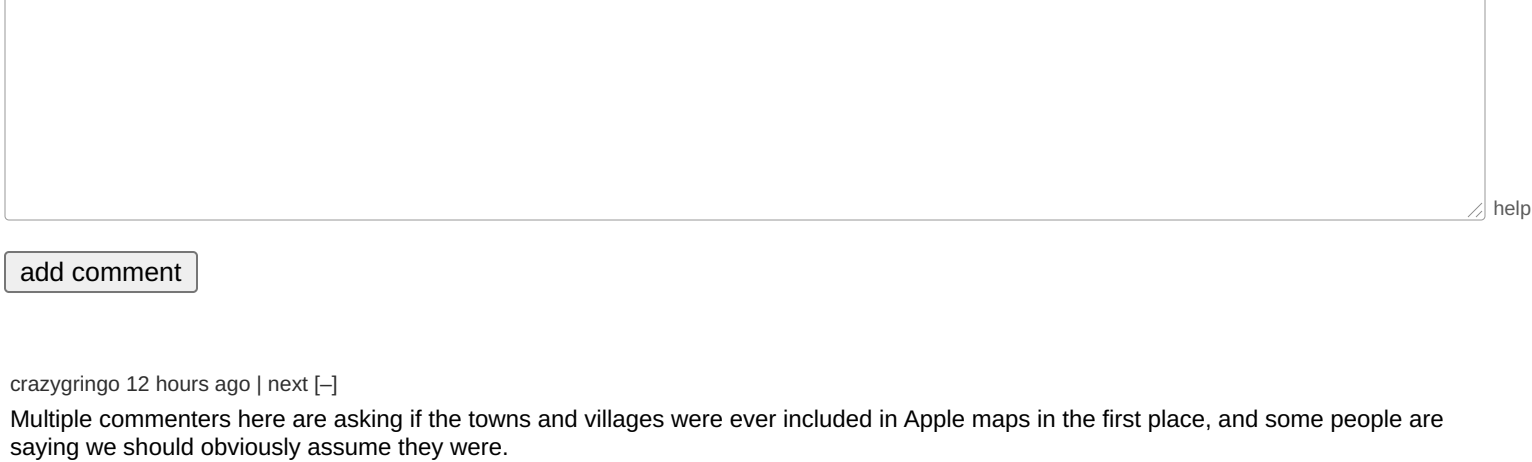


Apple has removed most of the towns and villages in Lebanon from Apple maps? (maps.apple.com)

331 points by thepasswords 15 hours ago | [hide](#) | [past](#) | [favorite](#) | [177 comments](#)

<https://x.com/EthanLevins2/status/2043366941922926940>



[help](#)

[add comment](#)

crazygringo 12 hours ago | [next](#) [-]
Multiple commenters here are asking if the towns and villages were ever included in Apple maps in the first place, and some people are saying we should obviously assume they were.

However, a quick search reveals at least a few people claiming that Apple Maps has always been empty for Lebanon outside of major cities (and at least one commenter says they are Lebanese):

<https://www.reddit.com/r/apple/comments/1s1m0l/comment/t0ft1...>

<https://www.reddit.com/r/NoStupidQuestions/comments/1s1xqxp...>

https://www.reddit.com/r/ManPorn/comments/1s1o68s/apple_maps...

https://www.reddit.com/r/Lebanon/comments/1s1ou77/apple_maps...

I don't know how trustworthy these comments are, but I don't see anyone contradicting them.

So it's definitely not clear this has *anything* to do with the current war.

[reply](#)
ks2048 12 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Here's a screenshot from a 2020 tweet that implies this was the case (although it is not zoomed in very far).

<https://x.com/theholsonarostatus/1310354231795171328>

Still odd because OSM has all these towns and Apple appears to be using the OSM street network, but not showing the labels

[reply](#)
xg15 11 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Interesting. Would be good to know if there are any other locations with the same condition.

[reply](#)
breppp 11 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Why do we need to bother with facts when we can do rage bait conspiracy theories instead?

[reply](#)
sunaookami 1 hour ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
This thread is bizarre, full of commenters who pretend not to understand why the OP post doesn't prove anything. It's not the first pro-Lebanon anti-Israel post either in the last few days.

