

UUA GA 2021 Proposed AIW on Palestine and Israel

Withhold US Military Aid to Israel Until Israel Complies with International Law and Stops Violating Palestinian Rights

In accord with the [call from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#),¹ we, the 60th General Assembly of the UUA, call for US military aid to Israel to be withheld until Israel complies with international law and stops violating the rights of Palestinians because:

In May 2021, the world again witnessed days of massive death and destruction in Gaza, and to a lesser extent in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Israel. The trauma and violence will not end until Palestinian rights are respected.

Military occupation subjects millions of Palestinians to systematic oppression by the Israeli state and denies them representation in the government that controls them. This situation meets the international legal definition of the crime of apartheid, as reported by the Israeli human rights organization [B'Tselem](#)² and [Human Rights Watch](#).³

Israel has maintained a military occupation in violation of international law for more than half a century over Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank. It imposes a cruel blockade on the 2 million people of [Gaza](#)⁴ where 70% live in poverty and 50% are children. Periodic military attacks by Israel destroying and damaging housing, schools, hospitals, and primary health centers, the blockade, lack of potable water, lack of economic opportunities, restricted electricity, and lack of sanitation, led the United Nations in 2015 to declare that Gaza **would be uninhabitable**⁵ by the year 2020.

The denial of Palestinian rights has been extensively documented by Palestinian-led organizations, including [the Palestine Liberation Organization Observer Mission to the United Nations](#),⁶ [Al Haq](#),⁷ [Adalah](#),⁸ [Al Shabaka](#),⁹ the [Palestinian Feminist Collective](#),¹⁰ and the [Gaza Community Mental Health Program](#).¹¹

We choose to side with love, honor human dignity, commit to dismantling racism and other oppressions, and **follow the lead of those most impacted**¹² by systems of oppression and **what they request for solidarity**.¹³

Criticism of the Israeli Government is not equivalent to antisemitism. The Palestinian people, like any indigenous peoples, have the right to live free of military occupation and to exercise the national right to self-determination.

The United States is complicit in the abuses against Palestinians, by giving \$3.8 billion in military aid annually to Israel, even though military aid to countries that systematically violate human rights is prohibited by the Arms Export Control Act and other US laws.

Therefore be it resolved that the 60th General Assembly of the UUA calls on Unitarian Universalists to:

- Demand that Members of Congress withhold military aid to Israel until it complies with international law and respects the rights of Palestinians.
- Join faith, peace, immigrant rights and other groups such as the Movement for Black Lives, Move On, and J Street, in **asking Members of Congress**¹⁴ to cosponsor **H.R. 2590**,¹⁵ the *Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act*, to prevent the use of US funds for military detention of children, seizure or destruction of Palestinian property, and annexation of Palestinian land.

¹ <https://www.uusc.org/uusc-calls-on-the-u-s-government-to-withhold-military-aid-to-israel/>

² https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

³ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

⁴ <https://www.un.org/unispal/in-facts-and-figures/>

⁵ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/09/507762-gaza-could-become-uninhabitable-less-five-years-due-ongoing-de-development-un>

⁶ <http://palestineun.org/21-may-2021-letter-on-article-51-self-defense/>

⁷ <https://www.alhaq.org/>

⁸ <https://www.adalah.org/en/>

⁹ <https://al-shabaka.org/en/>

¹⁰ https://actionnetwork.org/user_files/user_files/000/060/430/original/PFC_Toolkit_PDF.pdf;

¹¹ <https://gcmhp.ps/news>

¹² <https://www.beautifultrouble.org/toolbox/#/tool/follow-the-lead-of-the-most-impacted>

¹³ <https://bdsmovement.net/>

¹⁴ <https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/mccollum-introduces-historic-legislation-defending-human-rights-palestinian>

¹⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2590>