

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

SIX REASONS TO END U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL

A fragile ceasefire has ended the Israeli assault on Gaza. While people of goodwill differ on the interpretation of events leading up to the assault, two things are beyond dispute. First, over 1,300 Palestinians, including an estimated 900 civilians, were killed during the 22-day assault, while fewer than 20 Israelis were killed by rockets launched from Gaza since 2004. Second, the Israeli military action was critically dependent on the employment of U.S.-supplied weapons, including F-16s, Apache helicopters and bunker buster bombs.

U.S. military aid to Israel should be ended for the following reasons:

- (1) The performance of Israel's military in both Gaza and Lebanon gives us every reason to expect continued collective punishment of civilians in its future operations;
- (2) The Arms Export Control Act requires governments receiving weapons from the United States to use them for self defense only. Israel's grossly disproportionate response to Palestinian provocations cannot legitimately be considered self defense;
- (3) Israel already has the world's fourth strongest military with the most advanced weapons, including the only nuclear arsenal in the Middle East;
- (4) Continuing the \$3-billion-per-year U.S. program of military aid to Israel will promote the competitive acquisition of arms by Arab nations including Egypt, which receives \$1.3 billion annually in U.S. military aid as compensation for military aid awarded to Israel;
- (5) Ending U.S. military aid to Israel and Egypt would save \$4.3 billion of our tax dollars that could be better spent each year on domestic programs; and
- (6) Millions of Muslims worldwide have witnessed televised images of death and destruction brought to Gaza with U.S.-supplied weapons. We allow such complicity to continue at great peril to our national security.

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TAKE ACTION NOW

Ask President Obama and your congressional representatives to end U.S. military aid to Israel and to join international, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations in demanding an end to the blockade of Gaza.

President Barack Obama

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comments@whitehouse.gov

Representative Barbara Lee

Washington Office - 202- 225-2661

Oakland Office - 510-763-0370

Senator Barbara Boxer

Washington Office - 202-224-3553

San Francisco Office - 415-403-0100

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Washington Office - 202-224-3841

San Francisco Office - 415-393-0707

Bay Area Women in Black are Jews and allies who stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own. We wear black as a sign of mourning for all the Israeli, Palestinian and Iraqi lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarism and violence. As part of the international movement of Women in Black, we seek to transform women's mourning for the dead into a powerful refusal of the inevitability of war.

Join us at the Grand Lake Theater every Saturday at noon to register your protest and your presence as we continue to urge an end to the U.S. military and financial support for Israel's disastrous occupation.

The group with flags and signs supporting Israel is San Francisco Voice for Israel (VOI), a local group who oppose Bay Area Women in Black's (BAWIB) criticism of the policies of the Israeli government and military. BAWIB is not anti-Israel. BAWIB believes Israel's occupation is wrong and deprives Palestinians of basic human rights. BAWIB calls for ending the occupation and its violent effects on Israelis and Palestinians. The flyers distributed by VOI do not accurately reflect BAWIB's work.