

# GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY TRAINING & LOBBY DAY



**WASHINGTON DC**  
**MARCH 7 - 8, 2010**



## PARTICIPANT PACKET

**ESSENTIAL INFORMATION  
AND READINGS PROVIDED**

Registration packet including congressional asks and information

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A PROGRAM OF INTERFAITH PEACE-BUILDERS AND THE U.S. CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION  
MORE INFORMATION AT **WWW.IFPB.ORG/GRASSROOTS**  
office@ifpb.org • 202.244.0821 • www.ifpb.org

# GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY TRAINING & LOBBY DAY



**WASHINGTON DC**  
**MARCH 7 - 8, 2010**



## Official Events Schedule

The following events are official Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day events. There are also affiliated events scheduled for Saturday, March 6; Monday, March 8; and Tuesday, March 9, and organized by the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and CODEPINK, respectively. Affiliated events are optional and may require separate registration.

### Official Event Locations:

#### Sunday, March 7

##### American University

Ward Building  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

##### Guapos Restaurant

4515 Wisconsin Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20016

#### Monday, March 8

##### Capitol Hill (The Methodist Building Meeting Room)

100 Maryland Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20002

## SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Location: American University - Ward Building, Room 2

9:00 - 9:30 am: *Registration and Welcome*

9:30 – 11:15 am: *Keynote Panel*

### US Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The First Year of an Obama Presidency

- **Noura Erakat** - A Palestinian attorney, activist, and adjunct professor of international human rights law in the Middle East at Georgetown University
  - **Zahir Janmohamed** - Former Director of Middle East Advocacy at Amnesty International and a Senior Legislative Aide on foreign affairs for a member of Congress
  - **Rebecca Vilkomerson** - Executive Director of Jewish Voice for Peace and an editor of Jewish Peace News
- Moderated by Gerald Lenoir of Interfaith Peace-Builders Board of Directors*

11:15 – 11:30 am: *Morning Break (coffee and tea)*

**11:30 am – 1:00 pm: *Introducing our Policy Asks***

**A chance to focus on Monday's Lobby Day, this session will introduce our shared policy asks and discuss strategies to use on Capitol Hill**

- **Josh Ruebner** - National Advocacy Director at the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation; *additional presenters to be announced*

**1:00 - 2:00 pm: *Lunch Break (lunch provided for pre-paid registrants)***

**Optional Participant-Led Break-Out Sessions**

*Participants are encouraged to convene self-organized break-out sessions on the topics of their choice during the lunch break. Participants will have the opportunity to post session topics throughout the morning (more information will be available at the training).*

**2:00 – 4:00 pm: *Workshop Session 1***

**Workshop 1A: *Congressional Engagement 101: Building Skills and Expanding the Congressional District Coordinator Network***

- **Josh Ruebner** - National Advocacy Director at the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

**Workshop 1B: *Broadening the Mainstream Discourse: Making Change in Your Local Media***

- **Sam Hussein** - Communications Director at the Institute for Public Accuracy
- **Jacob Pace** - Communications Coordinator at Interfaith Peace-Builders

**Workshop 1C: *Coalition Building with Muslim Communities: Creating Stronger Partnerships***

- **Naeem Baig** - Vice President for Public Affairs at the Islamic Circle of North America
- **Ibrahim Abdil-Mu'id Ramey** - Director of the Civil and Human Rights Division at the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation

**4:00 - 4:15 pm: *Afternoon Break***

**4:15 – 6:15 pm: *Workshop Session 2***

**Workshop 2A: *Congressional Engagement 201: Developing Relationships with Representatives and Staff***

- **Ra'ed Jarrar** - Senior Fellow on the Middle East for Peace Action
- **Gael Murphy** - Co-founder of CODEPINK: Women for Peace

**Workshop 2B: *Speaker Training Workshop: Effectively Engage and Educate your Community about Palestine***

- **Anna Baltzer** - award-winning lecturer, author, and activist for Palestinian human rights

**Workshop 2C: *A Civil Society Response to Apartheid: Campaigning for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions***

- **Katherine Fuchs** - National Organizer at the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

**6:30 – 7:00 pm: *Final Plenary Meeting and Details for Monday***

**7:30 – 9:00 pm: *Social Event and Fundraiser***

**Guapos Restaurant**

4515 Wisconsin Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20016

*Guapos is one block north of the Tenleytown/American University Metro Station*

**Free entrance** for Grassroots Advocacy Training registrants

\$10 - \$50 for non-registrants

*Join Interfaith Peace-Builders for a social event and fundraiser! An opportunity to get a bite to eat, relax and converse. Screening of IFPB mini-documentary "**Looking Forward: Encounters with Interfaith Peace-Builders in Israel/Palestine**", as well as raffle prizes and local entertainment to be announced.*

## **MONDAY, MARCH 8**

**Location:**

**The Methodist Building Meeting Room**

100 Maryland Avenue NE (Capitol Hill)

Washington, DC 20002

**Between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM the Meeting Room at The Methodist Building will be available for registrants to use for meeting, resting, and storing bags. *The Methodist Building is accessible by Metrorail from Union Station (Red Line)***

**9:00 – 11:00 am: *Practice your congressional meetings***

**The Methodist Building Meeting Room**

*A chance to practice meeting congressional offices. if possible, experts and presenters will be on hand to answer questions and provide advice*

**10:00 am – 5:00 pm: *Meetings on Capitol Hill***

**3:30 pm– 5:30 pm: *Evaluation Session***

**The Methodist Building Meeting Room**

*A review and evaluation of the lobby day focused on tangible achievements and avenues for growth and success. **Moderated by Joe Groves** - Senior Fellow at Interfaith Peace-Builders.*

# Affiliated Events Schedule

The following affiliated events are organized by the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and CODEPINK: Women for Peace, respectively, and are *optional*. Your registration for the Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day covers *only* the official events of March 7 - 8 detailed above. **Separate registration is required for some of the following affiliated events.**

## SATURDAY, MARCH 6

**10:00 am - 4:00 pm: *Boycott and Divestment Training Day*** (*separate registration required*)

(*Location TBA*) The Boycott and Divestment Training Day is organized by the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and focus on providing skills for students and other grassroots activists to implement boycott, divestment and sanctions campaigns in their community.

**You must register with the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation to attend this event.**

## MONDAY, MARCH 8

**5:30 pm: *Boycott AHAVA Action at a beauty store in DC***

*Meet at the Methodist Building and walk from Capitol Hill to local DC store marketing AHAVA products. Join CODEPINK's Stolen Beauty campaign calling for a boycott of the Israeli cosmetic's line.*

**8:00 – 10:00 pm: *Peace x Peace and CODEPINK co-host a special International Women's Day evening event focused on Israeli and Palestinian peace-builders***

**Location:**

Busboys and Poets Restaurant  
2021 14th Street NW  
Washington, DC

*Join Israeli and Palestinian women peace-builders in launching the new book by Peace x Peace at DC's favorite progressive venue.*

## TUESDAY, MARCH 9

**Times TBA: *CODEPINK Actions at State Department and White House*** (*separate registration required*)

(*Locations TBA*) Stay in DC Tuesday and get your hands dirty with CODEPINK raising awareness about what is occurring in Palestine/Israel and demanding justice in the region. Actions are likely to occur at the State Department and the White House.

