

October 22, 2024

Dear Senators,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to cosponsor and vote in favor of the [four joint resolutions of disapproval](#) introduced by Senators Sanders, Welch, and Merkley regarding several specific major arms sales to the government of Israel.

The joint resolutions of disapproval would suspend particular transfers of types of weapons that the Israeli government has used in strikes that have killed thousands of civilians, including aid workers and journalists, in Gaza over the last year. Independent human rights and conflict monitors have thoroughly documented the Israeli military's use of weapons from the United States in attacks that have killed Palestinian civilians. President Biden has [described](#) Israeli government attacks as "indiscriminate." The joint resolutions of disapproval would block certain sales of [joint direct attack munitions](#) (JDAMs) and [tank shells](#), which the Israeli military has repeatedly used in attacks that have killed civilians in densely populated areas. The resolutions do not implicate missile defense systems.

Israeli military attacks have [killed](#) more than 40,000 Palestinians and decimated Gaza's [hospitals](#), [schools](#), [critical infrastructure](#), and [residential housing](#). Human rights organizations have concluded that the Israeli military has [repeatedly violated](#) international humanitarian law. Humanitarian groups have stressed that Israeli forces [continue](#) to restrict the delivery of humanitarian aid as hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza [are](#) on the precipice of starvation and [suffering](#) from the spread of deadly diseases, including [polio](#).

As part of a larger escalation in Lebanon, the Israeli military has invaded South Lebanon and is carrying out airstrikes around the country, [including](#) in densely populated areas of central Beirut. These strikes have put civilians at grave risk and have [killed](#) over 2,000 people, [destroyed](#) critical infrastructure, and [displaced](#) 1.2 million people. According to human rights organizations, these operations have [included apparent violations](#) of international humanitarian law.

Continued arms transfers to the Israeli government are [contrary to U.S. law](#) and the Biden administration's own arms [transfer policy](#), which [include restrictions](#) on arms transfers to any country based on human rights, international humanitarian law, and humanitarian assistance criteria. For example, U.S. law prohibits military aid to governments that restrict the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance. As [demonstrated by the National Security Memorandum 20 process](#), the Biden administration has not complied with these standards.

The Senate will soon have the opportunity to demonstrate that it opposes further suffering and stands for the rule of law and the protection of civilians by supporting the joint resolutions of

disapproval introduced on September 25. We endorse Senator Sanders, Welch, and Merkley's resolutions and urge all Senators to cosponsor and vote in favor of their passage.

Signed,

About Face: Veterans Against the War  
ActionAid USA  
Action Corps  
Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Mankind  
Alliance of Baptists  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
American Baptist Churches USA  
American Friends Service Committee  
Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action)  
Amnesty International USA  
Arab American Institute (AAI)  
Arms Control Association  
Association of US Catholic Priests  
Australian Centre for International Justice  
Australia Palestine Advocacy Network  
Avaaz  
Bridges Faith Initiative  
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies  
Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Economic and Policy Research  
Center for International Policy  
Center for Jewish Nonviolence  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Charity & Security Network  
Children Not Numbers  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy  
CODEPINK  
CommonDefense.us  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Control Arms  
DAWN  
Demand Progress  
Democratic Socialists of America  
Doctors Against Genocide

Doctors of the World  
Emgage Action  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
Faith Strategies  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Forward  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ  
Hindus for Human Rights  
Human Rights Watch  
HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement  
IfNotNow Movement  
Indivisible  
Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism Project  
Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Jewish Voice for Peace Action  
Just Foreign Policy  
Justice Democrats  
Law For Palestine  
Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America  
Legacies of War  
MADRE  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Medglobal  
Medical Mission Sisters, Justice Office  
MENA Rights Group  
Mennonite Action  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Middle East Children's Alliance  
Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC)  
Migrant Roots Media  
MPower Change Action Fund  
Muslim Peace Fellowship  
National Council of Churches  
National Iranian American Council Action  
Nonviolence International (USA)  
Nonviolent Peaceforce  
Oxfam America  
PAX

Pax Christi USA  
Peace Action  
Peace Direct  
Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness  
Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)  
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft  
Quixote Center  
Refugees International  
ReThinking Foreign Policy  
RootsAction.org  
Saferworld (US)  
September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows  
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team  
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace  
Society of Helpers  
The Borgen Project  
The Episcopal Church  
The Human Dignity Project (THDP)  
The Religious Nationalisms Project  
The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP)  
The United Church of Christ  
The United Methodist Church — General Board of Church and Society  
Transnational Institute  
Uncommitted National Movement  
United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network  
United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)  
United We Dream  
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action (USCPR Action)  
Washington Report on Middle East Affairs  
Win Without War  
Women for Weapons Trade Transparency  
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)  
Working Families Party  
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation