

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

POOR PROSPECTS FOR PEACE

A mother and her four children were killed by the Israeli military in an April 28th attack on the Gaza Strip. These deaths brought the number of Palestinian children killed by the Israeli military since Annapolis to 59.* At the November 28, 2007 Annapolis meeting sponsored by the United States, Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed to initiate peace talks. Since that date:

- The Israeli government has announced more plans to expand Jewish settlements on Palestinian land.
- The siege of Gaza has been tightened, forcing discontinuation of U.N. aid.
- All checkpoints and roadblocks have been maintained.
- More than 400 Palestinians, mainly civilians, have been killed by Israeli attacks.

All of these actions fly in the face of Annapolis and Hamas' recent cease fire offer, and are in direct violation of international law .

With human rights under attack in so many other places around the world, why should we Americans care about this particular conflict?

U. S. taxpayers are the major funders of Israel's military, and we have the right and responsibility to demand that those tax dollars not be used to violate human rights and international law.

By exercising its Security Council veto power, the U. S. government has prevented the United Nations from taking action against Israel's human rights violations . According to President Jimmy Carter:

The United States has used its U.N. Security Council veto more than forty times to block resolutions critical of Israel. Some of these vetoes have brought international discredit on the United States, and there is little doubt that the lack of a persistent effort to resolve the Palestinian issue is a major source of anti-American sentiment and terrorist activity throughout the Middle East and the Islamic world.

Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid, pp.209-210

* Since September 29, 2000, a total of 119 Israeli children have been killed by the Palestinians and 982 Palestinian children have been killed by the Israelis.