

U.S. Military Aid to Israel

Its Impact on Palestinians and U.S. Taxpayers

**END THE
OCCUPATION**

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Imagine that a foreign army invaded the United States, imposed military occupation throughout the country, deprived us of our rights to freedom and self-determination, established settlements on lands taken from us, and maintained this cruel system of oppression through daily human rights abuses and degrading apartheid laws that discriminated against us based on our nationality.

With the words of American revolutionary **Patrick Henry**—“**Give me liberty, or give me death!**”—ringing in our conscience, we would struggle to overthrow the tyrant and appeal to other nations that supported this military occupation to end their diplomatic and military aid.

Israeli Occupation

For more than **four million** Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, this is no hypothetical scenario. It is all too real. Since 1967 Israel has imposed an illegal military occupation on these Palestinian territories—one of the **longest military occupations** in modern history.

Not only is this occupation long—it is also brutal. Israel has demolished roughly 25,000 Palestinian homes, making **hundreds of thousands homeless**. Israel has uprooted more than a million Palestinian olive trees, decimating the backbone of Palestinian agriculture. Israel has destroyed billions of dollars of Palestinian roads, schools, businesses, hospitals, and



other civilian infrastructure, deliberately impoverishing Palestinians. Israel has erected more than 500 checkpoints, barriers, gates, fences and walls, preventing Palestinians from moving freely in their own land. Israel has built **150 illegal settlements**, in which half a million Israelis live on stolen Palestinian land, making a two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

These policies are part of Israel's apartheid system of control, which gives Palestinians less water, electricity and access to roads. Human Rights Watch called Israel's discrimination against Palestinians “**separate and unequal**.” Israel maintains this military occupation only by brutally repressing Palestinians forced to live under it, **killing more than 3,000** unarmed Palestinian civilians since 2000.

Our Role

Israel's violence against Palestinians is made possible only by the **unconditional diplomatic and military support** provided by the United States. The United States has vetoed dozens of UN Security Council resolutions condemning Israel's policies, thereby shielding it from accountability for its actions. Since 1949 the United States has provided more than **\$100 billion** in military and economic aid to Israel. In 2007 the United States signed an agreement with Israel to provide it with another **\$30 billion of weapons** in the decade 2009-2018.

TAKE ACTION!

1. Sign a postcard to the President and a petition to your Members of Congress telling them to end U.S. military aid to Israel and redirect the money to unmet needs here at home.
2. Find out how much your city, county, Congressional district, and state provide in military aid to Israel, and what that money could purchase instead at www.aidtoisrael.org
3. “Offset” the taxes you pay in weapons for Israel by making a tax-deductible donation to the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. In 2011, the average individual taxpayer will contribute an estimated \$21.59 in taxes for weapons to Israel.

By giving Israel the guns, ammunition, missiles, tanks, ships, helicopters and airplanes it uses to enforce its illegal military occupation, we U.S. taxpayers are, in the conclusion of Amnesty International, literally “**fueling conflict**.” We are directly complicit in Israel's human rights abuses against Palestinians, and even against Americans who have stood in solidarity with Palestinians who protest nonviolently against this oppression.

Take, for example, Israel's misuse of U.S.-supplied tear gas. Israel has shot high-velocity gas canisters directly at Palestinian and U.S. civilians participating in nonviolent demonstrations, severely injuring and killing them. **Jawaher Abu Rahmah** died January 1, 2011, after inhaling tear gas fired in her village of Bil'in. Residents of this West Bank village

How would you rather spend \$30 billion over a decade?



Rachel Corrie by repeatedly running over her with a bulldozer as she nonviolently protected a Palestinian home in the Gaza Strip from being demolished. Since 2000, the Defense Department has financed the purchase of more than **\$30 million** of these bulldozers for Israel, at **taxpayer expense**.

Jawaher Abu Rahmah, 36, died Jan. 1, 2011, from inhaling tear gas provided by the U.S. and fired indiscriminately by Israeli occupation troops. Photo: ActiveStills.org.

hold weekly demonstrations against the wall that Israel has built through the village to prevent its farmers from reaching their lands. In April 2009, Israeli soldiers killed Jawaher's younger brother Bassem, hitting him in the chest with a high-velocity tear gas canister. In 2009 and 2010, Israeli soldiers fired canisters directly at U.S. citizens **Tristan Anderson** and **Emily Henochowicz**, causing brain damage and the loss of an eye, respectively. In most if not all of these cases, the tear gas came from Combined Systems, Inc., of James-town, PA. Since 2000, the State Department authorized the transfer to Israel of tear gas and related equipment valued at nearly \$20 million, at **taxpayer expense**.

Another example is Israel's lethal misuse of **Caterpillar D9** bulldozers while demolishing Palestinian homes. Since 2000, Israel has **killed 21** Palestinians, including **seven children**, while demolishing their homes, including eight members of the al-Sho'bi family in Nablus, who were crushed to death when the Israeli military destroyed their home in April 2002 after failing to give them enough time to flee the premises. In March 2003 the Israeli military killed U.S. citizen

Can We Afford It?

Morally, politically, legally and financially, we cannot afford to continue arming Israel and to enable its human rights abuses. We have good laws on the books to prevent U.S. military aid from being misused in this way. The **Arms Export Control Act** limits the use of U.S. weapons to "internal security" and "legitimate self-defense." Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid policies toward Palestinians are neither.

The **Foreign Assistance Act** states that no U.S. aid may be provided to any country "which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights." Let's treat Israel like every

other country in the world and hold it accountable when it misuses U.S. weapons in violation of the law.

Moreover, with the same **\$30 billion** that the United States proposes to give Israel **in weapons** from 2009 to 2018, we could provide more wisely each year:

- ➔ More than 350,000 low-income families with **affordable housing** vouchers; or
- ➔ Nearly 500,000 unemployed workers with re-training for **green jobs**; or
- ➔ Almost 900,000 at-risk children with **early reading** programs; or
- ➔ 24 million people lacking **health insurance** with basic care.

The choice is clear. Fund Israel's destruction of Palestinian homes, or invest that money in affordable housing for Americans. Fund Israel's uprooting of Palestinian agriculture, or develop our economic base for green jobs. Fund Israel's restrictions on Palestinian education, or build our children's skills. Fund Israel's injuring and killing of Palestinians, or provide healthcare to our own citizens. **It's our money, our choice.**

How much **military aid** do you provide?

At www.aidtoisrael.org, our interactive map answers this question in amazing detail! Learn how much money your city, county, Congressional district and state are now providing in military aid to Israel, and what that money could purchase instead. Use our site to write to your Members of Congress and suggest wiser ways to spend your tax dollars. Download and print additional fact sheets, see creative ad campaigns opposing this military aid, and stay informed of our future successes by joining our Facebook page and email list. On our site you can electronically "offset" your individual taxes going toward military aid by making a tax-deductible contribution to sustain our work. **Visit www.aidtoisrael.org today!**

