



US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

"We aim to change those US policies that both sustain Israel's 42-year occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and deny equal rights for all."

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TO: House Appropriations Committee
FROM: US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
RE: Open Letter on FY2010 Budget Request for Military Aid to Israel
DATE: June 22, 2009

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to oppose the President's FY2010 budget request for \$2.775 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Israel, an increase of \$225 million in military aid compared to FY2009. At this time of acute economic crisis, as well as from a political, legal, security, and moral standpoint, our country should not continue to provide Israel with this blank check.

Israel consistently misuses U.S. weapons purchased through FMF to commit grave human rights abuses against Palestinians and systematic violations of international law in its illegal 42-year military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip. Some of those violations are documented every year in the State Department's own human rights reports; far more are documented by the United Nations and human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

These actions include, but are not limited to, the deliberate killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians; the deliberate destruction of Palestinian civilian infrastructure, including homes, schools, roads, factories, hospitals and more; the imposition of collective punishment on Palestinians through a siege of the Gaza Strip and numerous travel restrictions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; the ongoing expansion of its wall/fence barrier in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, ruled to be illegal by the International Court of Justice in 2004; and the expansion of illegal settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Most seriously, during the Bush Administration, Israel killed more than 3,000 Palestinian civilians who took no part in hostilities, including more than 1,000 children. During its December-January war on the Gaza Strip alone, Israel killed nearly 1,200 Palestinian non-combatants. Israel killed many of these innocent Palestinian civilians with U.S. weapons, including F-16 fighter jets, Apache helicopters, as well as aviation jet fuel, all paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

U.S. foreign assistance programs should meet human needs, not enable human rights violations. Israel's egregious human rights record and the devastating impact of U.S. weapons transfers to Israel on innocent Palestinian civilians should trigger sanctions under U.S. laws that would prohibit future military aid to Israel.

The Arms Export Control Act strictly limits the use of U.S. weapons to "internal security" and "legitimate self-defense" and the Foreign Assistance Act prohibits aid to a country which "engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights".

We believe that Israel should not receive any military aid as a result of its violations of these U.S. laws. However, there are still steps short of cutting off military aid to Israel which Congress should take to achieve U.S. policy goals.

At a minimum, Congress should condition military aid to Israel on its progress toward achieving the President's stated goals of ending the siege of the Gaza Strip, ending all settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and engaging in a credible negotiating process that results in a just and lasting peace.

Without the United States using its tremendous leverage over Israel to achieve these goals, it is highly doubtful that Israel will change its poor behavior. As the country bankrolling Israel's military occupation and human rights abuses against Palestinians, the United States is complicit in those violations. Now is the time for accountability.

Signed by,

National Organizations

1. After Downing Street
2. American Jews for a Just Peace
3. American Muslims for Palestine
4. Code Pink Women for Peace
5. Council for the National Interest
6. Council on American-Islamic Relations
7. Episcopal Peace Fellowship
8. Fellowship of Reconciliation
9. Friends of Sabeel—North America
10. Global Exchange
11. Gold Star Families for Peace
12. Grandmothers for Peace International
13. Grassroots International
14. Interfaith Peace-Builders
15. Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions—USA
16. Jewish Voice for Peace
17. Latino American Dawah Organization
18. Mennonite Central Committee, United States, Washington Office
19. Methodist Federation for Social Action
20. Middle East Children's Alliance
21. Middle East Research and Information Project
22. Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation
23. Muslim Student Association West
24. National Benedictines for Peace
25. National Immigrant Solidarity Network
26. National Lawyers Guild
27. New Internationalism Project, Institute for Policy Studies
28. Palestine Aid Society
29. Partners for Peace
30. Pax Christi USA
31. Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
32. Progressive Democrats of America
33. Student/Farmworker Alliance
34. Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East
35. United for Peace and Justice
36. United Muslims of America
37. US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
38. Veterans For Peace
39. War Times/Tiempo de Guerras
40. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom—U.S. Section

Alaska

1. Alaskans for Palestine, Anchorage

Arizona

1. Local to Global Justice, Phoenix
2. Phoenix Code Pink, Phoenix
3. Progressives of the Verde Valley, Sedona
4. Students for Justice in Palestine—Arizona State University, Phoenix

