot (Exodus), Devarim (Deuteronomy)	Covenant law on kingship, foreign alliance, and the boundaries of sovereignty

Nevi'im (Prophets)	Yeshayahu (Isaiah), Hoshea (Hosea), Yechezkel (Ezekiel), Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah), 2 Melachim (2 Kings)	Prophetic witness against foreign military entanglement and its covenant consequences
Ketuvim (Writings)	Tehillim (Psalms), Mishlei (Proverbs)	Covenant wisdom on trust, false witness, and national dependence

I. WHAT SECTION 219 ACTUALLY IS — APPLYING THE TWO-OR-THREE WITNESS STANDARD

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 governs:

"A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or wrong... only on the evidence of two or three witnesses shall a charge be sustained."

This standard is applied here first to the legislative fact itself, before any covenant judgment is rendered upon it.

On July 7, 2026, Tucker Carlson interviewed former Congressman Dennis Kucinich regarding Section 219 of the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) — formerly numbered Section 224, and known in the Senate version as Section 1217. Kucinich characterized the provision as a formal "merger" of the United States and Israeli militaries. Independent witnesses corroborate the underlying legislative fact and clarify its precise legal scope.

I-A. THE CORROBORATED LEGISLATIVE FACT

Multiple independent sources — legislative text, the Congressional Research analysis, the Quincy Institute, Responsible Statecraft, and reporting from Military.com — corroborate that Section 219 establishes a "United States–Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative" within the Department of Defense, directing the Secretary of Defense to designate an **executive agent** to accelerate joint research, development, and industrial integration of Israeli-origin defense technologies into U.S. military systems, across counter-drone systems, missile and air defense, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber and electronic warfare, directed energy, and biotechnology. A companion measure, Section 622 of the 2027 Intelligence Authorization Act, expands intelligence-sharing arrangements and limits the President's ability to reduce them without congressional notice. A bipartisan amendment offered by Rep. Thomas Massie and Rep. Ro Khanna to strip Section 219 from the bill was not made "in order" for floor debate by the House Rules Committee — meaning it received no recorded vote.

I-B. WHERE THE WITNESSES DIVERGE

The two-or-three-witness standard also requires honesty about where witnesses disagree. Independent legal analysis (including a cross-source review conducted for this document) finds **no statutory language creating a joint command structure or transferring U.S. military decision-making authority to Israel**. AIPAC and House Armed Services Committee materials describe the measure as formalizing existing cooperation with continued reporting requirements. Critics — including Senator Bernie Sanders, the Quincy Institute, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, and Representatives Massie and Khanna — argue the more precise danger is not a literal fusion of chains of command but the institutionalization of deep technological and industrial entanglement outside the ordinary annual appropriations and oversight process, shielding cooperation from the yearly congressional review that has historically constrained U.S.-Israel military assistance.

This document does not adopt “merger” as a legal term of art — the evidence does not sustain that specific claim under the two-or-three-witness standard. But it does find the oversight-bypass concern well corroborated, and it is this narrower, better-evidenced claim that the constitutional analysis below addresses.

II. CONSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

Five constitutional and statutory concerns are corroborated by the public record. Each is stated precisely, distinguishing verified structural concern from rhetorical overstatement.

II-A. THE APPROPRIATIONS POWER (ARTICLE I, SECTION 9, CLAUSE 7)

The Constitution vests the power of the purse in Congress and requires that no money be drawn from the Treasury except by appropriations made by law, renewed annually. Routing U.S.-Israel defense-technology integration through an *authorization* mechanism inside the NDAA — administered by an internal DoD executive agent with only periodic reporting — rather than through the ordinary annual appropriations and foreign-assistance review process, reduces the practical leverage Congress has historically held to condition, slow, or halt cooperation year to year. This is the single best-corroborated structural concern in the record, echoed by sources across the political spectrum.

II-B. THE TREATY CLAUSE CLAIM IS OVERSTATED

Mr. Kucinich argued that this “should be going to the Senate” as a treaty. Honesty under the covenant’s evidentiary standard requires correcting this: routine military-technology cooperation frameworks between the United States and an allied state are ordinarily established by ordinary statute, not by treaty requiring Senate ratification under Article II, Section 2. The absence of a treaty vote is not, by itself, evidence of constitutional violation. The stronger and better-evidenced objection is procedural — not that

a treaty was skipped, but that **floor debate and a recorded amendment vote were denied** by the House Rules Committee's refusal to make the Massie-Khanna amendment "in order," a procedural maneuver that prevented members of Congress from being placed on public record.

II-C. STATUTORY TENSION WITH THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961

Section 622 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 vests the Secretary of State with continuous supervision and general direction of U.S. military assistance and training programs. Analysts have noted that the House version of Section 219 omits the routine interagency-alignment clause present in earlier drafts, raising a genuine — though statutory rather than constitutional — question about whether the Department of Defense's expanded executive-agent authority under this initiative adequately preserves the State Department's statutory supervisory role.

II-D. DELEGATION TO AN UNELECTED EXECUTIVE AGENT

The provision creates a DoD-internal "executive agent" position with substantial authority to prioritize and direct technology integration, reporting to Congress only through periodic briefings (180-day interim, then annual through 2030) rather than through case-by-case congressional authorization. This is a genuine delegation-of-authority concern, structurally similar to prior congressional delegations upheld under existing law, but unusual in scope and in the singularity of the foreign partner named in statute.

II-E. BUY AMERICA AND PROCUREMENT LAW

Existing federal procurement law generally favors domestic sourcing of defense articles ("Buy America" provisions). Critics argue the initiative's emphasis on co-production and industrial-base integration could functionally displace domestic-sourcing preferences for the technology categories it covers. This is a live statutory question the public text does not fully resolve, and reporting on this point remains less corroborated than II-A above.

Under the **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15** standard, II-A (appropriations bypass) and the procedural denial of a recorded floor vote are the most fully corroborated concerns — attested by multiple independent, ideologically diverse witnesses. II-C, II-D, and II-E are genuine but less corroborated, and II-B, as commonly argued on television, overstates the constitutional mechanism involved even though it correctly senses that *something* about ordinary constitutional process has been bypassed.

III. THE COVENANT FRAMEWORK — FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENT AND THE BOUNDARIES OF SOVEREIGNTY

The Tanakh does not treat a nation's military and diplomatic entanglement with foreign powers as a neutral question of statecraft. It treats it as a covenant question — one Yisra'el (Israel) itself repeatedly failed, to its own harm, and one the prophets confronted directly.

III-A. DEVARIM (DEUTERONOMY) 17:16–17 — THE KING SHALL NOT MULTIPLY FOR HIMSELF

The Torah's own constitution for kingship anticipates exactly this danger: *"Only he must not acquire many horses for himself, or return the people to Egypt to add to his horses... nor shall he acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away."* (Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:16–17) The covenant's concern is precise: dependence on a foreign power's military assets, and entangling alliance for security, both carry the same structural danger — **the turning away of the heart** from reliance on **Yahweh** and from the people's own sovereign self-governance under Him.

III-B. YESHAYAHU (ISAIAH) 31:1 — WOE TO THOSE WHO RELY ON FOREIGN STRENGTH

"Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Yisra'el (Israel) or consult **Yahweh!**" (Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 31:1) The prophet's indictment is not that Egypt was uniquely evil among nations, but that **Yehudah (Judah)** sought security in the quantity and sophistication of a foreign military's hardware rather than in covenant faithfulness. The parallel to a defense-technology dependency built on AI, quantum sensing, and autonomous weapons — the very language of Section 219 — is not incidental.

III-C. HOSHEA (HOSEA) 7:11 AND 2 MELACHIM (2 KINGS) 16:7–9 — TWO FURTHER WITNESSES

"Ephraim is like a silly dove, without sense — calling to Egypt, going to Assyria." (Hoshea (Hosea) 7:11) The prophet condemns not the nations themselves but **Yisra'el's (Israel's)** own restless oscillation between foreign patrons for security. A third witness: when King **Achaz (Ahaz)** of **Yehudah (Judah)** appealed to Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria for military rescue, he became Assyria's vassal and imported its altar into the Temple itself (2 Melachim (2 Kings) 16:7–9). The covenant pattern across three independent witnesses is consistent: **military dependence on a foreign power tends toward the erosion of the dependent nation's own sovereignty and worship, not merely its treasury.**

III-D. THE COVENANT PRINCIPLE, APPLIED WITHOUT PARTISAN DISTORTION

None of these texts condemn alliance, cooperation, or friendship between nations as such — **Yisra'el (Israel)** maintained treaties and trade relationships throughout its history. What the prophets condemn specifically is **reliance** — structuring a nation's core security architecture around dependence on a foreign power's technology, favor, or goodwill in place of its own sovereign, covenant-grounded self-governance. Applied here, without regard to which nation is named in the statute, the covenant principle stands: **any arrangement — with any foreign power — that structurally entangles a nation's core defense decision-making outside its own constitutional process is the pattern the prophets warned**

against, regardless of whether the foreign partner is virtuous or wicked. This is a sovereignty concern that stands on its own covenant footing, independent of any judgment about Israel's conduct discussed in Section IV below.

IV. ON THE CHARGE OF GENOCIDE — A CONTESTED CLAIM UNDER THE TWO-OR-THREE WITNESS STANDARD

Both speakers in the interview repeatedly characterized Israel's conduct in Gaza and Lebanon as "genocide." This document treats that characterization with the same evidentiary discipline it applies to the legislative facts above, rather than repeating it as settled doctrine or dismissing it. The **legal characterization** and the **documented human toll** are treated separately below: the numbers in IV-A are drawn from health-ministry and UN reporting and are not themselves a legal finding of genocide; the legal question is addressed in IV-B on its own terms.

IV-A. THE DOCUMENTED HUMAN TOLL — GAZA AND LEBANON

Independent of the contested legal characterization, the scale of death and injury is itself corroborated across multiple, independent reporting bodies and satisfies the **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15** two-or-three-witness standard on its own terms. The figures below are the most recent multi-source figures available at the time of writing (mid-2026) and are presented with their sourcing and known limitations stated plainly.

GAZA / ISRAEL	KILLED	INJURED / WOUNDED	SOURCE
Palestinians, Gaza Strip, Oct 7, 2023 – late Apr 2026	~72,600 (MoH-identified running total)	~172,400	Gaza Ministry of Health, via UN OCHA / UNRWA
Palestinians, Gaza — independent epidemiological estimate (not an MoH figure)	Est. 77,000–109,000 (point estimate ~93,000)	Not separately estimated	Lancet capture–recapture analysis; field-survey follow-up study, cited by The Economist

Life-changing injuries, Gaza (amputations and similar), as of May 2026	—	Over 43,000	World Health Organization
Palestinians, West Bank incl. East Jerusalem, Oct 7, 2023 – late Apr 2026	1,088 (incl. 238 children)	Not separately totaled in this reporting period	UN OCHA
Additional Gaza casualties since Oct 10, 2025 ceasefire, as of late May 2026	881	2,621	Gaza Ministry of Health, via UN OCHA
Israelis and foreign nationals, primarily Oct 7, 2023 attack and aftermath	~1,195 (incl. 815 civilians)	Not consolidated in sources reviewed	Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Defense Ministry
Israeli soldiers, Gaza ground operation, Oct 2023 – early 2026	471	2,995	Israeli military, via UN OCHA reporting
LEBANON	KILLED	INJURED / WOUNDED	SOURCE
Renewed Israeli offensive, Mar 2 – Jul 5, 2026	4,304 (incl. 211 children, 292 women, ~135 health/emergency workers)	12,203	Lebanese Ministry of Public Health
Of the above, killed since the Apr 17, 2026 ceasefire announcement	Over 880 (running total, still rising as of late May)	Not separately totaled	Lebanese Ministry of Public Health

Sourcing note, per the two-or-three-witness standard: the Gaza Ministry of Health operates under the authority of the Hamas-run administration in Gaza, and its methodology has been publicly examined and defended by the Associated Press and cross-checked by independent epidemiological research; that research (Lancet-affiliated capture-recapture analysis, and a follow-up population field survey) finds the ministry's

running tally is very likely an **undercount**, not an inflation, of trauma deaths — the independent estimate runs 46 to 107 percent higher than the official figure. Israeli government and military figures for October 7 and subsequent military fatalities are reported by Israel's own Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministry and are cross-referenced through UN OCHA situation reporting. Lebanese figures are reported by Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health and are widely carried by Reuters, AFP, and regional outlets without significant independent dispute as to the aggregate scale, though individual daily tallies fluctuate as bodies are recovered and identified. None of these figures, standing alone or together, constitute a legal finding of genocide — that determination belongs to the tribunal addressed in IV-B.

IV-B. THE LEGAL QUESTION REMAINS BEFORE THE ICJ

As a matter of public record: South Africa's case alleging genocide against Israel remains before the International Court of Justice, which has issued provisional measures but has not, at the time of this writing, issued a final judgment on the merits. This is therefore, in the language of **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15**, a charge still under adjudication by competent witnesses — serious enough to be actively litigated by a sovereign state before the world's highest court, but not yet a matter this document can treat as a closed legal finding. Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution does not possess independent evidentiary standing to adjudicate this charge, and does not attempt to here. The scale of death and injury documented in IV-A is a separate and already-corroborated matter; it does not by itself settle the legal question of intent that a genocide finding requires, and this document does not conflate the two.

IV-C. THE COVENANT OBLIGATION REGARDLESS OF VERDICT

What the covenant record does speak to directly is the moral seriousness of *shfikkbut damim* (שפיכות דמים) — the shedding of innocent blood — which **Yahweh** treats as defiling the land itself, regardless of the nationality of either the one who sheds it or the one who witnesses and funds it in silence (see **Bemidbar (Numbers) 35:33**: *"You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land."*) Whatever the ICJ ultimately determines as a matter of international law, and whichever tally in IV-A proves nearest the truth, the covenant obligation on any witnessing nation — including the United States, as funder and now proposed technological partner — is to take the documented deaths of noncombatants, including thousands of children on both the Gazan and Lebanese side of the ledger, and the hostages and soldiers killed on the Israeli side, with full moral seriousness rather than treat any of them as a foreign policy externality. This is a matter for sober, ongoing witnesses, not for exploitation on either side of a legislative debate.

V. THE COVENANT CALL TO WITNESS

Congress reconvened on July 13, 2026, and the House Rules Committee was expected to act again on the rule governing floor debate. Whatever one concludes about the covenant and constitutional questions

raised above, the prophetic pattern is never passive. **Iyov (Job)**, **Habakkuk**, and **Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah)** all brought their protest directly and audibly before those with power to act — this is covenant civic engagement, not mere political commentary. Citizens under this covenant framework are encouraged to contact their representatives regarding II-A and the denial of a recorded floor vote on the Massie-Khanna amendment specifically — the two most fully corroborated concerns in this record — rather than rest on the more contested characterizations addressed in Section IV.

VI. SEVEN COVENANT DECLARATIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY AND FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENT

#	COVENANT DECLARATION	BASIS
I	Yahweh alone is the sovereign ground of a covenant people's security. A nation's core defense decision-making, entangled structurally with any foreign power, drifts from that ground regardless of which power is named.	Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:16–17
II	Reliance on the quantity or sophistication of a foreign military's hardware — however strong — is precisely the trust the prophets condemned as a substitute for covenant faithfulness.	Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 31:1
III	Restless oscillation between foreign patrons for security corrodes the sovereignty and the worship of the nation that practices it.	Hoshea (Hosea) 7:11; 2 Melachim (2 Kings) 16:7–9
IV	A single witness — however forceful — does not sustain a legal or historical charge. Both legislative characterization and geopolitical accusation must be tested against two or three corroborating, independent witnesses before covenant judgment is rendered.	Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15
V	Bypassing a recorded, public vote on a matter of sovereignty is a corroborated procedural harm regardless of one's view of the underlying policy — it denies the people's representatives the accountability the covenant model of governance requires.	Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) 5:8; Shoftim (Judges) pattern of public accountability

VI	The shedding of innocent blood defiles the land and binds the witnessing nation to moral seriousness, independent of and prior to any final international legal verdict.	Bemidbar (Numbers) 35:33
VII	Covenant faithfulness calls the people to protest audibly to those in power, after the pattern of Iyov (Job), Habakkuk, and Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) — not to silence, and not to partisan capture by either side of a contested public debate.	Habakkuk 1:2–3

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"Only he must not acquire many horses for himself... nor shall he acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away."

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 17:16–17 — The Written Covenant of Yahweh

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