

U.S. Complicity

Israel's act of aggression against the Gaza Freedom Flotilla, its illegal blockade of the Gaza strip, and its occupation of the Palestinian territories would not be possible without the military and diplomatic support of the United States. According to news reports, Israel attacked the flotilla with three U.S.-made Blackhawk helicopters. In July 2008, the U.S. signed a contract worth 1.9 billion dollars to transfer the latest generation of naval combat vessels to Israel at U.S. taxpayer expense.

Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. military aid. In August 2007, the United States and Israel signed an agreement to increase arms transfers to Israel to **\$30 billion over the next decade.**

The Arms Export Control Act (P.L.80-829) stipulates that countries purchasing or receiving U.S. weapons cannot use them against civilians and must restrict their usage to "internal security" and "legitimate self-defense."

Call for Action:

- **Global Day to Break Israeli Siege: Public Presence in Ithaca**
Saturday June 5, 2010, meet at 1p.m. in front of the Tompkins County Public Library (Green St. and Cayuga St.) *Please wear a black shirt.
- **Tell President Obama and your congressional representatives:**
 - No more U.S. aid to Israel until the Israeli government
 - ends its siege on Gaza and
 - ends its military occupation of Palestinian territories.
 - Condemn the Israeli massacre against unarmed activists and call for an independent investigation.
 - **Contact Phone Numbers:**
 - **White House:** Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
 - **House of Representatives:** (202)225-3121
 - **Senate:** (202)224-3121

Israel's Illegal Attack on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla

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For More Information visit: www.cny-pal.org
or contact Grace: 607-266-7587



On May 30, 2010, the Israeli navy and air force intercepted, boarded, and opened fire on humanitarian activists on a flotilla of 6 ships attempting to deliver 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies to the Israeli-blockaded Palestinian Gaza Strip.*

According to news reports, Israeli commandos killed at least 9 humanitarian activists and injured at least 34. All 700 passengers were taken to Israel where they were detained, some are still being held, while others have since been deported.

Illegality on the High Seas

Israel admits that its act of aggression against the Gaza Freedom Flotilla was carried out in international waters, making it an illegal act in violation of international law. The **UN Convention on the Laws of the Seas** provides for general freedom of navigation on the high seas (Article 87(a)). Article 88 of the convention states: “The high seas shall be reserved for peaceful purposes.” Article 89 states: “No State may validly purport to subject any part of the high seas to its sovereignty.”

By storming ships exercising their lawful right to navigate international waters, injuring and killing civilians on the high seas, and abducting hundreds of civilians, Israel has clearly demonstrated its disregard for international law and its continued engagement in acts of aggression.

Israel’s Blockade of Gaza

For more than three years, Israel has imposed a land, sea, and air blockade on the occupied Palestinian Gaza Strip, denying its approximately 1.5 million residents adequate access to food, clean water, electricity, medical supplies and other basic human necessities. Palestinians also face mass unemployment, extreme poverty and food price increases caused by shortages, leaving 4 in 5 Gazans dependent on humanitarian aid. Israel’s blockade of the Palestinian Gaza Strip is an illegal act of collective punishment in violation of Article 33 of the **Fourth Geneva Convention**, which protects the rights of civilians living under occupation.

*Information in this brochure has been updated and adapted from a US Campaign to End the Occupation leaflet @www.endtheoccupation.org

Operation “Cast Lead”

According to Amnesty International, “From December 27, 2008-January 18, 2009 Gaza was subjected to a devastating military offensive—Operation *Cast Lead*—which Israel said it carried out to stop Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups firing indiscriminate rockets into Israel. More than 1,380 Palestinians were killed, including more than 300 children and other civilians, and thousands were injured. Many thousands of homes were destroyed or severely damaged, as were the electricity and water systems.” To this day, most of the homes, buildings, and infrastructure destroyed have not been rebuilt or repaired as a result of the blockade on construction materials.

Occupation

International law views occupation as a temporary status during which the occupier is obligated first to end the occupation as quickly as possible and second to safeguard the rights of the occupied population during the temporary period in which the occupation is maintained. Any move by the occupier to infringe on the rights of the occupied or change the status of the occupied land through, for example, annexation, confiscation of resources, population transfer, or destruction of civilian property is illegal under the Geneva Conventions.¹¹ As the occupying power, Israel is legally responsible for providing the basic needs of Palestinians who are forced to live under its 43-year military occupation. The occupier cannot usurp by force the rights of the occupied people, who retain title to their land and resources by virtue of the fundamental right to self-determination. U.N. Resolution 242 of 1967, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied during the 1967 June War, is based on the principle of the “inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war”.

- **End the Illegal and Immoral Blockade of Gaza**
- **End the Illegal Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories**
- **End U.S. Complicity with Israel’s Illegal Policies**