California

1. 14 Friends of Palestine, San Rafael
2. American Friends Service Committee—Pacific Mountain Region, San Francisco
3. Americans for a Just Peace in the Middle East, Santa Barbara
4. Americans for a Palestinian State Political Action Committee, Emeryville
5. Bay Area Women in Black, Berkeley
6. Berkeley Institute of Biblical Archaeology & Literature (BIBAL) Corporation, Rodeo
7. Berkeley Women in Black, Lafayette
8. Castro Valley Progressives, Castro Valley
9. Fresh Clean Day Publishing, Woodside
10. Friends of Deir Ibzi'a, San Francisco
11. Holy Cross Melkite-Greek Catholic Church, Placentia
12. Impact!, Petaluma
13. Interfaith Witness for Middle East Peace, San Francisco
14. IP Integrators, Fremont
15. Islamic Center of Inland Empire, Rancho Cucamonga
16. Jews for Peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Los Angeles
17. Justice for Palestinians, San Jose
18. Keep Hope Alive—Bay Area, CA, Pittsburg
19. LA Jews for Peace, La Habra Heights
20. Leikam Enterprises, LLC, Palo Alto
21. Metta Center for Nonviolence Education, Berkeley
22. Monterey County Citizens for Middle East Peace, Seaside

23. Muslim Student Union, University of California Irvine, Irvine
24. Northern California International Solidarity Movement, El Cerrito
25. Not Another DIME! The Campaign Against U.S. Terror Weapons, Berkeley
26. Peace and Freedom Party, Oakland
27. People of CA 12, Burlingame
28. Progressive Democrats of the Santa Monica Mountains, Woodland Hills
29. San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper, San Francisco
30. San Jose Peace and Justice Center, San Jose
31. South Bay Mobilization for Peace and Justice, San Jose
32. South Valley Peace Center, Visalia
33. Spectronix, Vineburg
34. Stop AIPAC, Berkeley
35. Students for Justice in Palestine—University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara
36. The Added Edge, Inc., Vineburg
37. Veterans for Peace, Crestline, CA Chapter, Crestline

Colorado

1. Front Range Coalition, Denver
2. Muhaisen & Muhaisen, LLC, Attorneys at Law, Aurora
3. Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Boulder
4. Strength Through Peace, Fort Collins

Connecticut

1. Edward Saad & Associates, Cheshire
2. People of Faith CT, West Hartford

Florida

1. AGSPEC Enterprises, Inc., Delray Beach
2. Conway Dental Care, Orlando
3. Florida Palestine Solidarity Network, Bradenton
4. Florida Peace Action Network, Hudson
5. Friends of Human Rights, Temple Terrace
6. Pax Christi Northeast Florida, St. Augustine
7. Senior Citizens Islamic Society, Miramar
8. South Florida Palestine Solidarity Network, North Miami Beach
9. We Are Wide Awake, Clermont

Georgia

1. Cobb for Peace, Marietta
2. Emory Advocates for Justice in Palestine, Atlanta
3. Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, Atlanta

Illinois

1. A&H Engineering, P.C., Romeoville
2. American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee—Chicago Chapter, Hickory Hills
3. Anti-War Anti-Racism Effort, Urbana
4. Arab Jewish Partnership for Peace and Justice in the Middle East, Oak Park
5. Chicago Faith Coalition for Middle East Policy, Chicago
6. New Hope United Methodist Church, Chicago
7. Tikkun Community—Chicago Chapter, Chicago

Iowa

1. Axiom Media/Foundation, Ames

Kansas

1. Citizens for Justice in the Middle East, Fairway

Kentucky

1. Fellowship of Reconciliation—Louisville Chapter, Louisville
2. Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East, Louisville

Louisiana

1. Pax Christi New Orleans, New Orleans

Maine

1. Peace Works, Brunswick
2. Radio Free Maine, Augusta

Maryland

1. Baltimore Tikkun, Baltimore
2. Carlisle Peace College, Sandy Spring
3. Howard County Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, Columbia
4. Indigenous Peoples' Literature, Silver Spring
5. Peace Action Montgomery, Olney

6. Proposal Process Management, Inc., Potomac

Massachusetts

1. Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights, Cambridge
2. Cape Codders for Peace and Justice, Cotuit
3. Hampshire College Students for Justice in Palestine, Amherst
4. Justice with Peace Task Force, Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety, Watertown
5. Pax Christi Metrowest, Natick
6. Salem Peace Committee, Salem

Michigan

1. Brunch & Revolution, Wyoming
2. Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance, Detroit
3. Institute for Global Education, Grand Rapids
4. Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy, Grand Rapids
5. Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War, Portage
6. MidEast: Just Peace, Cedar
7. Palestine Israel Action Group of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Ann Arbor
8. Pax Christi Michigan, Lansing
9. Plymouth United Church of Christ Justice and Peace Task Force, Grand Rapids
10. SS&Z, Saline

