



Kabylia's Israel Gambit: MAK, Mehenni, and the Making of a Diplomatic Alliance

A companion document to The Fifth Man

OVERVIEW

Daniel Siad entered the [Movement for the Self-Determination of Kabylia](#) with Gulf contacts built through modelling, recruitment and his work around Jeffrey Epstein. Ferhat Mehenni gave that access a formal political role when he appointed Siad to represent the movement across Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain from 2017 to 2020.

Mehenni had already opened MAK's relationship with Israel through a 2012 delegation to Jerusalem. The relationship later advanced into a campaign for Israeli recognition of Kabylia's independence and participation in the Abraham Accords. Siad's documented mandate stood between those two phases, inside the same movement and under the same president.

The record joins Siad's Gulf role, MAK's Israel strategy, Richard Siad's intelligence account, an alleged false passport and a growing body of reporting about Epstein's possible links to United States and Israeli intelligence. Each strand carries its own evidence. Their convergence explains why Siad's political role warrants examination beyond the title he formally held.

The Siad and MAK Timeline

Daniel Siad / MAK

route into MAK and activity after the mandate

- ⊗ **roughly 2015 to 2016**
 Reporting places Siad in the Gulf as a modelling scout when he approached MAK's leadership.
- **2017 to 2020**
 Mehenni appoints Siad to represent MAK across Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain.
- **June 24, 2018**
 The Congrès Mondial Amazigh programme identifies Siad as "Diplomate" and an international advocate for Amazigh rights.
- **after 2020**
 Anavad says the formal role ended. Semmar reports that Siad remained active around MAK and introduced contacts.
- **February 2026**
 Siad writes to Mehenni withdrawing from militant activity.
- **July 20, 2026**
 Siad dies at his home in Colombes. The Nanterre prosecutor opens an investigation.

MAK / Israel

development of MAK's Israel strategy

- ⊗ **2009**
 Ennahar alleges an Israeli embassy meeting in Paris in the presence of Mossad and American intelligence personnel.
- **May 20 to 24, 2012**
 Mehenni and Lyazid Abid visit MEMRI, the Knesset, the Foreign Ministry's North Africa desk and Uzi Landau.
- **April 20, 2024**
 Mehenni announces what he calls "the rebirth of its state" outside UN headquarters.
- **December 12, 2025**
 JISS recommends that Israel move toward political support and diplomatic recognition.
- **December 14, 2025**
 MAK makes a unilateral proclamation of Kabylean independence in Paris.
- **January 6, 2026**
 Dan Illouz files Knesset agenda document 25_as_10820126 on recognition of Kabylea and relations with it.
- **January 14, 2026**
 The Knesset debates the proposal with cross-party co-sponsors.
- **January 2026**
 Mehenni says Kabylea wants to join the Abraham Accords in the same way as Somaliland.

● confirmed record
 ⊗ attributed allegation
 ● named-source statement

No located record places Siad in an Israel-facing MAK meeting or correspondence.

Siad's Gulf mandate ran from 2017 to 2020 under the same MAK leadership that opened its relationship with Israel in 2012 and pursued recognition and Abraham Accords participation in 2025 and 2026.

Siad Enters MAK

Daniel Amar Siad, also identified in records as Amar Siad or Siad Amar, was born near **Azazga in Kabylia** and moved to Sweden in the 1980s. By the time he approached MAK's leadership around 2015 or 2016, reporting placed him in the Gulf as a modelling scout with contacts developed through recruitment, business and his long association with Epstein.

MAK did not send Siad into the Gulf to build a network. Mehenni appointed a man who already moved through the region and who presented himself to the movement as Kabyle rather than Algerian. **SIWEL**, MAK's press outlet, announced Siad's appointment and named the three states covered by his mandate.

Siad's earlier financial and recruitment record had already reached across Europe, Thailand and the Gulf. The Epstein correspondence shows him scouting women, arranging introductions and using regional business contacts. A June 2013 email described travel with Khaled Ben Nacer Al Masned and Siad's intention to build something in Dubai. His political appointment followed a professional life that had already given him access to the places Mehenni wanted represented.

