

January 11, 2024

Dear Senators,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to cosponsor and vote in favor of [S.Res.504](#), Senator Bernie Sanders' resolution under [Section 502B\(c\) of the Foreign Assistance Act](#) (22 U.S.C. § 2304) requiring a report on Israel's human rights practices and U.S. military aid to Israel. After months of devastation in Gaza, there is urgent need for a meaningful debate on U.S. support for Israeli operations in Gaza and the West Bank, including the extent to which U.S. military aid may be supporting violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

In response to the horrific October 7th attacks by Hamas, Israel has conducted a military campaign [resulting](#) in the deaths of more than 20,000 Palestinians in Gaza, approximately [70 percent](#) of whom are women and children. Senator Sanders recently [called](#) the bombardment of Gaza "not just a humanitarian cataclysm, but a mass atrocity. And it is being done with bombs & equipment produced and provided by the United States and heavily subsidized by American taxpayers." President Biden has also [stated](#) that Israel is engaging in "indiscriminate bombing."

Human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have [documented egregious violations of](#) international humanitarian law by both Hamas and the Israeli military. Hamas' atrocities on October 7th -- as well as its continued holding of hostages and rocket launches into Israel -- do not relieve Israel of its responsibility to protect its people in a manner consistent with international humanitarian law. But as the Israeli offensive devastates Gaza, including through Israel's siege, the United States continues to provide a steady stream of [bombs, missiles, drones, artillery shells, and ammunition](#) -- all [apparently](#) without conditions. The Biden administration has even bypassed Congressional oversight through an emergency transfer authority. Despite investigations revealing potential war crimes committed by Israeli forces, the State Department has [admitted](#) that it has not been assessing Israel's compliance with international law throughout the conflict.

S.Res.504 offers an opportunity to affirm Congress's important [oversight role](#), mandating that the Biden administration document and report on any human rights violations committed by the Israeli government. Congress should ensure that arms transfers and military aid provided to Israel, or any country, are consistent with U.S. law and policy, international law, and civilian protection responsibilities. The resolution would be an important step toward these goals.

Upon Senate passage, this resolution would require a report from the State Department on Israel's human rights practices within thirty days. The resolution and debate it generates would open the door to potential follow-on Congressional action.

Congress stands at a pivotal moment. It is long overdue for the Senate to hold a public vote and debate on U.S. complicity in Israeli human rights abuses against Palestinians living under occupation and bombardment, and to reassert Congressional oversight powers over U.S. arms transfer policy and foreign policy. We, the undersigned organizations, endorse this resolution and urge all Senators to cosponsor and vote in favor of [S.Res.504](#).

Sincerely,

Action Corps  
Alliance of Baptists  
American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine  
American Friends Service Committee  
Americans for Peace Now  
Amnesty International USA  
Antiwar.com  
Armenian National Committee of America  
Arms Control Association  
Avaaz  
Campaign for Peace, Disarmament, and Common Security  
Carolina Peace Center  
Center for Civilians in Conflict  
Center for International Policy  
Center for Jewish Nonviolence  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy  
Church World Service  
Churches for Middle East Peace  
CODEPINK  
CommonDefense.us  
Community of Christ  
Community Peacemaker Teams  
Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights  
Demand Progress Action  
Democracy for the Arab World Now  
Democratic Socialists of America  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Forward  
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)  
Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ  
IfNotNow Movement  
Indivisible  
Institute for Policy Studies New Internationalism Project  
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)  
Just Foreign Policy  
Legacies of War  
Libertarian Institute  
MADRE  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC)

Migrant Roots Media  
Minnesota Peace Project  
MPower Change Action Fund  
National Council of Churches  
National Iranian American Council Action  
Nonviolence International  
Nonviolent Peaceforce  
Oxfam America  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace Action  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness  
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft  
Quixote Center  
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace  
ReThinking Foreign Policy  
RootsAction.org  
Saferworld  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team  
Sojourners  
The Episcopal Church  
The Riverside Church in the City of New York  
U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights  
U.S. Palestinian Council  
United for Peace and Justice  
United Methodist Church — General Board of Church and Society  
Washington Advocates for Palestinian Rights  
Win Without War  
Women for Weapons Trade Transparency  
Working Families Party  
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation  
Yemeni Alliance Committee