German Green Party leader hosts former Mossad chief in Berlin

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The German Green Party Bundestag deputy, Konstantin von Notz, hosted Israel's former Intelligence Chief David Barnea at talks in Berlin organised by the German-Israeli Middle East Peace Forum (Naffo) on November 25. The organization is a lobbying group with close ties to the Israeli government.

Von Notz is a leading member of the Green Party who serves on the Bundestag Control Committee overseeing German intelligence services. Barnea's visit confirms the close, longstanding links between the German intelligence services and the Israeli Mossad—with von Notz and the Green Party providing a crucial link.

Barnea, who stepped down as Mossad head in June, played a major role in the attacks launched by the Israeli army on the populations of Lebanon and Iran. The European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR) has filed a criminal complaint against Barnea with the German Prosecutor's Office, demanding Barnea be arrested upon his arrival in Germany.

The ECCHR accuses Barnea of possible involvement in war crimes in Lebanon. It was under Barnea's leadership of Mossad that pagers containing explosives killed at least 37 alleged members of the Hezbollah organisation in September 2024. According to the ECCHR, more than another 3,400 persons were injured, including many civilians. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, has characterized the action as a violation of international law and possible war crime.

Despite the charges against him, the chances of Barnea being arrested in Berlin are nil. The German Chancellor Friedrich Merz (CDU) has already made clear he will defy arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court for the war criminals Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Galant—although, as a member of the ICC, Germany is obligated to carry out such arrest warrants.

While he no longer heads Mossad, Barnea remains an influential political figure in Israel. At the recent Elnet Jerusalem Summit, another Israeli lobbying organisation, Barnea backed the call by Netanyahu for a renewed attack on Iran. Speaking at the conference Barnea said: "We must act quickly and decisively to bring about the overthrow of this regime. If that means waging war again, then that is exactly what we must do."

When questioned about his role in hosting a conference with a man involved in the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and Israel's war against Iran, von Notz was unabashed. He informed the *taz* newspaper that the German and Israeli intelligence services were "close partners" whose cooperation was "important and valuable, including for security in Germany." He added that he was pleased that representatives from several ministries as well as members of parliament from various political groups had registered to attend the event.

For anyone who has followed the progress of the Greens in recent years, the news that the party is embracing war criminals comes as no real surprise. Since the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023, no other party in Germany has distinguished itself more aggressively in support of Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinian people than the Greens.

The party that once prided itself as the voice of peace and human rights has emerged as the most bellicose faction of the German ruling class—outdoing even the Christian Democrats and the far-right Alternative for Germany in its enthusiasm for the slaughter in Gaza and its preparation for a wider war across the Middle East.

On the heels of the military invasion of Gaza by the Israeli army, the Israeli Defense Minister Gallant already made clear his government's genocidal intent. In the course of the "siege of Gaza … there will be no electricity, no food, no fuel. We are fighting human animals, and we will act accordingly," he said.

The response by the then Green Party Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock was immediate. Deploring the actions of Hamas she declared: "This terror must be stopped immediately. Israel has our full solidarity."

As the slaughter of civilians in Gaza proceeded unabated, Baerbock repeatedly took the side of Israel, declaring in Tel

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Aviv in June 2024: “The security of the State of Israel is paramount for my country. It is part of our raison d’état.”

The most revealing moment came months later when on October 10, 2024, Baerbock delivered a Bundestag speech that stripped away the last pretense of “humanitarian” concern: “Self-defense naturally means not only attacking terrorists, but destroying them. ... When Hamas terrorists hide behind people, behind schools, then we enter very difficult territory. But we do not shy away from this. That is why I made it clear to the United Nations: then civilian locations can also lose their protected status.”

Already, two years ago, the Green Party foreign minister made clear that the laws of war—the protection of civilians, hospitals and schools—are obstacles to be swept aside in the pursuit of Israel’s war aims. In the meantime, the death toll in Gaza has risen to over 73,000, with the Gaza Health Ministry reporting that more than 1,700 Palestinians have been killed and more than 6,000 injured since the announcement of a “ceasefire” in October 2025.

The Green Party’s advocacy of the interests of Israel are not merely verbal. When Chancellor Merz announced a purely symbolic “partial halt” to arms exports to Israel in 2025, following massive popular opposition to the genocide in Gaza, it was the Greens who most vociferously opposed even this gesture.

Bundestag Vice President Omid Nouripour (Green Party) declared Merz’s decision to “be short-sighted,” and then let the cat out of the bag. Germany was “very dependent on Israel” in military and intelligence cooperation, he said and continued: “In these matters, we need the Israelis more than they need us. That is the brutal reality.”

In his comments, Nouripour explicitly linked support for Israel’s genocide to NATO’s war against Russia. As is the case with its support of the Israeli genocide in Gaza the Greens are also the most vehement advocate of war against Russia.

The two war fronts are closely linked. In order for German imperialism to secure its interests in both the Middle East and the region of the former Soviet Union, it requires the expertise and technology offered by the far-right Israeli state and its intelligence services.

This means the Greens’ support for the genocide cannot be understood in isolation. It is part of a broader strategy of German imperialism to reassert itself as a world power through war. The war in Gaza is a front in a developing third world war, in which the imperialist powers are locked in a ruthless redivision of the world. Israel serves as a bridgehead for the US and its allies—including Germany—to enforce their interests in the Middle East and advance the war offensive against Iran, Russia and China.

This is the real meaning of the Greens’ “climate policy,” “feminist foreign policy and “human rights” rhetoric. They are all covers for the enforcement of German imperialism’s predatory interests through war.

In his comments to the *taz* newspaper, von Notz indicated that members of the Left Party, alongside other Bundestag parties, had expressed interest in attending Wednesday’s meeting with Barnea. In the event, six members of the Left Party did turn up to protest at Barnea’s attendance in Berlin, briefly blocking the entrances to the chamber where the meeting was held. Holding up pictures of victims of the Mossad pager attack, they denounced Barnea as a war criminal.

The stunt is typical for the way the Left Party operates. On the same day as the protest in the German parliament, the Left Party expelled a member from its parliamentary group in the Berlin State Parliament who had publicly spoken out against the Israeli genocide. Also, at the start of this week, Elnet posted a photo of Left Party Bundestag member Michael Arndt, alongside members of the German ruling coalition, on a trip to Israel partially financed by Elnet, a pro-Israeli lobby organization.

Such solidarity visits by Left Party members are not isolated occurrences. In November last year two spokespersons for the pro-Zionist (BAG) Shalom grouping inside the Left Party were part of a German delegation which travelled to Israel to commemorate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. One stop during the visit organised by the Israeli government was a guided tour of a weapons factory operated by the Israeli company Rafael.

The Left Party is currently in negotiation with the Greens and the SPD to form a new senate in Berlin. A pre-condition for such a government in the German capital headed by the Left Party is the hounding, denunciation and expulsion of anyone in their respective parties who opposes the genocide in Gaza or criticises the German government’s commitment to its raison d’état pact with Israel.

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