

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

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

On 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**.



Israel 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>