[reply](#)
foxfired 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
You can look up Maroun Al-Ras [0] and it's map coordinate [1]. If you search for the name, you find a garden of the same name, but not the village. The instagram reel that was posted earlier had more context [2].

From wikipedia:
> In October 2024, IDF forces operated in the village as part of its invasion of southern Lebanon. The Israeli flag was raised, after the victory.

Which Apple might use as a justification. There is a Israeli flag, so it must belong to them.

[0]: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maroun_al-Ras

[1]: <https://maps.apple.com/frame?center=33.107500%2C35.444722&sp...>

[2]: <https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=47742363>

[reply](#)
karim79 7 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
I think the bigger story here is that Israel are removing (in physical terms) towns and villages from Lebanon. Maps is one thing but ethnic cleansing is another.

[reply](#)
aduffy 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
This reminds me a bit of the Gulf of America fiasco from last year where if you changed your location to outside the US it would go back to showing Gulf of Mexico.

I'm not sure why they would do this for US users unless the US government requested it.

[reply](#)
redox99 13 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Google maps has done this forever. A good chunk of countries have disputed territories, and never in human history there has been a "universal" map that everybody agrees on.

[reply](#)
aduffy 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Sure, but I'm in the US, which is not a party to the conflict between Israel and Lebanon. To my knowledge the US continues to recognize Lebanon as a sovereign country.

[reply](#)
devin 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Not a party to the conflict? Are you joking? Don't focus on what the US says. Focus on what it does.

[reply](#)
pixl97 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Yea, that user made the most ridiculous statement.

[reply](#)
I think the Onion did a piece saying something like "Netanyahu dead, Trump must go back to being the only president of the United States", and while satire, is a bit enlightening of the actual situation here.

[reply](#)
aduffy 11 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
In the case of the "Gulf of America" thing there was a clear and open statement by the executive that they wanted the maps changed (note that even in the US the name is still legally "Gulf of Mexico"). Apple and Google both decided to acquiesce to curry favor.

[reply](#)
TMK there is no current government order to eliminate large swaths of Lebanon from maps. So the fact that Apple is doing this (seemingly on its own, despite all other mapping services reflecting the original place names) is the thing I'm explicitly calling out as being weird.

[reply](#)
wqaatw 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
So does Israel, it's not even a war with Lebanon it's just happening there but the Lebanese government and armed are not participating in it

[reply](#)
overfeed 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
What's a little occupied, extra-territorial buffer zone between respectful neighbors? Nothing says "I respect your sovereignty" more leveling *all* buildings to the ground. Golan now, there's nothing to see here.

[reply](#)
wolvoleo 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
They hardly have electricity so there's nobody to fight back really. The international community left them to die after that big explosion and the country has been scraping by ever since.

[reply](#)
cinecticdaffodil 10 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
It descended into the same malaise as every other islamic country without oil aka wealth transfer by the world's economy?

[reply](#)
DashAnimal 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
This isn't happening on Google Maps though is it? We're just talking about Apple Maps here.

[reply](#)
cma 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
We had to build a very expensive and risky pier to get aid into to Gaza instead of just sending it through our ally Israel to be delivered over the ground. There's something different than a normal ally relationship.

[reply](#)
xg15 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
A very expensive and risky pier that *still* just delivered the aid to an IDF base inside Gaza and not to Gazans (or aid orgs) directly. Based on a plan from an Israeli think tank...

[reply](#)
flyinglizard 11 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Blame the Israeli public for not wanting to feed their enemy.

[reply](#)
xg15 11 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
And not letting themselves or anyone else feed them either, huh?

[reply](#)
cinecticdaffodil 10 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
It was so bad they had to post pictures of starving Syrians.

[reply](#)
lugmktdiff834 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
I think part of the weird disbelief on my part is the speed with which those changes are submitted and implemented. I don't recall changes changing that fast with disputed territories in Ukraine/Russia conflict.

[reply](#)
yThough 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
I wouldn't consider it very disputed, the only country "disputing" who it belongs to is israel. all other countries agree that area belongs to lebanon.

[reply](#)
conclinds 11 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
This is worldwide, not just for US users.