Minnesota

1. Middle East Peace Now, St. Paul
2. Minnesota Peace Project, Plymouth
3. Pax Christi Northwest Minnesota, Crookston
4. Southeastern Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, Rochester
5. Women Against Military Madness, Minneapolis

Missouri

1. Citizens for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land, Lee's Summit
2. Women in Black, St. Louis

Montana

1. Jeannette Rankin Peace Center, Missoula

New Hampshire

1. Arab-American Forum, Manchester
2. New Hampshire Veterans for Peace, Auburn

New Jersey

1. Arab American Forum, Denville

New Mexico

1. Albuquerque Raging Grannies, Albuquerque
2. Amnesty International Group 122, Santa Fe
3. Another Jewish Voice of Santa Fe, Santa Fe
4. Coalition to Stop \$30 Billion to Israel, Albuquerque
5. Middle East Peace and Justice Alliance, Albuquerque

New York

1. Astoria Healthcare Associates, Astoria
2. Brooklyn for Peace, Brooklyn
3. Central New York Campaign to End the Occupation of Palestine, Ithaca
4. Central New York Working for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel, Syracuse
5. Committee for Peace in Israel and Palestine, Wainscott
6. Green Party of New York, Buffalo
7. Green Scene Shop, New York
8. New Paltz Women in Black, New Paltz
9. North Central New York Conference United Methodist Church, Peace with Justice Task Force, Syracuse
10. Pax Christi Metro New York, New York
11. Rochester Committee for Middle East Peace, Rochester
12. Upper Hudson Peace Action, Albany
13. Women in Black—Union Square, New York

North Carolina

1. Action Center for Justice, Charlotte
2. Charlotte 4 Palestine, Charlotte
3. Coalition for Peace with Justice, Chapel Hill
4. Duke Muslim Student Association, Durham
5. Jews for a Just Peace—North Carolina, Chapel Hill
6. Little Shiva, Charlotte
7. Muslims of America Join As One, Raleigh

8. Solidarity with Palestine through Education and Action at Carolina, Chapel Hill

Ohio

1. Interfaith Council for Peace in the Middle East, Lakewood
2. Middle East Peace Forum, Lakewood
3. Ohio City for Change, Cleveland
4. Progressive Peace Coalition, Columbus
5. Stop Targeting Ohio's Poor, Cleveland Heights

Oregon

1. Al-Nakba Awareness Project, Eugene
2. Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights, Portland
3. Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land, Portland
4. Pacific Green Party of Oregon, Eugene
5. Peace Resource, Lake Oswego
6. Portland Peaceful Response Coalition, Portland

Pennsylvania

1. Bubbes and Zaydes for Peace in the Middle East, Philadelphia
2. Harrisburg Middle East Justice and Peace, Gettysburg
3. Students for Justice in Palestine—Penn State University, University Park
4. Students for Justice in Palestine—University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh
5. Veterans for Constitutional Respect, Wilcox

Rhode Island

1. Justice First Foundation, Inc., West Kingston

South Carolina

1. Aiken Peace, Aiken
2. Hilton Head for Peace, Hilton Head

Texas

1. Adobe Alliance, Inc., Presidio
2. Interfaith Community for Palestinian Rights, Austin
3. Jelani Design & Associates, Austin
4. Metroplex Pulmonary & Sleep Center, McKinney
5. Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation—San Antonio Chapter, San Antonio
6. Pax Christi Austin, Austin
7. Shalom Salaam Pax, Houston

Washington

1. American Medical Clinic, Inc., Bellevue
2. Holy Land Conversation, Edmonds
3. Jewish Voice for Peace—Seattle Chapter, Seattle
4. Palestine Solidarity Committee—Seattle, Seattle
5. People for Peace, Justice, and Healing, Tacoma
6. The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice, Olympia
7. Wildfire Cider LLC, Port Townsend

Wisconsin

1. Damascus Center for Theoretical and Civil Rights Studies, Appleton
2. Madison-Rafah Sister City Project, Madison
3. Peace Action Wisconsin, Milwaukee
4. Wisconsin Mideast Congressional Lobby Committee, Milwaukee

International

1. American Expats in Jordan PAC, Amman, Jordan
2. Centre for Conflict Resolution, Lagos, Nigeria
3. U.S. Citizens for Peace and Justice, Rome, Italy