

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell,

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.

Ayşenur Ezgi Eygi, an American citizen and Washington state resident, is among those killed by Israeli forces. You [called for an independent investigation](#) into Ayşenur's killing, acknowledging that the 2003 killing of Rachel Corrie — another American and Washingtonian — by Israeli forces never received a credible investigation or achieved accountability. We join Ayşenur's family in [concern](#) that your unwillingness to block arms sales to Israel cannot be reconciled with your stated support for justice for Ayşenur.

With your 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 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 Washington State — [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.

[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.**

Washingtonians 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 - Seattle Chapter

MPower Change Action Fund

Peace Action

Muslim Advocates

Jewish Voice for Peace

And the following organizations:

The Family of Aysenur Ezgi Eygi

Council on American-Islamic Relations Washington (CAIR-WA)

Defending Rights & Dissent

Friends Committee on National Legislation Seattle Advocacy Team

Indivisible - National

Indivisible - Eastside

Indivisible - University Place WA

Jewish Voice for Peace - Seattle

Jewish Voice for Peace - Tacoma

Northwest Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition

Olympia Movement for justice and Peace (OMJP)

Palestine Action of South Sound

Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Seattle BDS

Seattle Democratic Socialists of America (Seattle DSA)

Washington for Peace and Justice

Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation