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DECEMBER 18, 2024

# ICAN Statement on the Nomination of Kashyap “Kash” Patel as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation



BRIEFING ROOM ▾

STATEMENTS

The Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN) proudly supports the nomination of Kashyap “Kash” Patel as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. A seasoned attorney and national security expert, Director-Designate Patel embodies the leadership, vision, and dedication needed to restore trust, ensure justice, and address critical threats to our nation’s security. His commitment to combating extremism, safeguarding civil liberties, and upholding the rule of law makes him well suited to lead the FBI at this pivotal moment in our nation’s history.

## **A Career Defined by Leadership, National Security**

Kash Patel brings a wealth of experience in law enforcement, national security, and public service to his nomination as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. As a federal prosecutor, Patel specialized in prosecuting terrorism and human trafficking cases, demonstrating his steadfast commitment to justice and protecting the American people.

Patel’s career trajectory highlights his ability to navigate complex national security challenges. While serving on the House Intelligence Committee, he played a pivotal role in investigative oversight, focusing on issues of transparency and accountability within intelligence and law enforcement agencies. His leadership as Senior Director of the Counterterrorism Directorate on the National Security Council advanced critical initiatives to combat global terrorism and safeguard American interests abroad.

Patel is also a staunch advocate for the U.S.-Israel relationship, consistently emphasizing Israel's role as America's "number one ally" in the Middle East. He has publicly highlighted the importance of U.S. support for Israel, particularly in countering threats posed by Iran. Patel has praised Israel's intelligence and defense capabilities, calling them "exquisite," while underscoring the necessity of American partnership to confront shared security challenges in the region.

Patel has demonstrated a commitment to reform, accountability, and the rule of law throughout his career. His leadership at the FBI will bring a fresh perspective and a renewed focus on addressing modern challenges, including combating domestic and international threats, fostering community trust, and ensuring the bureau remains a neutral and effective force for justice.

### **The Urgent Need for Leadership to Confront Surging Antisemitism**

The October 7, 2023 attacks revealed serious domestic challenges for the United States. Antisemitism has surged, fueled by extremism, hate crimes, and hostility disguised as political discourse. These issues require a clear and decisive response from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which is tasked with protecting communities and upholding the rule of law.

In the year since the attacks in Israel, antisemitic hate crimes have increased dramatically. Jewish communities have faced vandalism, harassment, and violence targeting synagogues, community centers, and individuals. The FBI's role is to investigate and prosecute these crimes while working with local law enforcement to protect vulnerable communities.

College campuses and public schools have become flashpoints for antisemitism. Jewish students and educators report rising incidents of hate speech and harassment, often masked as anti-Zionism. Public demonstrations and discriminatory policies have created a hostile environment, leaving many Jewish students feeling unsafe.

The FBI's ability to combat these challenges depends on strong leadership. The next Director must prioritize clear action against hate crimes and extremism, rebuild public trust in the bureau, and ensure the agency remains impartial and effective.

### **Key Areas of Focus for the FBI Director**

The following are critical areas of concern shared by ICAN and the communities we represent, which we urge Director-Designate Patel to prioritize during his confirmation hearings and throughout his tenure as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

**1. Combating Antisemitic Hate Crimes:** The FBI must take a leading role in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes targeting Jewish communities. Enhanced coordination with local law enforcement, advocacy organizations, and faith-based groups is essential to prevent violence and protect vulnerable communities.

**2. Countering Online Extremism:** The FBI should work collaboratively with online platforms and communities to address the spread of antisemitic rhetoric, misinformation, and extremism while respecting free speech and avoiding government overreach. Efforts must balance the need to address extremism with preserving free speech rights, where communities play a crucial role in fostering accountability, setting norms, and ensuring that digital spaces remain inclusive and respectful.

**3. Addressing Campus Antisemitism:** The FBI should partner with educational institutions to combat antisemitic harassment and ensure accountability for violations of civil rights. Supporting students through clear guidance, education, and targeted enforcement is vital for fostering inclusive campuses.

**4. Protecting Religious Institutions:** Synagogues and Jewish community centers continue to face heightened threats. The FBI must prioritize resources for intelligence gathering, threat assessment, and preventative measures to safeguard these spaces.

**5. Strengthening Counterterrorism Efforts:** Given the ongoing threats to the U.S. and its allies, including Israel, the FBI must remain vigilant in its counterterrorism work. This includes addressing both international and domestic threats, particularly those tied to antisemitism and extremist ideologies. Strengthening intelligence-sharing and joint operations with Israeli security agencies will enhance the ability to address shared threats and ensure the safety and security of both nations.

Patel's unique combination of legal expertise, national security experience, and unwavering support for America's allies makes him well-suited to lead the FBI at this critical juncture.

ICAN encourages U.S. Senators, community leaders, and all those committed to a strong Israeli-American community and U.S.-Israel relationship to recognize the importance of this nomination and to support a timely and thoughtful confirmation process, ensuring that America has the leadership needed to strengthen its relationship with Israel during this historic time.

### **What It Means to Be Pro-Israeli-American**

At ICAN, being pro-Israeli-American means uniting Israeli-American immigrants and pro-Israel Americans into a cohesive, action-oriented coalition that strengthens the U.S.-Israel

alliance while addressing domestic challenges that both communities face, like hate and antisemitism. It is an advocacy model rooted in shared values of democracy, innovation, and security, reflecting the unique role Israeli-Americans play as a bridge between two vibrant democracies. Pro-Israeli-American advocacy recognizes that the future stability and strength of the U.S.-Israel relationship depends on:

- Building bipartisan support for policies that strengthen mutual security and economic prosperity.
- Promoting the value of initiatives like the Abraham Accords, which exemplify the power of regional cooperation and diplomacy.
- Combating antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment through people-to-people, Israeli-American immigrant, and pro-Israel American cooperation.

This approach is dynamic, inclusive, and forward-looking, ensuring that our communities have a powerful and unified voice in shaping policies that benefit both nations.

**The Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN)** is the only organization that brings together Israeli and American activists to create change for a better America, a more secure Israel, and a stronger U.S.-Israel alliance.

ICAN works with community leaders, public officials, and grassroots organizations to strengthen the bond between the United States and Israel at all levels of government through civic education, advocacy, and public engagement. It also promotes policies that support the Israeli-American community and foster mutual understanding. With a focus on policy leadership and strategic engagement, ICAN is committed to empowering Israeli-American activists and pro-Israel Americans to take an active role in shaping public policy.

Learn more about the Israeli-American Civic Action Network at [IsraelUSA.org](https://IsraelUSA.org).



Join a growing community of empowered activists who are making a real difference in the advancement of the U.S. - Israel relationship.

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