

# “Lobbying 101 on Military Aid Campaign”



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# Outline

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- Background Info on Military Aid to Israel
- Budgetary Process on Military Aid
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# Why Challenge Military Aid to Israel?



**Jebalya Refugee Camp, Gaza Strip after September-October 2004 attack by Israel.**

- Israel commits human rights violations with U.S. military aid in violation of U.S. laws
- U.S. taxpayers should be funding unmet domestic needs, not funding human rights abuses abroad
- U.S. commitment to human rights called into question when it enables human rights abuses

# Why Challenge Military Aid to Israel?

## Selected Major Incidents of Israel Using U.S. Weapons to Commit Human Rights Abuses

- **Feb. 27-29, 2008:** Israel kills at least 30 Palestinians, including 6 children, in air attacks on the Gaza Strip. Boeing F-15 and Lockheed F-16 fighter jets, Boeing Apache and Cobra Bell attack helicopters.
- **July 30, 2006:** Israel drops a bomb on an apartment building in Qana, Lebanon, killing at least 28 civilians, most of whom were children. MK-84 high-explosive bomb, Boeing Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM), Motorola 980 Low Altitude Proximity Fuse.
- **Apr. 9, 2005:** Israel kills 3 Palestinian teenagers in Rafah playing soccer. Machine guns, ammunition, armored personnel carriers.
- **Jan. 5, 2005:** Israel kills 7 Palestinian youth working in a strawberry field. M494105mm APERS-T rounds (“flechettes”), M60 Patton main battle tanks.
- **Sep. 28-Oct. 15, 2004:** Israel kills 133 Palestinians, including 31 children, and injures 432, including 139 children in attacks on the Jebalya refugee camp. Israel demolishes 85 Palestinian homes. Tanks, armored personnel carriers, machine guns, and CAT bulldozers.

# Background Info on Military Aid to Israel



- From 1949-2007, more than \$101 billion in total U.S. aid to Israel
- Previous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) phased out economic aid and increased military aid between FY1999-2008
- Current MOU to increase military to aid \$30 billion between FY2009-2018, an average increase of 25%
- President's FY2011 budget request for \$3 billion in FMF

**Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns  
Signs MOU with Israel, Aug. 2007**

# Budgetary Process on Military Aid



**President Bush delivers his State of the Union speech, Jan. 2008**

1. President delivers budget request to Congress (Jan.)
2. Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on State, Foreign Ops, and Related Programs hold budget hearings (Mar.)
3. Subcommittees, Committees “mark-up” appropriations bill (Jul.)
4. House and Senate vote on appropriations bill (Fall)
5. Reconciled bill from conference goes to President (Fall)
6. President signs bill into law (Fall)
7. Fiscal year begins (Oct. 1)
8. Israel receives FMF (Oct. 31)

# Laws Governing U.S. Military Aid Programs

- **Arms Export Control Act (P.L.80-829):** Weapons are limited to “internal security” and “legitimate self-defense” only.
- **Foreign Assistance Act (P.L.97-195):** “No assistance may be provided...to the government of any country which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.”
- **“Leahy Law” (Foreign Ops Appropriations Act):** No aid to “any unit of the security forces of a foreign country if the Secretary of State has credible evidence that such unit has committed gross violations of human rights.”



# Organizing to Challenge Military Aid



**Sign up today to  
become a  
military aid  
organizer with  
the US  
Campaign to  
End the Israeli  
Occupation**

# How Much Military Aid to Israel?



# Why Communicate with Members of Congress?

- Grassroots education & pressure works
- It's your right—non-profits can lobby
- Policy isn't going to change by itself

# Meet with Your Members of Congress



**August is summer recess for Members of Congress**

- **Assemble a delegation**
- **Fax a constituent meeting request to schedule a meeting**
- **Let us know about your meeting**



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