

No, Israel's Humanitarian Aid Isn't an Evil Conspiracy

THE LIE

Israel's earthquake aid to Venezuela is a cover for intelligence operations — planting agents, gathering information, or establishing a covert presence in a country that expelled the Israeli embassy in 2009.

THE TRUTH

Israel sent doctors and rescue specialists to Venezuela, not intelligence agents. Its teams do documented humanitarian work — openly, alongside other nations — in a country that would be the first to expel them if anything improper were happening.

BACKGROUND

- On June 24, 2026, two earthquakes — a 7.2 followed by a 7.5 — struck western Venezuela near Caracas, killing over 1,200 people and leaving thousands more injured, displaced, or trapped.
- Israel's Foreign Ministry immediately announced a search-and-rescue delegation, while Israeli NGOs IsraAID, NATAN, and ZAKA mobilized doctors, mental health professionals, water and sanitation engineers, and rescue specialists. ([Jerusalem Post](#))
- On June 26, anti-Israel journalist Max Blumenthal declared on social media that Israel was using the disaster as "cover" to "infiltrate" Venezuela: "Israel's infiltration of Venezuela begins under cover of earthquake aid. Hugo Chavez expelled the Israeli embassy's staff in January, 2009 in protest of their murderous assault on Gaza." ([X](#))
- Dozens of other countries — the U.S., Turkey, Iran, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Cuba, the UN — sent aid without a word of suspicion. Only Israel was accused of hidden motives.

TRUTH EXPLAINED

- **Zero evidence:** The Venezuelan government itself has not accused Israel of infiltration or rejected its aid — and Venezuela, which Blumenthal correctly notes is hostile to Israel, would be the first to object if anything improper were happening. No credible reporting, no intelligence leaks, and no independent source supports Blumenthal's claim.
- **Infiltration is logistically impossible:** Israel has no embassy in Caracas, a fact Blumenthal himself noted. Any Israeli team enters only with explicit Venezuelan government approval, working openly alongside American, Iranian, and UN teams doing documented humanitarian work: search-and-rescue, field medicine, trauma counseling, and water restoration. Disaster relief is actually one of the *worst* covers for infiltration. ([Times of Israel](#))
- **Israel is the world's gold standard in disaster response:** The World Health Organization (WHO) gave Israel's emergency medical teams its highest designation in 2016, the first country on earth to achieve it. Only China has since been added to the list. Israeli teams deploy fully functional field hospitals, including surgery and intensive care, within hours of arrival. After Haiti's 2010 earthquake alone, a 220-person Israeli delegation treated over 1,100 patients, performed 319 surgeries, and delivered 16 babies. ([Times of Israel](#)), ([Science Direct](#))
- **Israel routinely aids countries that oppose it:** Israel has deployed disaster relief to nations with no diplomatic ties across four decades — the 1985 Mexico City earthquake, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2015 Nepal earthquake, the 2016 Italy earthquake, mudslides in Sierra Leone, and a dam collapse in Brazil. None of those countries ever accused Israel of trying to infiltrate them under cover of aid. ([Jewish Virtual Library](#)), ([IDF](#))

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QUOTES

"When we were given recognition, the president of the WHO said, 'The world should learn from Israel how to operate in disaster areas with the right ethics'. It was a great privilege to hear them saying that other countries should learn from Israel." – Col. (res.) Dr. Ofer Merin, commander of the IDF General Staff's Surgical Hospital Unit

TAKEAWAY

Max Blumenthal looked at a country with 1,200 dead and thousands trapped under rubble, and his first instinct was to accuse the people rushing in to help of running a spy operation. No evidence or motive, just reflexive hatred of Israel so deep that even pulling bodies from earthquake debris becomes, in his telling, a Jewish plot.

He chose to smear one of the only countries the World Health Organization has designated the global gold standard in disaster response. Israel has one of the best field hospitals on the planet, and Blumenthal wants Venezuela to reject it.