

## Israel welcomes Pakistani offer of mediation

Written by Chris Perver  
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Pakistani President [Pervez Musharraf](#) offered his services as mediator between Israel and the Palestinian Authority today, if it would advance the cause of peace in the Middle East. Pervez Musharraf has been criticized in the past by Islamic states for his relatively pro-Israel stance. He became the first Islamic leader to address the [American Jewish Congress](#) in 2005, and there were rumours that Pakistan was considering normalizing relations with Israel as Musharraf met with Israeli governmental contacts.

**Quote:** *“Earlier this year Pakistan hosted a conference on the Middle East which included representatives from Indonesia, Egypt, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Turkey. Israel holds full diplomatic relations only with official enemy states observing an armistice, Malaysia holds no relations with Israel and trade agreement Indonesia has no official relations, even though in 2006 a was signed between the two countries. Israel did not issue any official response to Musharraf's statements.*

But after criticism from hardliners, Musharraf responded that Pakistan would not normalize relations with Israel until Palestinians had a state of their own - which it seems may be never. Israelis have welcomed Musharraf's offer, but do not believe he could make [real progress](#) in an intermediary role as Pakistan's relationship with Israel is not strong enough.

**Quote:** *“Israel believes that moderate Muslim countries like Pakistan can play a very important role in helping and strengthening the Middle East peace process,” Regev said. “Having said that, experience has clearly demonstrated that the most successful mediators have always been those that have established and solid relationships with both sides.”*

“Established and solid relationships with both sides”. There's only one regional power that fits that description in my mind. It's not the US - especially after Afghanistan and Iraq, etc. There aren't many Islamic states that have normalized relations with Israel, let alone enjoy the trust of the Israelis. To me the European Union is the only power that can say that it has well established and solid relationships with both Israel and the Palestinians. And to me that fits the Scriptures, that the Antichrist will be of the people that destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, and that he will grow great towards the south

