

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

SCUTTLING THE PEACE PROCESS ?

At the November 28, 2007, meeting in Annapolis sponsored by the United States, Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed to initiate peace talks. Since then, the Israeli government, by taking the following actions, has severely damaged whatever promise this initiative might have had.

- Israeli military attacks have killed more than 400 Palestinians, mainly civilians, including 59 children
- Plans were announced to expand Jewish settlements on confiscated Palestinian land, in violation of UN Security Council resolution 465. Existing settlements populated by over 400,000 Jewish colonists fragment the West Bank, creating areas resembling the bantustans of the apartheid era in South Africa.
- The siege of Gaza has been tightened, forcing discontinuation of UN aid including food and medical supplies, leaving one and a half million Palestinians on the edge of starvation--all this is in blatant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.



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

Because U.S. taxpayers are the major funders of Israel's military (\$75 billion since 1982). We have the right and responsibility to demand that those tax dollars not be used to violate human rights and international law, and

Because the U.S. government, by exercising its Security Council veto power, 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.

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ASK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO:

Join International, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations in urging Israel to:

- End the siege of Gaza.
- Ensure humanitarian aid for Gaza.
- Allow equal access and movement for all in and out of Gaza.
- End military aid to Israel.

Representative Barbara Lee

Washington Office: 202-225-9817

Oakland Office: 510-763-0370

e-mail address: <http://lee.house.gov>

Senator Barbara Boxer

Washington Office: 202-224-3553

San Francisco Office: 415-403-0100

e-mail address: <http://boxer.senate.gov>

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Washington Office: 202-224-3841

San Francisco Office: 415-393-0707

e-mail address: <http://feinstein.senate.gov>

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 our mourning for all the Iraqi, Israeli and Palestinian lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarization 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 the end of the US military and financial support for Israel's disastrous occupation.

The group with flags and signs supporting Israel is the San Francisco Voice for Israel, a local group who oppose Bay Area Women in Black's 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 the end of the occupation and its violent effects on Israelis and Palestinians. The flyers distributed by Voice for Israel do not accurately reflect BAWIB.