ICC Threat of 'One-Sided' Gaza War Probe Sparks Outrage in Israel

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A threat made by International Criminal Court Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda on [Wednesday](http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_article.php?id=25435) to launch a one-sided investigation into the war in Gaza last summer unless Israel agrees to provide the court with information sparked outrage in Israel.

"As most are aware, Israel's stance -- like that of several other countries, including the United States and Canada -- is that the Palestinians are not eligible to be members of the ICC and that the court does not have jurisdiction in this case, since, among other reasons, 'Palestine' is not a country," a senior Israeli official said.

Israel has also stated that the extensive internal investigation it has launched into Operation Protective Edge makes an ICC investigation unjustified per the court's own mandate.

The official went on to say that "given this context, the prosecutor's office was mistaken in accepting the Palestinian claim and launching a preliminary investigation. We hope that the court will not allow its resources to be taken advantage of to deal with a claim that has no legal basis and is guided by cynical political motivations, and which, if addressed, will damage the court's credibility as well as the chances of establishing a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians.

"It is shocking that the prosecutor of the ICC -- whose job it is to abide by the highest standards of professionalism, caution, independence and impartiality -- has chosen to deal with these issues in the media, and even said in the Associated Press article that she 'may perhaps be forced to just go with just one side of the story.' This casts doubt on the credibility of the process being undertaken at the prosecutor's office.

"Israel is a democratic country that respects the rule of law while being positioned on the frontline of the global war on terrorism."

Bensouda said she has already received information "from others regarding the preliminary examination," but refused to elaborate except to say that her office was also collecting information from confidential sources, identified groups and individuals and open sources.

"It's really difficult to say [whether] this is going to take two months or three months, or one year or 10 years," Bensouda said, noting that in some instances, as in the case of Libya, the preliminary examination was very short while in Afghanistan the preliminary probe has already taken 10 years.