

Thursday, August 14, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senator  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla,

We, the undersigned national, state-wide, and local organizations, write to express our profound concern and disappointment in your recent vote to approve weapons transfers to the Israeli military amid its ongoing assault on the Palestinian people in Gaza, in violation of U.S. and international humanitarian law.

At a time when countless respected human rights organizations and genocide scholars — including [two leading Israeli human rights groups](#) — have concluded that Israel’s actions in Gaza constitute genocide, your decision to further arm the Israeli military is unconscionable. With this vote, you chose to support the continued killing of civilians, the targeting of children, the destruction of nearly all basic infrastructure, and what experts describe as a “minutely engineered” campaign of mass starvation. You now represent the [minority](#) of the Senate Democratic Caucus that chose to supply offensive weapons to Israel. Instead, this should be a moment of unity and moral clarity within the Democratic Party.

This is not theoretical. Over 100,000 women and children in Gaza are now experiencing acute, severe malnutrition. At least 239 people, including 106 children, have already died from hunger. The World Food Program reports that one in three Gazans go without food for multiple days at a time. Your votes to continue sending offensive weapons enable this humanitarian catastrophe unfolding before the world, and render you and our country complicit in the crimes these weapons are being used to commit.

As humanitarian organizations have [stated](#) clearly, *the continued provision of weapons to Israel must stop*. This is also the position of the majority of the American public, with only [8% of Democrats and 32% of Americans](#) supporting Israel’s current military actions. Among Iranian Americans — a large constituency in New York — [support](#) for a ceasefire and a halt to military funding is also overwhelming, as they were forced to watch with horror as Israel expanded its military campaign to Iran, killing hundreds of civilians in June 2025. While your recent yes votes on the Kaine War Powers Resolution were a good step in the right direction towards preventing war with Iran, we would expect any Senator to show better leadership on stopping Israel’s genocide and mass starvation in Gaza.

It is long past time to act. For nearly two years, Israel has systematically destroyed Gaza’s hospitals, homes, schools, food systems, and infrastructure. Now, under the so-called Gaza Humanitarian Foundation — which Israel has used to replace the highly-respected UN-led system — aid seekers are being massacred on a daily basis in what multiple eyewitnesses, including American contractors and Israeli soldiers themselves, are calling “[killing fields](#).”

Over 1,000 Palestinians seeking food and aid have reportedly been gunned down with machine guns and even tank fire. Doctors report patterns of gunshot wounds consistent with the deliberate targeting of aid seekers' heads, genitals, and chests. These are war crimes.

Under U.S. law, including the **Leahy Law** and **Section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act**, the United States must not provide military assistance to foreign countries credibly implicated in gross human rights violations or that block U.S.-funded humanitarian aid. And yet, despite leading and signing a letter acknowledging the escalating famine in Gaza, you have taken no meaningful action to enforce these laws or apply any leverage to end the violence.

Tens of thousands of your constituents have contacted you since November 2024 urging support for the Joint Resolutions of Disapproval led by Sen. Bernie Sanders. Additionally, last November, petitions signed by more than 2600 individuals and over 80 organizations were submitted.

[Kindly worded](#) letters will not stop a genocide. Only the withholding of foreign assistance and weapons will. You both had the opportunity to stand with the majority of your Democratic Senate colleagues and vote to block further arms transfers. You failed to do so.

We call on you now to:

1. **Publicly support and vote for all future resolutions to block weapons transfers to Israel to put a stop to the genocide.**
2. **Support and co-sponsor legislation that conditions or halts military assistance to Israel in accordance with U.S. and international law.**
3. **Demand an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the lifting of the siege on Gaza, and the full restoration of humanitarian aid to Palestinians distributed through the UN-led system.**

Californians are watching. This is a defining moral moment. We urge you to be on the right side of history moving forward.

Thank you for your attention to these crucial and timely initiatives to help end this conflict and save countless lives. We look forward to your response, and we are at your disposal to meet to discuss these matters further.

