

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

IS THIS HOW WE WANT OUR TAX MONEY SPENT?

The U.S. will give Israel \$3 billion in military aid this year and has agreed to provide this level of aid annually through 2018. This represents more than 7 million U.S. dollars per day, and provides a subsidy worth about \$500 annually to each Israeli. Between 2009 and 2018, the contribution from the state of California alone will total almost \$3.5 billion in military aid to Israel. This money could be spent in California to provide

- 42,250 households per year with affordable housing grants, or
- 57,760 jobseekers per year with green jobs training, or
- 102,890 children per year with early reading education, or
- 2,818,170 people per year with primary health care.

Weapons, munitions and military equipment supplied by the U.S., and paid for by U.S. taxpayers, played a critical role in Israel's deadly assault on Gaza in the winter of 2008/2009. The assault destroyed an estimated 4,000 buildings, including schools and hospitals, and killed over 1,500 Palestinians, 2/3 of them civilians; a total of 13 Israelis were killed. Israel's grossly disproportional response to rocket fire from Gaza cannot legitimately be considered self-defense and is, therefore, in violation of the U.S. Arms Export Control Act. This act prohibits U.S. exportation of weapons for purposes other than self-defense.

Our tax dollars also enable Israel to enforce its ongoing blockade of Gaza. The blockade has severely restricted entry of fuel, food, medical supplies and materials to rebuild homes and water supply and sewage treatment facilities destroyed in the 2008/2009 assault.

U.S. aid also supports Israel's land-grab. For example, U.S.-made Caterpillar bulldozers, which are purchased as military equipment, demolished some 12,000 Palestinian homes and uprooted 5,000 olive and fruit trees to make way for the illegal settlements now housing over 400,000 Jewish settlers on Palestinian land.

Is this how we want our tax dollars spent? What can we do? Not pay our taxes? There is an alternative course:

- 1) Tell our congressional representatives that we oppose \$30 billion in military aid to Israel because of its human rights abuses of the Palestinians, and that we would rather see that money spent for domestic needs in our state and congressional districts.
- 2) Ask President Obama to enforce the Arms Export Control Act.

(See contact information on the back of this flier.)

Sources: <http://www.aidtoisrael.org>, <http://www.ifamericansknew.org>

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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

202-456-1111

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.