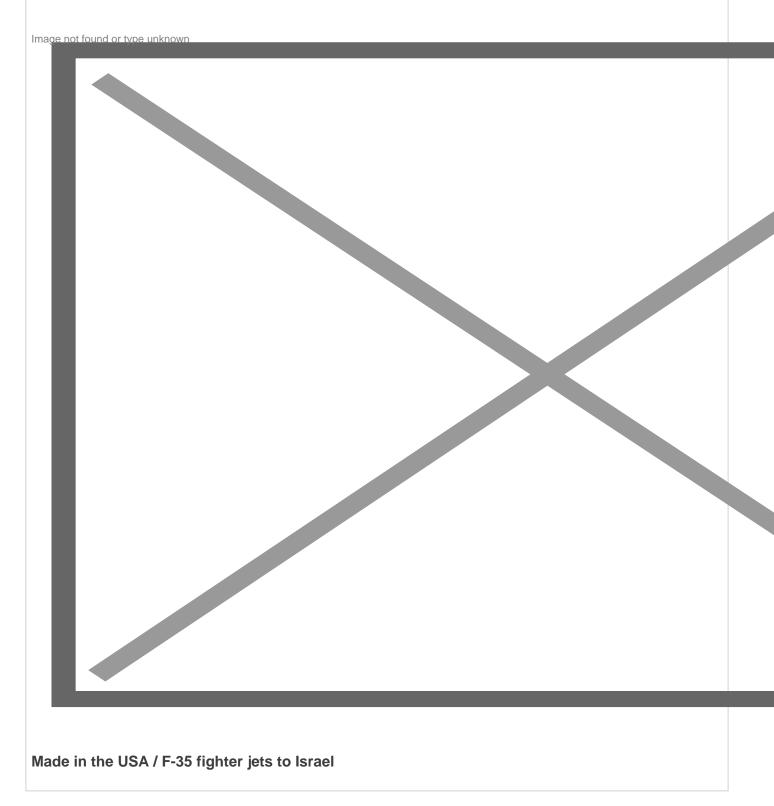
Israel signs \$3 billion deal with U.S. to buy F-35 Stealth fighter jets



Tel Aviv, June 12 (RHC)-- The Israeli military has announced it has signed a \$3 billion deal with the U.S. to buy 25 F-35 stealth fighter jets built by Lockheed Martin.

Israeli officials say the warplanes will be financed by U.S. military aid to Israel. This comes despite growing calls for the U.S. to cut off arms sales to Israel.

Last week, the NAACP -- the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People -- called on U.S. President Joe Biden to draw a red line and halt arms shipments to Israel, citing the mounting death toll in Gaza, where over 36,700 Palestinians have been killed in the past eight months.

NAACP CEO Derrick Johnson told reporters: "We witness individuals in Gaza who are civilians being attacked. And they went to what was supposed to be the safe zones. These are things that are avoidable. The United States must take a moral stand to protect civilian innocent children and lives."

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