Signed,

The National Iranian American Council

MPower Change Action Fund

Peace Action

California Palestine Solidarity Coalition

*and the following organizations:*

AAPIs for Civic Empowerment (AAPI FORCE)

Afghans for a Better Tomorrow  
Alliance for South Asians Taking Action (ASATA)  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Arab American Civic Council  
Arab Resource & Organizing Center Action (AROC Action)  
Association of Raza Educators  
AUSIIME  
Bay Area Childcare Collective  
Berkeley network for Palestine  
Beyt Tikkun Synagogue Without Walls  
Bridge of Life (BOL)  
Buddhist Peace Fellowship  
California Muslims & Friends Phone Bank  
Central Coast Coalition for Justice for Palestine  
Century of the Child  
Chatsworth West United Methodist Church  
CISPES Santa Cruz chapter  
Community Agency for Resources, Advocacy and Service (CARAS)  
CODEPINK - Bay Area  
CODEPINK - Central Coast  
CODEPINK - Inland Empire  
Community Planet Foundation  
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California (CAIR-CA)  
Davis Jews for Justice  
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)  
Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) - Humboldt

DSA Ventura County

Democrats for Palestinian Rights - Bay Area

Democratic socialist of America - San Luis Obispo

Diablo Valley College Students for Justice in Palestine (DVC SJP)

Doctors Against Genocide

East Bay Families for Ceasefire

East Bay Meditation Center

Ecumenical Peace Institute/Clergy and Laity Concerned

Educator Defense Network

Emmaus Faith Community of Sonoma County

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

First Congregational Church, Santa Barbara, UCC

Fontana Institute

Friends Committee on National Legislation, Berkeley-San Francisco Advocacy Team

Friends Committee on National Legislation Advocacy Team, San Joaquin Valley

Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)

Gillian For Fresno

Green Party of Santa Barbara County

GROW Fontana

Healthcare Workers for Palestine - Bay Area

Healthcare Workers for Palestine - Sacramento Chapter

Hindus for Human Rights

Howard Zinn Book Fair

Human Rights Working Group of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

Humboldt Progressive Democrats

IATSE Members for Palestine

Indivisible East Bay

Indivisible Yolo

InSync Communications

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

Interfaith4Ceasefire

Japanese American Families for Justice

Jewish Parents for Collective Liberation

Jewish Voice for Peace - Los Angeles

Jewish Voice for Peace - Sacramento

Jewish Voice for Peace - San Diego

Jewish Voice for Peace - San Francisco Bay Area

Jewish Voice for Peace - Santa Barbara

Jewish Voice for Peace - South Bay

LA South Bay People's Alliance

Los Angeles Educators for Justice in Palestine

Luther Burbank Education Association

Lutheran Palestine Israel Justice Network of SoCal

Migrant Roots Media

Muslims for Progressive Values

Muslim Dems and Friends Club of Alameda County

NorCal Sabeel

Oakland Education Association

Orange County Banner Drop 4 PALESTINE

Organize for Peace

Our Revolution East Bay

Pacifica Social Justice

Pajaro Valley for Ethnic Studies and Justice

Palestine, Arab & Muslim (PAM) Caucus of the California Faculty Association

Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church USA - Bay Area

Palestinian Christians for Justice

Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans - PANA

Pasadena Mennonite Church

Peace Action of San Mateo County

Peace and Freedom Party Los Angeles

Persian American Cultural Center

Petaluma-Palestine Solidarity (Petaluma Vigil for Palestine)

Physicians for Humanity

Physicians for Social Responsibility - Sacramento

Progressive Alliance of the Inland Empire

Rima Muna Fine Art

Roots Action

Sacramento Friends (Quaker) Meeting

SAG-AFTRA National MENA Committee

San Diego Faith Leaders for Palestine

San Jose Club, Communist Party USA

San Jose Friends Meeting

San Jose Peace and Justice Center

San Luis Obispo Tenants Union

Shomeret Shalom

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - Bay Area

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) - Ventura County

Silicon Valley De-Bug

STEM Strikes for Peace

Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom

Speak Write Out

Synod Mission Team for Justice of the Southwest California Synod-Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Taxpayers Against Genocide

The Oakland Institute

The Six PAC

The Truth Project

Tuolumne Democratic Central Committee

Tzedek Tirdof Havurah

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

United Surfers for Palestine

Unmute Humanity

UUSLO Anti-Oppression Community

Vigil4GAZA

Voices for justice in Palestine

Wellstone Democrats of Sacramento

YES WE CAN Democratic Club

14 Friends of Palestine, Marin