[reply](#)
And most towns seem missing, including in areas Israel has never bombed.

[reply](#)
It keeps blowing me away how brain dead the internet can be.

[reply](#)
bdangubic 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
US government demanded it, not requested it

[reply](#)
microtonal 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Associated Press was even banned from the White House for calling it the Gulf of Mexico: <https://www.ap.org/the-definitive-source/announcements/ap-st...>

[reply](#)
solid_fuel 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Yeah, that was another one of the constant mask-off moments. The Party of Free Speech *hates* free speech.

[reply](#)
nutjob2 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
> I'm not sure why they would do this for US users unless the US government requested it.

[reply](#)
Because the US govt. is petty and vindictive at the moment.

[reply](#)
Yperrtmodi 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
> Because the US govt. is petty and vindictive at the moment.

[reply](#)
And has been for many, many years.

[reply](#)
karim79 6 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Netanyahu threw a temper tantrum on Wednesday (8th of April) and who suffered? Lebanese civilians that's who. The man (if you can call him that) is running on fumes at the moment. In the near future he'll wish he never left his original profession as a furniture salesman.

[reply](#)
Chance-Device 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
This saddens me and I don't understand why it is allowed to continue.

[reply](#)
And I'm not just talking about Apple Maps.

[reply](#)
dryarzeg 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
This saddens me as well, because that's the type of thing that happens every day where I live, but...

[reply](#)
> I don't understand why it is allowed to continue.

[reply](#)
The answer is even sadder. It's even worse. And it is as follows: because there's not enough people who are taking action, and from those taking action there's not enough people in power to change something significantly. At least that's how I see it. And... I can't even blame those who don't take action - because many people feel completely powerless, they feel like "what you can do to stop this war/other thing if you're just a regular human?"

[reply](#)
jampekka 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
There's also a huge cost for taking action about this especially in the US. You can easily get thrown out of school, have your career destroyed or be deported.

[reply](#)
lugmktdiff834 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
This. There are entire groups dedicated to rooting out any sign of deviation from per-authorized storyline and verbiage. It is particularly striking given that US considers itself "free speech" bastion.

[reply](#)
dvjsidhgv 13 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
This is mostly a US thing. Netanyahu and Putin are two war criminals according to International Court of Justice. Although Trump threatened the ICJ, this doesn't change that basic fact.

[reply](#)
jampekka 12 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Already in 2002 US passed the "American Service-Members' Protection Act" that allows USA to deploy military to prevent U.S. or allied officials and military personnel from being prosecuted or detained by the ICC.

[reply](#)
It passed via bipartisan vote well in time before US launched the illegal invasion of Iraq in which it committed various war crimes.

[reply](#)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Service-Members%27_Pr...

[reply](#)
andsolits 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
> Netanyahu and Putin are two war criminals according to International Court of Justice.

[reply](#)
You mean the ICC, not the ICJ. The latter is a separate body that handles disputes between states.

[reply](#)
Both have warrants for arrest by the ICC but note that neither Putin nor Netanyahu have been tried or convicted by the International Criminal Court.

[reply](#)
kashunstva 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
> Although Trump threatened the ICJ

[reply](#)
I've wondered, in the immediate aftermath of his recent genocidal threats, whether Mr. Trump was feeling left out of that club.

[reply](#)
Chance-Device 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
This goes beyond direct action by individuals, it's completely obvious what's happening and it happens because the US political system has been captured.

[reply](#)
cassianoleal 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
The US political system is this. It has not been recently "captured". This is business as usual for them.

[reply](#)
ajkjk 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
it... feels... more captured than usual, lately

[reply](#)
natto 11 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Not to those who have been on the receiving end. It's just less concealed, which in some ways is quite refreshing.

[reply](#)
jazzyjackson 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
[gross](#)

[reply](#)
Pay08 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Captured by whom?

[reply](#)
Chance-Device 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
This comes to mind: <https://nypost.com/2025/03/19/us-news/benjamin-netanyahu-iff...>

[reply](#)
jampekka 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Israel_Lobby_and_U.S._Fore...

[reply](#)
Pay08 11 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
You mean the lobby that was outspent by Hungary last year?

