

President Obama: Hold Israel Accountable. 80,000 have your back.

Dear President Obama,

On November 18, an Israeli air force pilot flying a U.S.-made F-16 fighter jet fired a missile at the four-story home of the al-Dalu family in Gaza City, killing ten family members and two others from the al-Muzannar family next door.

Since 2000, Israel has killed more than 3,000 Palestinian civilians like them, often with U.S. weapons provided at taxpayer expense, injured tens of thousands more, and destroyed billions of dollars of Palestinian infrastructure including homes, agriculture, industry, schools and hospitals.

As Amnesty International concluded, U.S. weapons to Israel are “fueling conflict,” enabling Israel’s 45-year illegal military occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, denying Palestinian freedom and self-determination, and preventing a just and lasting peace.

Israel is using these weapons in violation of the Arms Export Control Act, which limits the use of U.S. weapons to “internal security” or “legitimate self-defense.” In addition, Israel continues to receive more than \$3 billion per year in military aid despite the fact that the Foreign Assistance Act prohibits U.S. aid to countries that engage in a “consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.”

More and more Americans are demanding that the United States review its misguided and destructive policy of providing military aid to Israel and hold it accountable for any possible violation of these longstanding U.S. laws.

- In October, 15 church leaders, including representatives of the National Council of Churches, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ, and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America called for “an immediate investigation into possible violations by Israel” of these laws and “the withholding of military aid for non-compliance.”
- In November, members of the 2012 Civil and Human Rights Delegation to the West Bank, organized by the Dorothy Cotton Institute in partnership with Interfaith Peace-Builders, called on you to “Insist that the United States condition aid to Israel on compliance with U.S. law (specifically the U.S. Arms Export Control Act) and with international law.”
- In January, Jewish Voice for Peace delivered 60,000 signatures to the White House on a petition which read “Israel, the biggest long-term recipient of US aid, should not be above the law. Mr. President, please condition US aid to Israel on compliance with US and international law. It must not be used to violate the rights of Palestinians.”
- In January, the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation delivered 20,000 signatures to the White House demanding that your administration “investigate Israel’s violations of the Arms Export Control Act and hold Israel accountable for killing Palestinians in our name by ending U.S. military aid to Israel.”

**Mr. President, it’s time to hold Israel accountable.
Act now - we’ve got your back.**



President Obama meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House, May 2009. Photo credit: White House/Lawrence Jackson.

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OCCUPATION**

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