

Organizational Letter in support of Sen. Sanders' S. Res. 504

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 nearly 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
American Friends Service Committee
Americans for Peace Now
Amnesty International USA
Avaaz
Center for Civilians in Conflict
Center for International Policy
Churches for Middle East Peace
CommonDefense.us
Community Peacemaker Teams
Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights
Demand Progress Action
Democracy for the Arab World Now
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Freedom Initiative
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
IfNotNow Movement
Indivisible
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
Legacies of War
MADRE
Migrant Roots Media
Minnesota Peace Project
National Iranian American Council Action
Nonviolence International
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Pax Christi USA
Peace Action
Project on Middle East Democracy
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
Quixote Center
ReThinking Foreign Policy
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
The Riverside Church in the City of New York
Win Without War
Working Families Party
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation

Yemeni Alliance Committee