

Useful points:

Israel is in Violation of U.S. Laws

The U.S. Foreign Assistance and Arms Export Control Acts stipulates that U.S. defense items and services furnished to any country be used “solely for internal security,[or] for legitimate self defense”(22 U.S.C. 2302 and 2754).

Furthermore, according to U.S. law, “no security assistance may be provided to any country the government of which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.” (22 U.S.C. 2304).

Israel’s excessive and disproportionate use of force in Gaza clearly exceeds the bounds of what could be considered legitimate self-defense, and therefore its use of U.S.-supplied weaponry is in violation of the laws of this land.

U.S. military aid to Israel is financing the Israeli occupation and invasion of Gaza. U.S. aid has helped Israel purchase machine guns, ammunition, precision-guided bombs and missiles, cluster bombs, night vision goggles, tanks, F-16 bombers, Apache helicopters gun ships, and armed and unmanned aerial vehicles—which are now being used against Palestinian civilians as well as militants.

The United States recently delivered 1,000 bunker-buster missiles, worth \$77 million, to Israel, which used them in Gaza on Saturday, Jan 3, according to The Jerusalem Post. These are not defensive weapons. That same day Israel flattened the American International School, one of Gaza’s best private educational institutions. It has also hit UN schools—one attack killed more than 40 civilians who sought shelter in the school. Is bombing schools legitimate self-defense?

Is Israel’s siege of Gaza waged in self-defense? Is preventing food, clean water, medicine, and fuel from reaching 1.5 Gazans self-defense?

Israel Receives Nearly \$3 billion in aid annually—\$2,380.6 in Military Aid.

In August 2007, the U.S. and Israeli officials agreed to a new 10-year, \$30 billion aid package. In 2009 Israel will receive \$2.55 billion, and this sum will gradually increase to an average \$3 billion per year over the 10-year period.

In addition U.S. Jewish organizations have raised more than \$2.4 billion to help support Jewish defense agencies and settlements in 2008. Donors will deduct this money from their U.S income taxes.

Why is Congress (except for Congressman Dennis Kucinich, D-OH) Silent?

Why isn’t Congress isn’t telling Israel “no more money until you abide by American and international laws?”

Why did our government block the passage of a UN Security Council statement on Sunday urging a ceasefire?

It is because the pro-Israel Lobby directs more than \$2.5 million each election cycle to political action committees, which help members of congress who follow the AIPAC playbook and defeat others who don't play the Israel right or wrong game. (See article on Washington Report's home page: <www.wrmea.com>.)

It's the same kind of "Pay to Play" game that New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (arguably one of the most decent guys in President-elect Obama's proposed cabinet) is now defending himself against—but on a massive scale. And no one talks about it. Members of Congress are being paid to let Israel play in the occupied territory. And this game has cost the lives of nearly 600 Gazans.

Write or telephone those working for you in Washington:

President George W. Bush

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20500 - (202) 456-1414

White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1111 - Fax: (202) 456-2461

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice - Department of State - Washington, DC 20520 -

State Department Public Information Line: (202) 647-6575

Any Senator - U.S. Senate - Washington, DC 20510 - (202) 224-3121

Any Representative - U.S. House of Representatives-Washington, DC 20515 – 202-225-3121

E-Mail Congress and the White House

E-mail Congress: visit the Web site <www.congress.org> for contact information.

E-mail President Bush: <president@whitehouse.gov>

E-mail Vice President Cheney: vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Courtesy: Washington Report on Middle East Affairs (www.wrmea.org)