The Gulf Mandate

Ferhat Mehenni founded MAK and led the Kabyle government in exile, known as Anavad. In 2017 he appointed Siad as the movement's representative across **Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain**. **SIWEL's appointment notice** gave Siad a formal mandate that lasted until 2020.

The appointment was public. The **Congrès Mondial Amazigh programme** for its June 24, 2018 conference listed Siad among the morning speakers and described him as "Diplomate, militant engagé pour l'amazighité, actif dans le plaidoyer international en faveur des droits, de la langue et de l'identité amazighes en Tamazgha." He appeared as a diplomat and international advocate for Amazigh rights while representing MAK in the Gulf.

One week later, Siad was again working inside Epstein's recruitment network. A **July 1, 2018 email** said 13 women were willing to work as hostesses at the Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix and that the sender sought visa details. Siad forwarded the message to Epstein that morning. He was forwarding an offer involving women to Epstein while holding a political mandate in the same country where the event was to take place.

It documents the overlap in Siad's own activity. His title placed him in Gulf diplomacy for Mehenni while his Epstein correspondence continued to move recruitment opportunities through the region.

After the Formal Role

Anavad later said Siad had held no formal role since 2020. His political involvement did not disappear with the title. Reporting by Abdou Semmar described Siad as remaining active around the movement, introducing contacts and saying that he had helped bring MAK and Israel closer.

In February 2026, after his name appeared widely in coverage of the released Epstein files, Siad wrote to Mehenni and withdrew from militant activity. The letter publicly ended his association after a six-year period in which he had no formal mandate but was still reported to have participated in the movement's political life.

Siad died at his home in Colombes on July 20, 2026. The Nanterre prosecutor's office opened an investigation and ordered an autopsy. Prosecutors later said the examination found no immediate or direct cause of death at that stage, while noting an altered state of health and traces of a previous heart attack. His death ended the proceedings concerning him.

Mehenni Opens the Israel Track

Mehenni's outreach to Israel preceded Siad's appointment. In May 2009, Ennahar reported that the Israeli embassy in Paris had received him for a meeting with its political adviser in the alleged presence of Mossad and American intelligence personnel. The report relied on an unnamed director of an Israeli studies institute. No transcript, recording or diplomatic record of that meeting has been located.

Mehenni's public diplomacy soon supplied a documented record. Reporting placed him in the United States in April 2011 for a diplomatic campaign that included the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and meetings with policy and political figures.

The decisive trip ran from May 20 to 24, 2012. Mehenni led the delegation to Israel, accompanied by Lyazid Abid, and moved through several institutions. SIWEL's account recorded meetings at MEMRI's Jerusalem headquarters with founder Yigal Carmon, at the

Knesset with Deputy Speaker Danny Danon, at the Israeli Foreign Ministry's North Africa desk and with Infrastructure Minister Uzi Landau.

SIWEL described the visit as "l'entame d'une relation de 'solidarité' entre les deux peuples," the beginning of a relationship of solidarity between the two peoples. The visit turned Mehenni's earlier outreach into an institutional relationship conducted through Israel's parliament, foreign ministry and political network.

From Courtship to Recognition

Mehenni continued to describe Israel as both a political partner and a model for Kabyle statehood. In the [Jerusalem Post](#), he said "the Kabyles have always had a bit of sympathy for Israel" and recalled that "during the 1967 war, Kabylia applauded the Arabs' defeat." He defended normalisation and said an independent Kabylia would recognise Israel's right to exist and defend itself.

On April 20, 2024, Mehenni announced what he called "the rebirth of its state" outside United Nations headquarters. The declaration was a political statement, not international recognition. In an [April 2025 Times of Israel interview](#), he described the 2012 visit as founded on "mutual respect and recognition" and said Israel had rebuilt itself, defended its identity and sovereignty, and become a leader in science and technology. "We draw lessons from that," he said.

Mehenni named Israel, Morocco, the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and Arab states among the partners he wanted for Kabylia. He also told [EU-Maghreb-Sahel](#) that Morocco's support for Kabyle self-determination had been political and that the movement had received no state financing.

The campaign accelerated in December 2025. On December 12, the [Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security](#) published Emmanuel Navon's recommendation that Israel move from cautious observation toward political support and, over time, diplomatic recognition. Two days later, MAK made a unilateral proclamation of Kabylia independence in Paris.

On January 6, 2026, Knesset member Dan Illouz filed [agenda document 25_as_10820126](#), asking parliament to examine recognition of Kabylia and relations with it. The filing cited Israel's recognition of Somaliland as a precedent and presented Kabylia as a potential strategic partner against Algeria. A [Knesset debate followed on January 14](#), with Ohad Tal, Yitzhak Kroizer and Meir Cohen joining Illouz across party lines.

Mehenni then stated his objective in a January 2026 [Tandem TV interview](#). "Nous reconnaissons Israël en tant que nation, en tant que peuple, en tant qu'état," he said. He added that Kabylia wanted to be associated with the Abraham Accords "au même titre que le Somaliland." Israel had not formally recognised Kabylean independence at the time covered by this document. The Knesset initiative was a parliamentary proposal and debate, not a government decision.

The Strategic Logic

Israeli supporters of recognition described Kabylia through the historic Periphery Doctrine, which sought relationships with non-Arab peoples and states around hostile Arab governments. Navon's JISS paper adapted that logic to the period after the Abraham Accords and recommended a staged Israeli policy leading toward diplomatic recognition.

The argument was openly regional. JISS portrayed Algeria as hostile to Israel and aligned with the Polisario Front, while Morocco had normalised relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords. Supporting Kabylia would pressure Algeria, reinforce Morocco and cultivate a non-Arab partner in North Africa.

An Israeli-aligned commentator writing in the [Times of Israel](#) on the day of the December 2025 proclamation called support for Kabylia "the revitalization of the 'Periphery Doctrine'" and described the movement as an ally sharing Israel's values and enemies. Mehenni's own normalisation campaign met that strategic case from the Kabyle side.

Mehenni also alleged that Algeria had supplied uranium to Iran in exchange for centrifuge technology and used the Polisario as a regional proxy. His political argument linked Kabyle independence to the same anti-Algeria and pro-Morocco alignment set out by Israeli supporters of recognition.

Richard Siad and Intelligence

Richard Siad, also known as Hamid Siad, has publicly described Daniel Siad as his cousin. The family relationship is stated in Richard's interviews and in later reporting, although no independent civil record has been located.

Richard portrayed himself as an informal intelligence intermediary who moved between French and Algerian services during Algeria's civil war. He named French counterterrorism officer

Patrick Robert and Algerian officials Ali Ben Daoud and Colonel Habib Souam as contacts. He described carrying envelopes and documents between officials and said he knew or worked with American, Israeli and Moroccan services as well.

"Écoute, moi je connais tous les services," Richard said. "Je connais les services américains, israéliens, algérien, marocain. On a travaillé pendant la décennie noire avec ces quatre services." His intelligence and MAK account is his own public testimony.

Richard said that Algerian channels later approached him to help end Mehenni's separatist activism. He placed the approach around 2021, the year Algeria's High Security Council **designated MAK a terrorist organisation**. The proposal, as he described it, was directed against the movement's campaign rather than in support of it.

Richard's account places the Siad family, intelligence services and an alleged Algerian effort concerning Mehenni within the same record.

The Passport Account

Ebba Karlsson, a Swedish former model, alleged that Siad raped her near Cannes in 1990 after approaching her under the name David Goldberg. In a February 2026 **BFMTV interview**, she described looking inside his bag and finding a passport.

"Au début, il n'était pas menaçant, jusqu'à ce que je regarde dans son sac, il y avait un passeport, mais en fait c'était un faux passeport, ce n'était pas au nom qu'il m'avait donné en tout cas," Karlsson said. Reporting on her account described it as a Moroccan or Algerian passport issued under another name.

Karlsson filed a criminal complaint in Paris on February 10, 2026, alleging rape and human trafficking. French anti-trafficking investigators interviewed her in March. Her passport account remains her testimony. It adds a documented question about Siad's use of names and identities while moving across borders.

The Epstein Intelligence Question

In July 2019, [Vicky Ward reported in The Daily Beast](#) that a former senior White House official described Alexander Acosta's interview with the Trump transition team while he was being considered for labour secretary. The transition team asked whether Acosta's handling of the Epstein case would cause problems during confirmation.

