

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

ISRAEL'S MISUSE OF U.S. TAX DOLLARS

Israel used weapons paid for with our tax dollars in its deadly attack on Gaza that ended this past January. Of the 1,434 Palestinians killed in the attack, 960 were civilians including 121 women and 288 children, according to Richard Falk, the United Nations Special Rapporteur. The attack injured more than 5,000 Palestinians and destroyed an estimated 4,000 buildings. Thirteen Israelis were killed.

The United States is scheduled to provide Israel with \$30 billion of weapons at U.S. taxpayers' expense over the coming decade. If you don't want your taxes spent on such human rights abuses, we urge you to tell President Obama,

"YES WE CAN ... END MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL!"

In fact, President Obama can end military aid to Israel. The Arms Export Control Act of 1976 gives the president the authority to prohibit export of weapons when the receiving government uses the weapons for purposes other than legitimate self defense.

According to Richard Falk, the attack on Gaza was not defensive in any legal sense. He states:

"An inquiry into the surrounding circumstances shows an absence of any kind of defensive necessity: the temporary cease fire between Israel and Hamas that had been in effect since 19 July 2008 had succeeded in reducing cross-border violence virtually to zero; Hamas consistently offered to extend the cease fire, even to a longer period of ten years; the breakdown of the cease fire was not primarily the result of Hamas rocket fire, but came about mainly as a result of an Israeli air attack on 4 November that killed six Hamas fighters in Gaza. In other words, there were no grounds for claiming the right of self defense as Israel was not the object of a Hamas attack, and diplomatic alternatives to force existed and seemed credible, and their good-faith reliance was legally obligatory."

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