**You must sign-up with CODEPINK to participate in these actions and receive updates about plans, meeting times, and other information.**

## DIRECTIONS AND MAPS:

*The following information provides directions and maps to each location at which Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day events will take place.*

### SUNDAY, MARCH 7

#### Official Event Locations:

##### American University

Ward Building  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

##### Guapos Restaurant

4515 Wisconsin Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20016

#### DIRECTIONS TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (all March 7 daytime events):

See below for an American University Campus Map (The Ward Building is on the southeastern corner of campus near Ward Circle and the corner of Nebraska Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue).

***NOTE: If traveling via public transportation, please leave ample time to arrive at the Ward Building by 9:30 AM on Sunday, March 7.***

#### Public Transportation:

**American University is accessible via the Washington DC Metrorail and university shuttle services.** Detailed information on accessing American University by Metro or by car is available below or and [here](#).

#### Metrorail:

American University is served by the **Metrorail Red Line (American University-Tenleytown Station)**. Travel Times from downtown DC range from 20 minutes to 45 minutes. For a metro map and train times see [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

#### American University Shuttle Service:

American University operates a free shuttle service to the main campus from the **American University-Tenleytown Metrorail Station** (the stop is located adjacent to the Metrorail station beside the Sears Home Appliance storefront and is marked by signs inside the station).

***Travel time to the main AU Campus is approximately 15 minutes. On Sunday, shuttles run every 15 minutes beginning at 8:00 AM.***

#### Metrobus:

American University is served by Metrobus. Travel Times from downtown DC can vary/ Check weekend schedules and your specific itinerary at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).

#### Driving:

Detailed information on accessing American University by car is available [here](#).

**Parking is free on weekends** and ample parking is available in the Nebraska Lot directly across Nebraska Avenue from the Ward Building (see [map](#)).

## **DIRECTIONS TO SOCIAL EVENT AND FUNDRAISER:**

The location of Sunday evening's Social Event and Fundraiser (7:30 - 9:30 PM) is:

### **Guapos Restaurant**

4515 Wisconsin Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20016

Guapos is one block north of the Tenleytown/American University Metro Station. Take the university shuttle to the metro station and walk north on Wisconsin Avenue. For walking/driving directions from American University [click here](#).

## **MONDAY, MARCH 8**

Events will take place at Capitol Hill (Methodist Building)  
Washington, DC

### **The Methodist Building - Meeting Room**

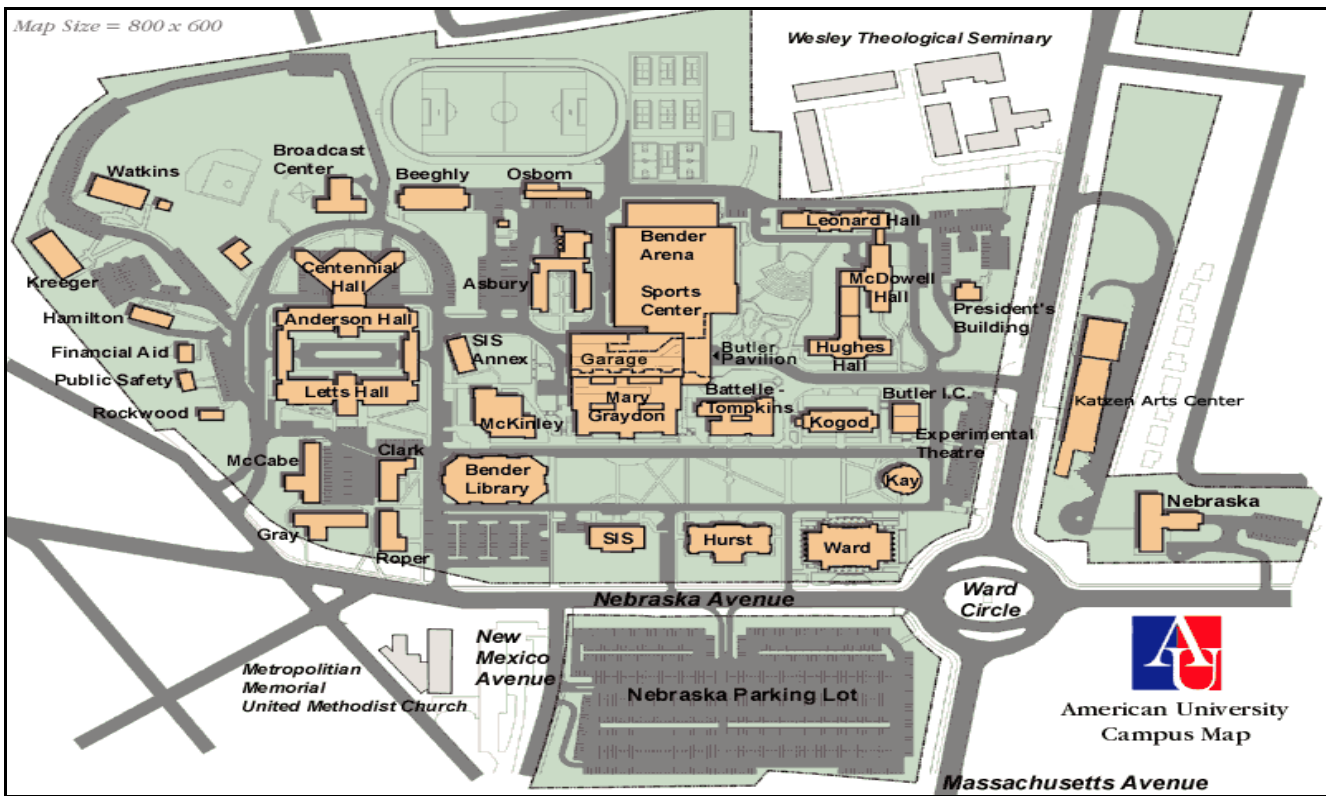
100 Maryland Avenue NE (Capitol Hill)  
Washington, DC 20002

**Event:** Lobby Day Evaluation Session, 3:30 - 5:00 PM

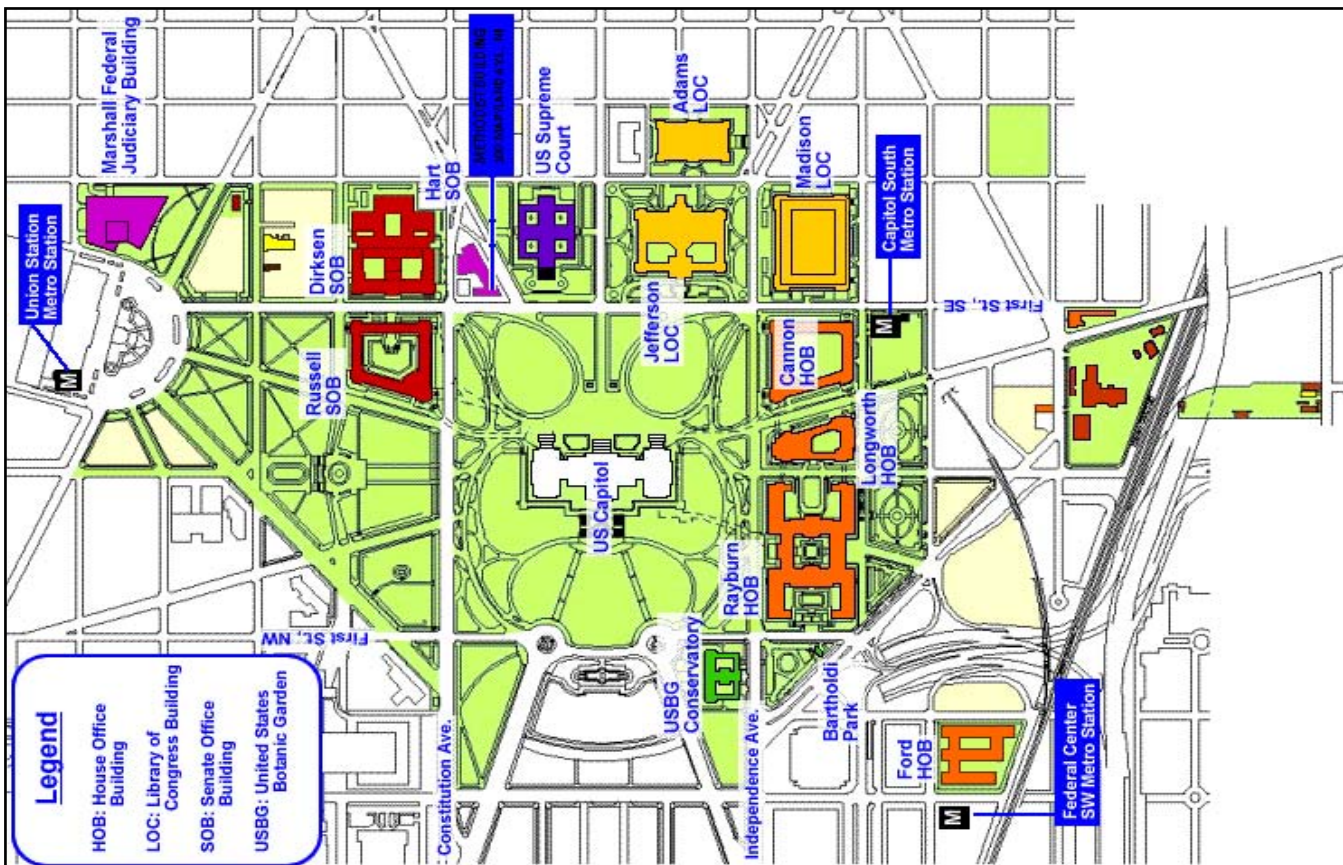
**Between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM the meeting room at the Methodist Building will be available for registrants to use for meeting, resting, and storing bags.**

***The Methodist Building is accessible by Metrorail from Union Station (Red Line). Click [here](#) for a google map of location and [here](#) for directions to/from Union Station. Check schedules and your specific itinerary at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com).***

American University campus Map (Ward Building in lower right):



Capitol Hill Map (Methodist Building between Dirksen SOB and Supreme Court):



## PRESENTERS AND WORKSHOP LEADERS:

**Naeem Baig** currently serves as the Vice President for Public Affairs of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA). He is also Executive Director for ICNA Council for Social Justice. Mr. Baig served as the Secretary General of the Islamic Circle of North America from 2000 to 2004, and later from 2006 to 2008 and was recently elected to serve on the National Board of ICNA for the session 2010 - 2012. Mr. Baig played a major role in strengthening ICNA's Interfaith Relations Department. During his time as the Secretary General, ICNA became member of many Interfaith Initiatives including Religions for Peace USA. Recently, Mr. Baig served as the consultant on the 'Study on Christian-Muslim Relations', sponsored by the Department of Interfaith Relations of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Currently, he co-chairs the 'National Muslim Christian Initiative'. *Naeem will co-lead a workshop on **Coalition Building with Muslim Communities: Creating Stronger Partnerships**.*

**Anna Baltzer** is a full-time speaker, writer, and organizer for Palestinian rights. Since she began volunteering with the International Women's Peace Service, documenting human rights abuses and supporting Palestinian-led nonviolent resistance, Baltzer has appeared on television more than 100 times and lectured at more than 400 universities, schools, churches, mosques, and synagogues around the world with her presentation, "*Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories & Photos*," and her full-color book: *Witness in Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories*. In 2009, Baltzer received the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee's prestigious *Annual Rachel Corrie Peace & Justice Award*. She is a contributor to four upcoming books and serves on the Board of Directors of The Research Journalism Institute, Grassroots Jerusalem, and Council for the National Interest. For information visit [www.AnnalInTheMiddleEast.com](http://www.AnnalInTheMiddleEast.com). *Anna will lead the **Speaker Training Workshop: Effectively Engage and Educate your Community about Palestine**.*

**Mike Daly** is Program Coordinator at Interfaith Peace-Builders. He has worked with the organization since 2004. Before coming to IFPB, he studied in Damascus as a Fulbright Scholar, worked as a public relations consultant with the United Nations Development Programme in Ramallah, and completed a year of intensive Arabic at the American University in Cairo. Mike has co-lead three IFPB delegations, has presented at numerous conferences and workshops and taken on leadership roles in national, regional and local organizing initiatives and coalitions.

**Noura Erakat** is a Palestinian attorney, activist, and adjunct professor of international human rights law in the Middle East at Georgetown University. She recently served as Legal Counsel for a Congressional Subcommittee in the House of Representatives. As a recipient of a New Voices Fellowship, Noura previously worked as a national grassroots organizer and legal advocate at the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation where she helped seed BDS campaigns nationally as well as support the cases brought against two former Israeli officials in US federal courts for alleged war crimes. Noura holds law and undergraduate degrees from the University of California at Berkeley where she helped launch a divestment campaign along with the Students for Justice in Palestine. She has worked and studied in Israel and Palestine: she interned at Adalah: The Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; studied at Hebrew University; and volunteered in Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Lebanon. Noura has also helped to organize national conferences for AMWAJ (Arab Women Arising for Justice) and the US Palestinian Popular Conference. Noura has appeared on Fox's "The O' Reilly Factor," NBC's "Politically Incorrect," MSNBC, and Al-Jazeera International. In February 2009 she participated in a National Lawyers Guild fact-finding mission to Gaza. *Noura will join the keynote panel on the subject of **US Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**.*

**Katherine Fuchs** is National Organizer at the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and a masters candidate at UNESCO's Chair for the Philosophy of Peace in Castellon, Spain. In the summer of 2009 Katherine co-lead an IFPB delegation to Israel, Jerusalem and the West Bank. Before joining the US Campaign Katherine organized and lobbied for Peace Action in Washington, DC and in her hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She has also worked as a community organizer in Wisconsin for fair trade, voting rights, and LGBT equality campaigns. *Katherine will lead the workshop on **A Civil Society Response to Apartheid: Campaigning for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions**.*

**Joe Groves** is Senior Fellow at Interfaith Peace-Builders. He has been working with IFPB since 2001, first as Coordinator for the program under the Fellowship of Reconciliation, then as Co-Director from 2006-2008. Joe has worked on Middle East issues for over 40 years, in the US, Israel and Palestine, and Iraq. He was Professor of Religious Studies and Director of Peace and Conflict Studies at Guilford College and is an Adjunct Professor in the International Peace and Conflict Resolution Program at American University. *Joe will moderate the keynote panel on the subject of **US Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**.*

**Sam Hussein** is Communications Director at the Institute for Public Accuracy. *Sam will co-lead the workshop on **Broadening the Mainstream Discourse: Making Change in Your Local Media**.*

**Zahir Janmohamed** was the Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International from 2006 to 2009. A graduate of UC Berkeley and UCLA, he is currently a Senior Legislative Aide on foreign affairs for a member of Congress. *Zahir will join the keynote panel on the subject of **US Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**.*

**Ra'ed Jarrar** is an Iraqi-born architect, blogger, and political analyst. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Architecture from the University of Baghdad, and a Master's Degree from the University of Jordan. After the fall of Baghdad, Jarrar founded an Iraqi grassroots organization that carried out humanitarian and reconstruction work in Iraq. Jarrar is currently a Senior Fellow on the Middle East for Peace Action, based in Washington DC. *Ra'ed will co-lead the workshop on **Congressional Engagement 201: Developing Relationships with Representatives and Staff**.*

**Gerald Lenoir** is a board member of Interfaith Peace-Builders and Director of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). He is also a board member of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and co-founder of the Priority Africa Network. Gerald is the former executive director of the Black Coalition on AIDS in San Francisco and co-founder/board chair of the HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County. He was a member of the editorial board of War Times, an anti-Iraq war newspaper and a long time leader in the racial justice and anti-apartheid movements. He has also served as a strategic planning consultant for racial justice, immigrant rights, and health-related organizations. *Gerald will moderate the keynote panel on the subject of **US Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**.*

**Gael Murphy** is a co-founder of CODEPINK: Women for Peace. Her activism has focused on women and children-centered issues, beginning with her Peace Corps service in the mid-70s. Gael holds a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology, and Masters Degrees in African Area Studies, Public Health and Fine Arts. She has worked in Africa and the Caribbean as a public health advisor and studied and produced social change media. Most recently, Gael is concerned by the militarization of US foreign policy, with Israel's "defense" at the center, and by the enormous military spending in the face of growing domestic needs. For the past 3 years, Gael has served as co-chair of the Legislative working group, of the anti-war coalition United for Peace and Justice, pursuing legislative and political pressure to de-fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As part of the Gaza Freedom March, she co-facilitated an ad hoc policy working group to organize inside and outside "actions" in an effort to build Congressional support for Palestinian justice. As a resident of Washington, DC, she has extensive experience with a broad range of tactics to engage Members of Congress, from traditional lobbying to sit-ins. *Gael will co-lead the workshop on **Congressional Engagement 201: Developing Relationships with Representatives and Staff**.*

**Jacob Pace** is Communications and Grants Coordinator at Interfaith Peace-Builders. Jake joined the organization in 2007 after first traveling to the region with an IFPB delegation in 2003. He previously worked with Partners for Peace, the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz, California. He spent more than a year in Israel/Palestine between 2003 and 2005 working with the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem in Bethlehem and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights in the Gaza Strip. His work experience has focused particularly on media advocacy and grassroots organizing. He led an IFPB delegation in August 2008 and will co-lead another delegation in summer 2009. *Jake will co-lead the workshop on **Broadening the Mainstream Discourse: Making Change in Your Local Media**.*

**Ibrahim Abdil-Mu'id Ramey** is Director of the Civil and Human Rights Division at the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation (*more details coming soon*). *Ibrahim will co-lead a workshop on **Coalition Building with Muslim Communities: Creating Stronger Partnerships**.*

**Josh Ruebner** is the National Advocacy Director of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. Josh is a former Analyst in Middle East Affairs at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), a non-partisan federal government agency which provide Members of Congress with policy analysis. He holds a graduate degree in International Affairs from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. *Josh will lead the session on **Introducing our Policy Asks** and the workshop on **Congressional Engagement 101: Building Skills and Expanding the Congressional District Coordinator Network**.*

**Rebecca Vilkomerson** is the Executive Director of Jewish Voice for Peace. She has over 15 years of experience in community organizing and advocacy campaigns in the United States and Israel. Immediately before joining JVP, Rebecca worked for a Palestinian Israel public policy center (DIRASAT) and a Bedouin-Jewish environmental and social justice organization in Israel (BUSTAN). Her study, Public Policy in Divided Societies: The Case for a Civil Rights Institution was published in July, 2008 by Dirasat, the Arab Center for Law and Policy. She is also currently an editor of Jewish Peace News. Rebecca is a graduate of Connecticut College and has a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University. She has been a member of JVP since 2002. *Rebecca will join the keynote panel on the subject of **US Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**.*

## ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS:

*A special thanks to the endorsing organizations for their great work and steadfast support. Please visit their websites to view their work and get involved in their Campaigns:*

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee:

[www.adc.org](http://www.adc.org)

The American Friends Service Committee – Chicago:

[www.afsc.org/chicago](http://www.afsc.org/chicago)

CODEPINK: Women for Peace:

[www.codepink4peace.org](http://www.codepink4peace.org)

Stolen Beauty Campaign: [www.stolenbeauty.org](http://www.stolenbeauty.org)

The Fellowship of Reconciliation:

[www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)

Holy Land Trust:

[www.holylandtrust.org](http://www.holylandtrust.org)

The Islamic Circle of North America and ICNA Council for Social Justice:

[www.icna.org](http://www.icna.org)

The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions – USA:

[www.icahdusa.org](http://www.icahdusa.org)

Jewish Voice for Peace:

[www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org)

The Middle East Research and Information Project:

[www.merip.org](http://www.merip.org)

The Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation:

[www.masnet.org/index\\_publicaffairs.asp](http://www.masnet.org/index_publicaffairs.asp)

Progressive Democrats of America:

[www.pdamerica.org](http://www.pdamerica.org)

The Washington Peace Center:

[www.washingtonpeacecenter.org](http://www.washingtonpeacecenter.org)

### **Sponsoring Organizations:**

The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation:

[www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org)

How Much Military Aid to Israel?: [www.aidtoisrael.org](http://www.aidtoisrael.org)

Interfaith Peace-Builders:

[www.ifpb.org](http://www.ifpb.org)

# Interfaith Peace-Builders/US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation Grassroots Lobbying Day “Talking Points” | March 8, 2010

## 1. FY2011 Budget Request for Military Aid to Israel

\* Earlier this year President Obama sent his FY2011 budget request to Congress, which included a record-breaking \$3 billion in military aid to Israel, after declaring in his State of the Union address that he would "go through the budget line by line to eliminate programs that we can't afford and don't work."

\* The United States cannot afford military aid to Israel. Before your meetings, please look at <http://www.aidtoisrael.org> to determine how much military aid to Israel your state and Congressional district will be providing under the terms of a 2007 agreement between the United States and Israel, and what that money could have funded instead to promote affordable housing, green jobs training, education programs, and health care access. Bring this data to your meetings and share them with Congressional offices to show that military aid to Israel comes at a price that we can't afford.

\* Military aid to Israel doesn't work to promote a just and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis. In fact, it does the opposite, by literally “fueling” the conflict as documented in a 2009 Amnesty International report. Israel routinely misuses U.S. weapons in violation of the Arms Export Control Act to commit human rights abuses against Palestinians and to maintain its illegal military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip. These U.S. weapons were misused by Israel to commit violations of human rights and international law, war crimes, and possible crimes against humanity before, during, and after “Operation Cast Lead,” according to the UN-backed Goldstone Report. During the Bush Administration, Israel killed more than 3,000 innocent Palestinians, according to the Israeli human rights organization B'tselem, often with U.S. weapons.

\* Since the United States cannot afford military aid to Israel and since Israel routinely misuses U.S. weapons in violation of U.S. law, U.S. military aid to Israel should be cut off. As a first step towards that, **ask your Members of Congress** to offer amendments to the budget to restrict and condition military aid to Israel to prevent U.S. weapons from being misused, as detailed in the memo.

## 2. AECA Letter to Secretary of State Clinton

\* When a country misuses U.S. weapons in violation of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), the State Department is obligated by law to open an investigation and report its finding of violations of this law to Congress. Despite killing more than 3,000 Palestinian civilians during the Bush Administration, the State Department has not publicly reported to Congress any Israeli violations of this law.

\* Members of Congress have a responsibility to insure that the laws they pass are followed. **Ask your Members of Congress** to send Secretary of State Clinton a letter asking for the State Department to investigate Israel's possible violations of the AECA.

## 3. Resolution on Israel's Blockade of the Gaza Strip

\* Israel's blockade of the occupied Palestinian Gaza Strip is an illegal act of collective punishment, as detailed by the UN-backed Goldstone Report. According to the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention, to which both Israel and the United States are signatories, people cannot be collectively punished for a crime they did not commit. This is exactly what Israel's blockade is doing to the 1.5 million Palestinian residents of the occupied Gaza Strip, who are being denied by Israel adequate provisions of food, clean water, sanitation, electricity, medicines, and other essentials.

\* Members of Congress need to support the Obama Administration in its efforts to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip. On January 22, 2009, President Obama stated “Our hearts go out to Palestinian civilians who are in need of immediate food, clean water, and basic medical care, and who've faced suffocating poverty for far too long. Now we must extend a hand of opportunity to those who seek peace. As part of a lasting cease-fire, Gaza's border crossings should be open to allow the flow of aid and commerce.” More than a year later, even though the cease-fire between Israel and Hamas has more or less held, Israel maintains its illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip in defiance of the Obama Administration's policy statement.

\* **Ask your Members of Congress** to help the Obama Administration achieve its policy goal of ending Israel's illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by introducing a resolution to that effect.

# ASK: THE SIEGE OF GAZA

## **DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR AN END TO GAZA BLOCKADE:**

*Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Israel should end its siege of the occupied Gaza Strip.  
(Introduced in House)*

HRES \_\_\_\_\_

**111th CONGRESS  
2nd Session  
H. RES. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Israel should end its siege of the occupied Gaza Strip.**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
January \_\_\_\_, 2010**

Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_ (for himself/herself, \_\_\_\_\_) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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### **RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Israel should end its siege of the occupied Gaza Strip.

Whereas Israel has held the Palestinian Gaza Strip in belligerent military occupation since June 1967;

Whereas Israel, as the Occupying Power, has internationally-binding obligations to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip living as protected persons under military occupation, according to the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention);

Whereas both Israel and the United States are High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention;

Whereas Article 1 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states “The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances.”;

Whereas Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states “No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.”;

Whereas Article 55 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states “the Occupying Power has the duty of ensuring the food and medical supplies of the population; it should, in particular, bring in the necessary foodstuffs, medical stores and other articles if the resources of the occupied territory are inadequate.”;

Whereas Article 56 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that the “Occupying Power has the duty of ensuring and maintaining, with the cooperation of national and local authorities, the medical and hospital establishments and services, public health and hygiene in the occupied territory”;

Whereas Article 59 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states “If the whole or part of the population of an occupied territory is inadequately supplied, the Occupying Power shall agree to relief schemes on behalf of the said population, and shall facilitate them by all the means at its disposal. Such schemes, which may be undertaken either by States or by impartial humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, shall consist, in particular, of the provision of consignments of foodstuffs, medical supplies and clothing. All Contracting Parties shall permit the free passage of these consignments and shall guarantee their protection.”;

Whereas on November 15, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice facilitated an Agreement on Movement and Access between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, in which the parties agreed that crossing points to and from the Gaza Strip “will operate continuously” and that “Israel will allow the passage of convoys to facilitate the movements of goods and persons” between the Gaza Strip and West Bank;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1860, adopted on January 8, 2009, calls for the “unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment”;

Whereas President Barack Obama stated on January 22, 2009 “Our hearts go out to Palestinian civilians who are in need of immediate food, clean water, and basic medical care, and who've faced suffocating poverty for far too long. Now we must extend a hand of opportunity to those who seek peace. As part of a lasting cease-fire, Gaza's border crossings should be open to allow the flow of aid and commerce.”

Whereas in January 2009, Israel rejected for delivery to the Gaza Strip an unspecified number of cans of meat, humus, peas, white beans, beans, and tuna; 30,000 metric tons of corn oil; and 50,000 metric tons of rice; [Source: [www.logcluster.org/gaza09a/supply-chain/clearance-status-of-humanitarian-cargo/list\\_090331.pdf/view](http://www.logcluster.org/gaza09a/supply-chain/clearance-status-of-humanitarian-cargo/list_090331.pdf/view) ]

Whereas in March 2009, Israel rejected for delivery to the Gaza Strip 125 metric tons of flour; 90 metric tons of macaroni; and 150 pallets of tomato paste, white tahine and jam from the U.S. Agency for International Development; [Source: Same as above and [www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha\\_opt\\_gaza\\_humanitarian\\_situation\\_report\\_2009\\_03\\_30\\_english.pdf](http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_gaza_humanitarian_situation_report_2009_03_30_english.pdf)]

Whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported in its Field Update on Gaza from the Humanitarian Coordination, 24-30 March 2009 that “In addition to limitations on humanitarian deliveries, restrictions on imports and exports in general continue to seriously affect the living conditions of the population...Movement restrictions continue to prevent herders and farmers from accessing areas near the borders. Fishermen stand to lose substantial income as a result of new restrictions that limit fishing to three miles from Gaza's shores.”;

Whereas in May 2009, the U.S. Department of State sent a diplomatic note to Israel urging it to open the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, to allow for the access of food and medicine and transfer of money to banks, and for the importation of construction and rebuilding materials;

Whereas on June 30, 2009, the Israeli navy committed an international act of piracy by kidnapping in international waters 21 people, including U.S. citizens and a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who were attempting to break Israel's siege of the Gaza Strip and deliver badly-needed humanitarian supplies to the besieged population;

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

- (1) urges Israel to comply unconditionally with its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention to supply all protected persons in the occupied Gaza Strip with all humanitarian necessities;
- (2) finds that Israel's siege of the Gaza Strip constitutes an act of collective punishment that is illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention;
- (3) urges Israel to comply unconditionally with its obligations agreed to as part of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access;
- (4) urges Israel to implement unconditionally the terms of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1860;
- (5) commends President Barack Obama for stating that Gaza's borders should remain open for aid and commerce and urges him to communicate to Israel that Gaza's borders should be opened immediately;
- (6) urges Israel to end immediately its land, sea, and air siege of the Gaza Strip.

Attest:

Clerk.

## MCDERMOTT ELLISON LETTER ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GAZA

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Thank you for your ongoing work to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for your commitment of \$300 million in U.S. aid to rebuild the Gaza Strip. We write to you with great concern about the ongoing crisis in Gaza.

The people of Gaza have suffered enormously since the blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt following Hamas' coup, and particularly following Operation Cast Lead. We also sympathize deeply with the people of southern Israel who have suffered from abhorrent rocket and mortar attacks. We recognize that the Israeli government has imposed restrictions on Gaza out of a legitimate and keenly felt fear of continued terrorist action by Hamas and other militant groups. This concern must be addressed without resulting in the de facto collective punishment of the Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip. Truly, fulfilling the needs of civilians in Israel and Gaza are mutually reinforcing goals.

The unabated suffering of Gazan civilians highlights the urgency of reaching a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and we ask you to press for immediate relief for the citizens of Gaza as an urgent component of your broader Middle East peace efforts. The current blockade has severely impeded the ability of aid agencies to do their work to relieve suffering, and we ask that you advocate for immediate improvements for Gaza in the following areas:

- \* Movement of people, especially students, the ill, aid workers, journalists, and those with family concerns, into and out of Gaza;
- \* Access to clean water, including water infrastructure materials,
- \* Access to plentiful and varied food and agricultural materials;
- \* Access to medicine and health care products and suppliers;
- \* Access to sanitation supplies, including sanitation infrastructure materials;
- \* Access to construction materials for repairs and rebuilding;
- \* Access to fuel;
- \* Access to spare parts;
- \* Prompt passage into and out of Gaza for commercial and agricultural goods; and
- \* Publication and review of the list of items prohibited to the people of Gaza.

Winter is arriving and the needs of the people grow ever more pressing. For example, the ban on building materials is preventing the reconstruction of thousands of innocent families' damaged homes. There is also a concern that unrepaired sewage treatment plants will overflow and damage surrounding property and water resources.

Despite ad hoc easing of the blockade, there has been no significant improvement in the quantity and scope of goods allowed into Gaza. Both the number of trucks entering Gaza per month and the number of days the crossings have been open have declined since March. This crisis has devastated livelihoods, entrenched a poverty rate of over 70%, increased dependence on erratic international aid, allowed the deterioration of public infrastructure, and led to the marked decline of the accessibility of essential services.

The humanitarian and political consequences of a continued near-blockade would be disastrous. Easing the blockade on Gaza will not only improve the conditions on the ground for Gaza's civilian population, but will also undermine the tunnel economy which has strengthened Hamas. Under current conditions, our aid remains little more than an unrealized pledge. Most importantly, lifting these restrictions will give civilians in Gaza a tangible sense that diplomacy can be an effective tool for bettering their conditions.

Your Administration's overarching Middle East peace efforts will benefit Israel, the Palestinians, and the entire region. The people of Gaza, along with all the peoples of the region, must see that the United States is dedicated to addressing the legitimate security needs of the State of Israel and to ensuring that the legitimate needs of the Palestinian population are met.

Sincerely,  
Members of Congress

*Arizona*  
Raul Grijalva

*California*  
Lois Capps  
Sam Farr  
Bob Filner  
Barbara Lee  
Loretta Sanchez  
Pete Stark  
Michael Honda  
Lynn Woolsey  
Jackie Speier  
Diane Watson  
George Miller

*Connecticut*  
Jim Himes

*Indiana*  
Andre Carson

*Iowa*  
Bruce Braley

*Kentucky*  
John Yarmuth

*Maryland*  
Elijah Cummings  
Donna Edwards

*Massachusetts*  
Michael Capuano  
William Delahunt  
Jim McGovern  
John Tierney  
John Olver  
Stephen Lynch

*Michigan*  
John Conyers  
John Dingell  
Carolyn Kilpatrick

*Minnesota*  
Keith Ellison  
Betty McCollum  
James Oberstar

*New Jersey*  
Donald Payne  
Rush Holt  
Bill Pascrell

*New York*  
Yvette Clarke  
Maurice Hinchey  
Paul Tonko  
Eric Massa

*North Carolina*  
David Price

*Ohio*  
Mary Jo Kilroy  
Marcy Kaptur

*Oregon*  
Earl Blumenauer  
Peter DeFazio

*Pennsylvania*  
Chaka Fattah  
Joe Sestak

*Vermont*  
Peter Welch

*Virginia*  
Jim Moran  
Glenn Nye

*Washington*  
Jim McDermott  
Adam Smith  
Jay Inslee  
Brian Baird

*West Virginia*  
Nick Rahall

*Wisconsin*  
Tammy Baldwin  
Gwen Moore

## ASK: MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL

### CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE:

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

January 2010

Dear Secretary Clinton,

This month President Obama is expected to submit to Congress his FY2011 budget request, which is scheduled to include \$3 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Israel, according to the terms of a 2007 U.S.-Israeli Memorandum of Understanding.

As you know, all foreign aid recipients are required to abide by the terms and limitations on the use of U.S. weapons found in the Arms Export Control Act. According to this law, U.S. weapons can be used only to support "internal security" and "legitimate self-defense."

I am writing because I am concerned that Israel may have violated the terms of the Arms Export Control Act by misusing weapons during "Operation Cast Lead" in particular, and throughout the years of the Bush Administration in general.

According to *B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories*, between January 2001-November 2008, Israel killed 2,086 Palestinian civilians who took no part in hostilities, including 723 children under age 18. During "Operation Cast Lead," which took place between December 2008-January 2009, according to B'Tselem, Israel killed at least 1,021 Palestinian non-combatants.

I am writing to request the State Department to undertake a thorough, comprehensive review of Israel's possible violations of the Arms Export Control Act during the Bush Administration and to make the results of this investigation public and deliver it to Congress prior to its deliberation on the President's FY2011 budget request for military aid to Israel.

I look forward to hearing back from your Department about my request.

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress



US Campaign to  
End the Israeli Occupation

"We aim to change those US policies that both sustain Israel's 41-year occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and deny equal rights for all."

## Leveraging FY2011 Budget Request for Military Aid to Israel to Achieve U.S. Policy Goals

### 1. Background

In August 2007, the United States and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase U.S. military aid to Israel by an annual average of 25% over previous levels of assistance, totaling \$30 billion between FY2009-2018.

In January 2010, President Obama is expected to request \$3 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Israel in his FY2011 budget, the third budgetary allocation under the terms of the MOU.

In previous years, Congress has approved annual military aid appropriations to Israel without any strings attached, leading to little or no discernible progress toward stated U.S. policy goals of halting the expansion of Israeli settlements and promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace. This year, Members of Congress should reverse this trend and act to ensure that the FY2011 budget request for military aid to Israel is leveraged in order to achieve stated U.S. policy goals.

### 2. Possible Amendments for FY2011 Budget

#### A. Accountability to U.S. Laws Protecting Human Rights

##### i. Restricting Use of U.S. Weapons to Israel's Sovereign Territory

Data compiled by *B'tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories* shows that between January 2001-November 2008, Israel killed more than 2,000 Palestinian civilians who took no part in hostilities, of whom more than 700 were children. Between December 2008-January 2009, Israel killed more than 1,300 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, more than an estimated half of whom were civilians. Oftentimes, these Palestinian civilians were killed with weapons paid for by and produced in the United States in violation of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA).

To ensure that U.S. weapons are not being used to commit human rights abuses against Palestinian civilians, while at the same time affirming Israel's right to use these weapons for "legitimate self-defense" against an attack by a foreign country or for "internal security" consistent with the terms of the AECA, Congress should state that U.S. weapons should not be used by Israel in its military occupation of the Palestinian Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

Precedent for restricting Israel's use of U.S. assistance within its own sovereign borders already exists through the loan guarantee program. In the April 2003 supplemental war appropriation bill authorizing \$9 billion in loan guarantees to Israel, Congress stipulated that these funds can be used "only to support activities in the geographic areas which were subject to the administration of the Government of Israel before June 5, 1967."

Congress should insert the same or similar language as found in the loan guarantee program and extend this principle to Israel's FMF program to ensure that such funds are not being used in violation of the AECA to maintain a foreign military occupation and to commit human rights abuses against an occupied people.

##### ii. AECA Violations Must Be Investigated before Money Is Appropriated

In January 2009, Rep. Dennis Kucinich requested the State Department to investigate Israel's possible violations of the AECA during "Operation Cast Lead." To date, the State Department has not complied with this request for an investigation. It is not known whether or when the State Department will initiate an investigation.

Members of Congress can take no action against violations of the AECA until the Executive Branch notifies them of a violation. Therefore, to ensure that Congress adheres to the letter and spirit of the AECA, Members of Congress should insert the following language into the FY2011 budget line-item for FMF to Israel:

“No amounts appropriated under this bill shall be disbursed prior to the State Department transmitting to Members of Congress and making public the results of a complete, accurate, and transparent investigation into Israel’s possible violations of the Arms Export Control Act during “Operation Cast Lead,” as previously requested by Congress in January 2009.”

## **B. Promoting a Freeze on the Expansion of Israeli Settlements**

Since 1967, every U.S. Administration has upheld the illegality of Israel’s settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, decried them as obstacles to peace, and urged Israel not to expand settlements. Despite this stance, Israel has continued to build settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. During the Oslo “peace process,” the number of Israeli settlers doubled, and recently Israel announced plans to add 73,000 housing units to existing settlements. If this plan comes to fruition, all hope of establishing a viable and contiguous Palestinian state will be lost.

On numerous occasions, Israel has pledged to halt the expansion of settlement building, most recently in the “road map” and at the Annapolis peace conference, yet these promises have gone unfulfilled. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s recently announced temporary moratorium on new settlement expansion approval in the West Bank neither halts already-approved construction, nor does it apply to occupied East Jerusalem.

Members of Congress should hold Israel to its pledge to halt settlement activities and back the Obama Administration’s positions on settlements by inserting the following language into the FY2011 budget line-item for FMF to Israel:

“Amounts appropriated under this bill shall be disbursed only in quarterly installments after the Administration delivers to Congress a report verifying that during the previous quarter Israel has fulfilled its commitments under the ‘road map’ and Annapolis peace conference to halt the building of new settlements in the Palestinian West Bank and East Jerusalem and to freeze the expansion of existing settlements in these areas, including so-called ‘natural growth’ of these settlements. Israel shall be ineligible to receive a quarterly installment of this appropriation if the President reports that Israel has undertaken any form of settlement expansion during the previous quarter.”

## **C. Ending the Blockade of the Gaza Strip**

Since 2006, Israel has maintained a full-scale land, sea, and air blockade of the occupied Gaza Strip in an illegal act of collective punishment against the 1.5 million Palestinian civilians who reside there. This blockade has led to a dire humanitarian crisis and decimated the economic life of the region.

In January 2009, President Obama declared that “Gaza’s border crossings should be open to allow the flow of aid and commerce.” Members of Congress should support this important policy goal by insisting that no military aid to Israel be disbursed until the blockade is ended and that the borders of the Gaza Strip remain open to humanitarian aid and normal economic activities by inserting the following language into the FY2011 budget line-item for FMF to Israel:

“No amounts appropriated under this bill shall be disbursed prior to the President certifying in a public, written report to Congress that Israel has ended its blockade of the Gaza Strip and that its borders are open to the free flow of humanitarian aid and for all normal economic transactions, including imports and exports of materials, and that all provisions of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access are being implemented. Amounts appropriated under this bill shall be disbursed thereafter only in quarterly installments after the Administration delivers to Congress a report verifying that during the previous quarter Israel has not reestablished its blockade of the Gaza Strip nor violated the terms of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access.”

## **3. Conclusion**

In order to achieve President Obama’s goal of quickly establishing a just and lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace, Members of Congress should incentivize Israel’s behavior toward freezing settlement growth, ending the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and ending the human rights abuses associated with its military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.

This incentivization should be accomplished by leveraging U.S. influence over Israel through its FMF appropriation. For decades, blank checks to Israel have not succeeded in modifying its behavior toward accomplishing U.S. policy goals of promoting human rights and establishing peace. The continuation of the same policy will bring only the same results. Now is the time for change.

Mr. Eric Thorson, Inspector General  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

March 2010,

Dear Inspector-General Thorson,

We are writing to request an investigation into the activities and finances of 501(c)(3) organizations that promote Israel's military occupation of Palestinian territories.

Reports by news media and independent researchers have made it clear that such organizations transfer tens of millions of dollars every year to Israeli organizations that promote the expansion of settlements, which are considered illegal by the United States government, the United Nations Security Council, and the International Court of Justice.

Although these organizations operate with little accountability, it has become known in at least some cases that their principal activities are not charitable. For example, several news articles report that one of these organizations, American Friends of Ateret Cohanim, is primarily involved in the acquisition of real estate for the purpose of replacing Arab residents of the Old City of Jerusalem with Jewish residents, and that it does not devote any resources to its stated purpose of supporting a religious educational institution in Jerusalem.

In other cases, reports indicate that charitable activity is supplemented by substantial non-charitable activity. For example, the Hebron Fund helped to finance the 17-month occupation by settlers of a Palestinian building in Hebron, in defiance of even the Israeli police and courts. The Hebron Fund spent tens of thousands of dollars just to pay for heating the building in the winter months.

As the above paragraphs indicate, many of the settlement support organizations are involved exclusively or substantially in activities that are not only uncharitable, but which promote results that are the very opposite of charitable. The IRS lists, in its definition of "charitable," the purposes of lessening neighborhood tensions, eliminating prejudice and discrimination, and defending civil and human rights secured by law. Activities such as purchasing houses in Palestine for settlement by Israeli Jews only, financing illegal takeovers of Palestinian-owned buildings, and arming and training paramilitary organizations accomplish the opposites of these purposes.

In addition, it has long been the position of the IRS that racially discriminatory organizations are not charitable. Substantially all of the settlements supported by the organizations in question are exclusively populated by Jewish Israelis, and some have explicitly racially discriminatory policies.

No organization that substantially supports Israeli settlements is eligible for tax exemptions under the standards set out in the Internal Revenue Code and the IRS's rules. In many cases, favorable rulings appear to have been obtained through fraudulent reporting by the organizations, as when these organizations tell the IRS that they operate in Israel when they in fact operate principally or exclusively in the occupied Palestinian territories; or tell the IRS that they are involved in charitable activity, when they are in fact exclusively or substantially involved in non-charitable activity.

The tens of millions of dollars that settlement support organizations receive, tax-free, on a yearly basis represents a loss of millions of dollars to U.S. taxpayers. We request an investigation that would reveal the true amount of this loss to taxpayers; that would enable the U.S. government to recover the funds from these organizations; and that would reveal the nature and extent of the activities supported by these organizations, so that U.S. nonprofit policy can be aligned with U.S. foreign policy.

Sincerely,

Members of Congress

# U.S. Military Aid to Israel—Illegal and Immoral

Can You Think of a Better Way to Spend \$30 Billion over the Next Decade?

## A BRIEF HISTORY

**O**n August 16, 2007, the United States and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase bilateral military aid to Israel to \$30 billion over the next decade, representing a more than 25% increase over the previous FY2008 appropriation.<sup>1</sup>

Even before this increase in military aid, Israel was already the largest recipient of U.S. assistance. According to Congressional Research Service, since 1949, the United States has provided Israel with more than \$53 billion of military aid—a little more than half of total aid to Israel, which stood at more than \$101 billion as of 2007.<sup>2</sup>

Over the past decade, U.S. military aid to Israel increased yearly while economic aid was phased out, implementing a ten-year understanding negotiated between Congress and the government of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 1998.<sup>3</sup>

In FY2008—the last year of this ten-year understanding—the United States provided Israel with an estimated \$2.38 billion in military aid while traditional economic aid—known as Economic Support Funds in budgetary language—was reduced to zero (although the United States continued to provide an estimated \$39.7 million to Israel under a different budget category known as Migration and Refugee Assistance).<sup>4</sup>

In his budget request to Congress for FY2009—the first budget year of the new understanding signed in 2007—President George W. Bush requested \$2.55 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Israel, a 9% increase over actual military aid given to Israel in FY2007.<sup>5</sup> (FMF is the primary budgetary vehicle through which the United States provides military aid.) Under the terms of the new understanding, annual military aid appropriations to Israel are scheduled to rise to \$3.1 billion by FY2018.<sup>6</sup>

## VIOLATIONS OF U.S. LAWS

**A**ll U.S. aid programs, whether military or economic, have built-in mechanisms to prevent that aid from being used by countries to commit human rights abuses. According to U.S. law, countries that commit human rights abuses with U.S. aid are to be sanctioned and aid is to be cut off.

The Arms Export Control Act (P.L. 80-829) stipulates that countries purchasing or receiving U.S. weapons cannot use them against civilians and must restrict their usage to “internal security” and “legitimate self-defense.”



The US Campaign and many other organizations have documented Israel's repeated uses of U.S. weapons to commit human rights violations against civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Lebanon. Indeed, Israel could not maintain its illegal 40-year military occupation and siege of the Palestinian West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip without these weapons.

According to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-195), “No assistance may be provided under this part [of the law] to the government of any country which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.” As documented not only by Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights groups, but by the U.S. government as well, Israel has an atrocious human rights record and therefore should be ineligible for any form of U.S. aid.

## TAKE ACTION

\* Send a postcard, sign a petition, or write a letter to your Members of Congress and the President opposing military aid to Israel.

\* Sign up for an organizing packet to educate and mobilize people in your community on this issue.

\* Organize a meeting of constituents with your Members of Congress to oppose military aid to Israel.

\* Put a flash graphic on your blog or social networking site opposing military aid to Israel.

\* Learn more about U.S. arms laws and transfers of weapons to Israel at the websites of the Federation of American Scientists: [www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org) and the World Policy Institute: [www.worldpolicy.org](http://www.worldpolicy.org)

More information at:  
<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?list=type&type=208>

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> “Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Israel and the United States,” August 16, 2007. Available at: <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/About+the+Ministry/MFA+Spokesman/2007/Signing%20of%20Memorandum%20of%20Understanding%20between%20Israel%20and%20the%20United%20States%2016-Aug-2007>.

<sup>2</sup> Jeremy M. Sharp, Specialist in Middle East Affairs, Congressional Research Service Report, “U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel,” updated January 2, 2008, Table 5. Recent U.S. Aid to Israel, p. 18. Available at: [http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33222\\_20080102.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33222_20080102.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Serge Schmemmann, “Israelis to Discuss Phasing Out 1.2 Billion U.S. Economic Aid,” *New York Times*, January 27, 1998. Available at: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E07E6D7113BF934A15752C0A96E958260&sec=&spon=&pagewanted=all>.

<sup>4</sup> “Summary and Highlights: International Affairs Function 150, Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request,” U.S. Department of State. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/100014.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Sharp, *op. cit.*, p. 2.

# Palestinians in Gaza: Besieged & Attacked w/ U.S. Weapons

## Take Action to Protest Israel's Misuse of U.S. Weapons

**O**n December 27, 2008, Israel launched a full-scale air and naval attack on the occupied Palestinian Gaza Strip. On January 3, 2009, Israel expanded its attacks on the Gaza Strip by launching a massive ground invasion.

Israel's three-week war on the occupied Gaza Strip exacted a terrible toll on the 1.5 million Palestinians living there, killing more than 1,300, injuring more than 5,000, destroying 4,000 buildings, and causing an estimated \$2 billion in damage to civilian infrastructure.

Israel's attacks come on top of a brutal siege of the Gaza Strip, which has created a humanitarian catastrophe of dire proportions for Gaza's 1.5 million Palestinian residents by restricting the provision of food, fuel, medicine, electricity, and other necessities of life.

**Israel's war and siege on the Gaza Strip would not be possible without the weapons provided by the United States and its veto at the UN preventing the international community from holding Israel accountable for its human rights violations .**

Here is a snapshot of the U.S. weapons Israel is using to kill and besiege Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip:

\* Israel carried out its aerial bombardment of the Gaza Strip with U.S.-provided F16 fighter jets and Apache helicopter gunships. From 2001-2006, the United States provided Israel with more than **\$200 million in spare parts for its fighter jets** and more than **\$100 million in spare parts for its helicopter gunships**.

\* In July 2008, the United States provided Israel with **186 million gallons of JP-8 aviation jet fuel** to fly its fleet of F16's and Apaches.

\* Israel bombarded the Gaza Strip by sea with naval combat ships and on December 30, the Israeli navy intentionally rammed a boat in international waters which was carrying medical supplies to the Gaza Strip, nearly causing it to sink. The passengers of The Dignity included doctors and recent **Green Party Presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney**. In July 2008, the United States signed a contract to transfer **\$1.9 billion of naval combat ships**

### Israel.

\* Israeli aircraft and ships fired missiles and bombs provided by the United States. In October 2007, the United States signed a **\$1.3 billion contract with Raytheon to transfer to Israel thousands of TOW, Hellfire, and "bunker buster" missiles**. Israel also is dropped GBU-39 small diameter bombs on the Gaza Strip.

According to weapons experts, these bombs contain **uranium oxide** and have left behind radioactive contamination in places such as Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In September 2008, **Boeing received a \$77 million contract to transfer 1,000 of these bombs** to Israel.

\* Israel invaded the Gaza Strip by ground using tanks, armored personnel carriers, and other military vehicles with troops wearing night-vision goggles. Since 2001, the United States has given Israel more than **\$300 million in tank components and spare parts and various military vehicles, and nearly \$150 million in night-vision goggles and scopes**.



**I**srael is the largest recipient of U.S. military aid. In August 2007, the United States and Israel signed an agreement to increase arms transfers to Israel to **\$30 billion over the next decade**. President-Elect Obama already has pledged to implement this agreement without any conditions.

All U.S. aid programs, whether military or economic, have built-in mechanisms to prevent that aid from being used by countries to commit human rights abuses. According to U.S. law, countries that commit human rights abuses with U.S. aid are to be sanctioned and aid is to be cut off.

The **Arms Export Control Act** (P.L. 80-829) stipulates that countries purchasing or receiving U.S. weapons cannot use them

against civilians and must restrict their usage to "internal security" and "legitimate self-defense." Israel repeatedly uses U.S. weapons to commit human rights violations against civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and in Lebanon. Indeed, Israel could not maintain its illegal 41-year military occupation and siege of the Palestinian West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip without these weapons.

According to the **Foreign Assistance Act** of 1961 (P.L. 87-195), "No assistance may be provided under this part [of the law] to the government of any country which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights." As documented not only by Palestinian, Israeli, and international human rights groups, but by the U.S. government as well, Israel has an atrocious human rights record and therefore should be ineligible for any form of U.S. aid.

## TAKE ACTION

\* **Take to the streets and make your opposition public.** Hundreds of protests are scheduled to take place across the country. Find one near you or add details of your own protest.

\* **Educate and organize people in your community.** Sign up to organize people in your community to oppose military aid to Israel and get an organizing packet.

\* **Contact the White House, State Dept. and your Members of Congress.** Write a letter and set up a meeting with your Members of Congress to demand a lifting of the siege of Gaza, and investigation into Israel's misuse of U.S. weapons.

\* **Get the message out to the media.** Download talking points and make your voice heard.

\* **Step up the pressure on President Obama and the new Congress.** Sign our open letter and come to our Feb. 1-2 Grassroots Advocacy Training and Lobby Day.

\* **Make a tax-deductible donation to us and give less of your tax dollars to Israel.**

**FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT:**  
<http://www.endtheoccupation.org>