According to Ward's source, Acosta said he had been told to back off because Epstein was "above his pay grade." "I was told Epstein 'belonged to intelligence' and to leave it alone," he reportedly told the interviewers. The Labor Department gave Ward no comment. [Talking Points Memo](#) later reported the account.

Acosta was asked publicly on July 10, 2019 whether he had been told Epstein was an intelligence asset. He did not answer directly and cautioned against treating reporting as fact. His reported statement belonged to transition vetting, not his Senate confirmation hearing.

A separate strand emerged from a released 2020 FBI confidential-source memo reported by [Middle East Eye](#) and [TRT World](#). The memo recorded the source's claim that he had listened to calls involving Epstein and Alan Dershowitz, that Mossad debriefed Dershowitz and that Epstein was a "co-opted Mossad Agent" trained under former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak.

The source was Charles C. Johnson, a former Dershowitz intern. [The Independent](#) reported judicial findings that damaged Johnson's credibility. The FBI memo records what he told the bureau and his conclusion about Epstein. It does not independently prove those claims. Dershowitz, Barak and former Israeli officials have denied an Epstein intelligence role.

Ari Ben-Menashe supplied a third account. In interviews with [RT's Going Underground](#) and [Consortium News](#), he alleged that Epstein worked for Israeli military intelligence under Barak and used sexual encounters for blackmail. He also described Robert Maxwell as an Israeli intelligence asset and linked Epstein's operation to the network around Maxwell.

Robert Parry, the late Associated Press and Newsweek reporter, [documented Ben-Menashe's service](#) in the External Relations Department of Israeli military intelligence from 1977 to 1987. Parry obtained official Israeli letters after Israel initially called Ben-Menashe an impostor, and former military intelligence official Moshe Hebroni separately said Ben-Menashe had worked under him.

Ward's Acosta reporting, the released FBI memo and Ben-Menashe's account are separate strands with different evidentiary weight. Their convergence makes the intelligence question a legitimate and necessary part of the Epstein investigation.

Siad at the Intersection

Siad's route through the record began with modelling and recruitment. His Epstein correspondence placed him in a network that moved women, introductions and money across borders. His Gulf business contacts then became an asset to Mehenni, who gave him a diplomatic mandate covering Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The political role did not replace Siad's work around Epstein. The July 2018 Abu Dhabi message shows both activities operating during the same mandate. His involvement around MAK continued after the formal title ended, while the movement's relationship with Israel advanced from Mehenni's 2012 delegation toward recognition and Abraham Accords participation.

Richard Siad's account introduced French, Algerian, American, Israeli and Moroccan services into the family record and described an alleged effort aimed at Mehenni. Karlsson described Daniel Siad using the name David Goldberg and carrying a passport under another identity. Ward's Acosta reporting, the FBI memo and Ben-Menashe's testimony placed the intelligence question around the financial and recruitment operation in which Siad worked.

No located document identifies Daniel Siad as an intelligence operative. The evidence places him at an intersection of recruitment, Gulf access, political diplomacy, international business and intelligence interests. That intersection gives the Siad investigation a wider field than any one email, appointment or allegation can explain.

Conclusion

Siad entered MAK with access already built through modelling, recruitment, Epstein and the Gulf. Mehenni converted that access into a diplomatic mandate covering Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, while Siad continued moving women, contacts and opportunities through the same region.

MAK's relationship with Israel preceded Siad's appointment and accelerated after his formal term. By 2026, it had produced a Knesset debate, a campaign for recognition and Mehenni's request to participate in the Abraham Accords.

Richard Siad's account places the family alongside intelligence services and an Algerian effort directed at Mehenni, while Karlsson's passport allegation adds another unresolved element to Daniel Siad's cross-border identity. The intelligence question surrounding Epstein rests on several reported strands, including Ward's Acosta account, a released FBI source memo and Ari Ben-Menashe's testimony.

Siad stood where sexual exploitation, political diplomacy, international business and intelligence interests crossed. His death left that intersection unexplained and the man at its centre beyond questioning.