[reply](#)
gosub100 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Israel

[reply](#)
credit 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Currently 50 points and is just a link to Apple Maps with an unverified claim.

[reply](#)
EDIT: I'm at -2 for stating a fact.

[reply](#)
aduffy 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
It is straightforward to visit any other online mapping service and see many villages labeled there.

[reply](#)
Bing: <https://www.bing.com/maps?cp=33.185932%7E35.321974&lvl=11.9&...>

[reply](#)
Google: <https://www.google.com/maps/@33.1649913,35.2506666,11.55z>

[reply](#)
OSM: <https://www.openstreetbrowser.org/#map=11/33.1554/35.2890>

[reply](#)
credit 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Removed means they were there before which means comparison to other maps means nothing. It's possible Apple never had them in the first place. It's completely unverifiable with the link or your links.

[reply](#)
aduffy 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
OSM is a foundational data layer for GIS. If you're building a mapping service, you're almost certainly using OSM augmented by satellite imagery and other sources to find populations of zones that OSM has not found yet.

[reply](#)
If you look at the Apple Maps satellite layer, you see thousands of structures spread across the area.

[reply](#)
It is a reasonable assumption that these population centers were labeled and Apple (or one of its data partners) has withdrawn the labels.

[reply](#)
walletrainer 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Just check literally any Lebanese social media site?

[reply](#)
forrestthewoods 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
I wish this thread had more discussion on why Apple Maps is missing the labels but Google and Bing are not. That's awfully curious, no?

[reply](#)
KenArrati 12 minutes ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
You can verify it by clicking on the link and looking at it.

[reply](#)
Legend2440 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Yeah true, how do we know these bridges and towns were there beforehand? Maybe Apple has never had good coverage in this area.

[reply](#)
Just linking to a map doesn't tell us what was removed or where.

[reply](#)
nsagent 11 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
My family name comes from a Christian town in the mountains of Lebanon. I'm positive it was previously on Apple Maps (I've shown it to people before), but now has no label. It still exists on other mapping services and if I search on DuckDuckGo, the top info summary includes an Apple Maps widget with the town. Clicking on it takes me to Apple Maps with the pin in the right place, so without a label.

[reply](#)
So it's clear that it was there and is no longer there. I'm not making a judgement as to why it's no longer there (the post on X makes an unsubstantiated claim that it's intentional). Could be a bug for all I know. I'm unwilling to make the leap that it's some malicious attempt without actual evidence. I can only verify that it no longer has a label.

[reply](#)
nsagent 10 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
I noticed a post on Reddit that claims Apple Maps only briefly had small towns listed. It's possible when I showed the town off in Apple Maps it could have been during that window. I looked through my texts and found when I recently shared the town a couple months ago it was on Google Maps because I was sharing a picture that was posted on Google Maps (my mom sent me an old photo of an overlook of the town and I sent a modern picture with the same vantage). To my knowledge Apple never had any local photos (as the town label, however briefly).

[reply](#)
https://safereddit.com/r/applemaps/comments/1s1fs2/where_ar...

[reply](#)
Since I don't look at the town often, I'm certainly willing to consider that they once had a data broker for the maps that they no longer have access to or possibly trialed a data broker). Anyway, just thought I'd add as much context as possible, as it's definitely more nuanced than the social media posts imply.

[reply](#)
credit 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [2 more]

[reply](#)
nairboon 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
Why do you say unverified? You can activate the hybrid satellite view and look around. There are many towns and cities showing up on satellite view without any label. That's easily verifiable.

[reply](#)
dang 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
What's not easily verifiable is (1) whether they were removed, in the sense that they were there before and now are not; (2) if so, when; and (3) if so, why.

[reply](#)
The obvious interpretation—that they've been removed for political reasons connected to the current war—would require knowing all 3 of these, and we don't know those things yet.

[reply](#)
oska 7 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
I don't know if Southern Lebanon town names were removed or never there. In either case it seems quite odd that S. Lebanon only on Apple Maps?

[reply](#)
Perhaps the submission title could be changed just to reflect this seemingly odd paucity of town names in S. Lebanon only on Apple Maps?

