

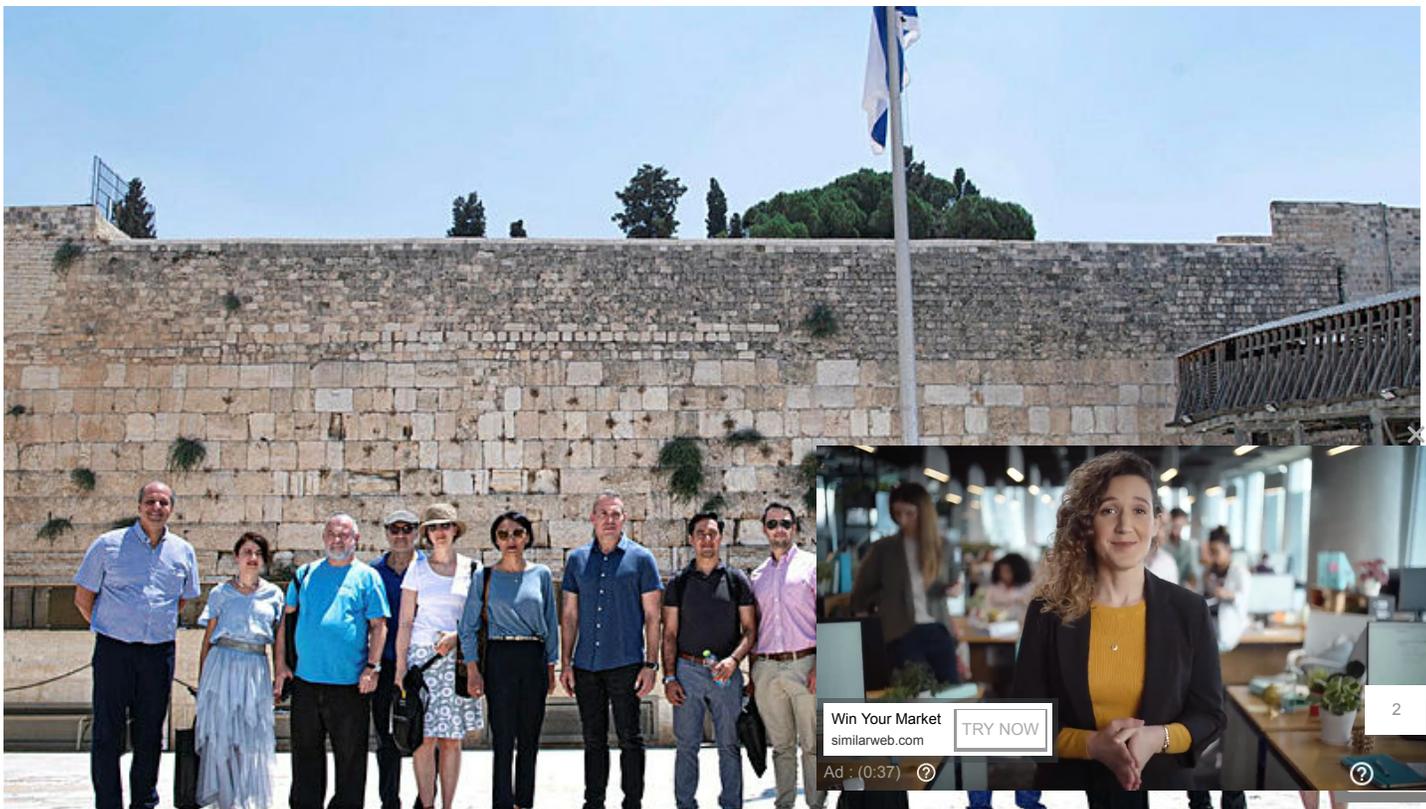


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Ambassadors tour Israel to better comprehend its many security challenges

"To think of all the generations that lived in the area before us and how they progressed is quite breathtaking," says Doma Tshering, the Kingdom of Bhutan's Ambassador to the United Nations, visiting the Jewish state for the first time.

By Josh Hasten and JNS — Published on 07-21-2021 09:42 — Last modified: 07-21-2021 09:42





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Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan is back on his home turf, leading 16 of his colleagues – ar to the United States and the United Nations – from countries around the world, along with some of their staffers long fact-finding mission throughout the Jewish state.

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The diplomats hail from Australia, Argentina, Bhutan, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Hungary, Kenya, Guatemala, Ukraine and Tonga. The trip, sponsored by the American Zionist Movement (AZM), includes representatives from the International March of the Living and B'nai B'rith International.

The delegation is visiting communities along Israel's northern and southern borders to see Hamas and Hezbollah terror tunnels, as well as to receive security briefings. The ambassadors will also visit historical and religious sites and high-tech centers, and meet with senior Israel government officials. On Tisha B'Av earlier this week, they participated in a special ✕ Holocaust Remembrance program at Yad Vashem, arranged by the Inter

Erdan said he decided to arrange the trip in order to set the record straight in May.

"After Operation Guardian of the Walls, I decided to bring a group of UN Washington who represent their countries in the United States, to exper challenges," he said.

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He expressed confidence that the mission will be successful, saying that "Israel sells itself. Whenever you experience Israel, you learn the complexities, you understand the deep roots and the history, you go back someone different – that **Latest articles** experience, and we know it."

'I can always learn something new'

AZM President Deborah Isaac said, "We hope that the participants come away from the experience with a deeper and more realistic perspective of Israel and the threats it faces, as well as an appreciation for the rich and diverse culture of the State of Israel. The American Zionist Movement looks forward to forging new and lasting friendships with the member delegation and their host countries."



Hungary's Ambassador to the United States, Szabolcs Ferenc Takács, told *Jewish News Syndicate* that while this wasn't his first trip to Israel, he was looking forward to discovering more. "I've been here many times, but I can always learn something new, and I very much appreciate those who organized this trip," he said.

Takács added, "I've been working with the Jewish community back in Hungary and also with the State of Israel for many years. And, of course, my country's political ties with Israel are very strong. ... It's quite natural for me to be on this diplomatic trip because everything that we are doing with Israel and for Israel brings me here; we admire [its] achievements."

Doma Tshering, the Kingdom of Bhutan's Ambassador to the United Nations, told *JNS* that she was very excited to be in Israel for the first time: "We have had a wonderful itinerary so far. It's been extremely fulfilling and absolutely enriching."

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After touring Jerusalem's ancient City of David archeology park just minutes before the press briefing, Tshering noted that the visit was "really quite amazing. To think of all the generations that lived in the area before us and how they progressed is quite breathtaking."

Rachel Moore, director of communications and Public Affairs for Aish Hatorah, who accompanied the delegation for lunch, told *JNS* that "Ambassador Erdan has shown consistency through several of his government positions. It's an honor and privilege to be part of this important delegation. We look forward to continuing to work together with the Jewish people."

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