[reply](#)
nsagent 11 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
I can only verify #1. I make no claim to issues #2 or #3. See my comment here:

[reply](#)
<https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=47744840>

[reply](#)
EDIT: I've replied to my previous post with a bit more context. Seems it's possible it was only ever briefly on Apple Maps.

[reply](#)
daneel_w 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
I believe OP is asking for a before/after of Apple Maps, because just seeing the map now isn't telling us whether Apple previously disclosed the villages and towns. I'm sure OP isn't thinking that the region is full of random roads out in the wilderness leading to nothing, which is the wrong conclusion the downvotes are probably based on.

[reply](#)
credit 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Correct

[reply](#)
berlil 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
You can very easily verify the claim by following the link. Other than three major cities, there are no agglomeration listed in Lebanon. Other countries have detailed maps.

[reply](#)
credit 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
Actually I can't because I've never seen if Apple ever had them in the first place.

[reply](#)
berlil 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
It sounds like a great opportunity to ask if people have used Apple Maps in Lebanon before.

[reply](#)
crazygringo 12 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
It seems like people are asking, and the answer is that these towns and villages have indeed never been on Apple Maps:

[reply](#)
<https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=47744594>

[reply](#)
credit 14 hours ago [flagged] | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [2 more]

[reply](#)
>The Parler told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command.

[reply](#)
You can open the link and see it for yourself, what other "verification" do you need?

[reply](#)
quantummagic 14 hours ago | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
How did you verify that they previously existed on the Apple maps?

[reply](#)
ps. your domain is misconfigured for your website, the www prefix is missing so only b....org works, but the link in your HN bio, doesn't.

[reply](#)
credit 14 hours ago [flagged] | [root](#) | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [3 more]

[reply](#)
neya 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
They did the same thing when there was a war between India and China a while ago. As brutal as it sounds, time and again Apple always loves to be on the side of whichever market is bigger. It's really that simple (business wise). Morally? Perhaps not.

[reply](#)
cr125ider 13 hours ago | [parent](#) | [next](#) [-]
How much do they rely on OSM these days? There was a TomTom shop, that was obviously horrible, then were OSM based. Is that still the case?

[reply](#)
politeleon 14 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]
There is no perhaps.

It seems Apple is doing preemptive compliance with the Israeli government here, by already erasing the destroyed villages from the map.

[map.](#)

[zeroracer](#) 12 hours ago | [parent](#) | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Apple, like a lot of other tech companies in the US has both deep financial ties to Israel as well as deep business connections. The answer can be as simple as 'The government asked them to do so and they complied'.

[tsdx](#)

[mikert89](#) 14 hours ago [[flagged](#)] | [prev](#) | [next](#) [[19 more](#)]

[Drblissing](#) 8 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Zionist Occupied App

[tsdx](#)

[tzeid](#) 4 hours ago [[flagged](#)] | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

We need to get rid of Israel

[tsdx](#)

[contingencies](#) 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Apple: 1984 as a service. "We know walled gardens."

Quick: someone do the graphic, you can sell merch. Mail a freebie and a purchase link to every makerspace on the planet.

Some interesting background to current hostilities: *"The UN Security Council has voted to wind up the near 50 year UNIFIL (peace keeping) mission after lobbying from Israel pushed the United States to veto its renewal. The mission will end in 2027."*

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2025/08/up...>

[tsdx](#)

[mclightning](#) 11 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Another reason to buy a Chinese android phone.

[tsdx](#)

[munib_ca](#) 13 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Why is this flagged?

[tsdx](#)

[proshno](#) 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [-]

Well...what to expect from these tech companies who are openly and shamelessly complicit of genocide and the worst crimes in humanity?

Just read it:

"Apple buys Israeli 'pre-speech' tech firm implicated in Gaza genocide" <https://thegrayzone.com/2026/02/15/apple-buys-israeli-pre-sp...>

And, of course, this post is flagged...because who know who run Y Combinator!

[tsdx](#)

[throwaway132448](#) 14 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [[4 more](#)]

[AdmiralAsshat](#) 13 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [[2 more](#)]

[samaltmanfried](#) 12 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [[21 more](#)]

[ViktorRay](#) 12 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [[4 more](#)]

[thepasswordis](#) 15 hours ago | [prev](#) | [next](#) [[11 more](#)]

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