

1 **2021 RES-131**
2 **RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF ISRAEL AND**
3 **CALLING FOR THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO IMMEDIATELY CUT**
4 **ALL MILITARY SALES AND AID TO THE COUNTRY**
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6 During Israel's assault on Gaza in May 2021, 247 Palestinians were killed by Israeli missiles,
7 including over 66 children. The assault also injured 1,417 Palestinians, including 412 children,
8 while displacing at least 90,000 Palestinians throughout Gaza and the Palestinian territories. An
9 estimated \$150 million will be needed to rebuild after the May offensive on Gaza, on top of another
10 \$200 million still needed to repair from previous Israeli assaults.
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12 The United Nations definition of war crimes includes "Intentionally launching an attack in the
13 knowledge that such attack will cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians or damage to
14 civilian objects or widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment which
15 would be clearly excessive in relation to the concrete and direct overall military advantage
16 anticipated;" and "Attacking or bombarding, by whatever means, towns, villages, dwellings or
17 buildings which are undefended and which are not a military objective".
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19 The actions of the Israeli military fit these definitions. Israel Defense Forces bombs have killed
20 Palestinian citizens indiscriminately and targeted buildings which had no clear military use,
21 including countless homes. Israel targeted and destroyed Al-Jalaa Tower, which housed the
22 offices of the Associated Press and Al Jazeera. Israeli forces destroyed a Doctors Without
23 Borders medical facility, the Gaza office of the US-based charity Palestinian Children's Relief
24 Fund, a Covid-19 testing facility in Gaza, and the largest bookshop in the territory. The Israeli
25 assault is also responsible for killing Gaza's top neurologist, Dr. Mouin Al-Aloul, and the head of
26 Gaza's Covid-19 response, Dr. Ayman Abu Al-Ouf.
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28 The situation in Palestinian territories and Gaza had been unconscionable before this latest
29 conflict. Gaza has been under blockade since 2007 by Israeli and Egyptian forces, meaning that
30 most people are unable to leave, making basic necessities extremely difficult to obtain.
31 Approximately 56 percent of Gazans live below the poverty line; overall unemployment is around
32 45 percent, with unemployment for those age 30 and below standing at around 65 percent.
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34 Human Rights Watch has found Israel guilty of committing crimes of apartheid and persecution
35 under international law. In a 213-page report released this year entitled "A Threshold Crossed",
36 the group accused Israel of "apartheid and persecution," as defined by international conventions
37 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The report detailed how the Israeli
38 government perpetuates structural oppression to "maintain the domination of Jewish Israelis over
39 Palestinians" in both Israel and the Palestinian territories. The Israeli human rights group
40 B'Tselem also supports describing the Israeli regime with the term apartheid, writing, "The Israeli
41 regime's rationale, and the measures used to implement it, are reminiscent of the South African
42 regime that sought to preserve the supremacy of white citizens, in part through partitioning the
43 population into classes and sub-classes and ascribing different rights to each." The group
44 specifically cited the 2018 Israeli Nation State Law, which formally "permits institutional

45 discrimination in favor of Jews in settlement, housing, land development, citizenship, language
46 and culture”.

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48 Since the occupation of the West Bank in 1967, the United Nations has repeatedly held that
49 Israel’s occupation is illegal under international law and every government in the world has
50 recognized Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal. United Nations Security
51 Council Resolution 2334 of 2016 states that Israel’s settlement activity constitutes a “flagrant
52 violation” of international law and has “no legal validity”. And though it demanded Israel stop its
53 settlement activity, the country has willfully ignored international law and continued to ramp up its
54 settlement activity.

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56 In 2020, the United States allocated approximately \$3.8 billion to Israel in foreign aid, constituting
57 around 20 percent of Israel’s military budget and nearly three-fifths of U.S. foreign military
58 financing globally. The Biden administration recently approved a \$735 million arms sale to Israel.

59
60 Under U.S. law, it is illegal to sell weapons to or provide military aid to any country that commits
61 war crimes. This is laid out in the Leahy Amendments which state, “No assistance shall be
62 furnished under this Act or the Arms Export Control Act to any unit of the security forces of a
63 foreign country if the Secretary of State has credible information that such unit has committed a
64 gross violation of human rights.”.

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66 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors states
67 unequivocally that Palestinian lives matter.

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69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors condemns the recent
70 military assault by Israeli forces and the war crimes that have been committed.

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72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors affirms the findings of
73 Human Rights Watch and B’Tselem and recognizes Israel as an apartheid state that is guilty of
74 human rights violations and war crimes.

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76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls on the Biden
77 administration and the United States Congress to bring the federal government in line with
78 international law and United States law under the Leahy amendments by immediately stopping
79 the sale of weapons to Israel and cutting off all foreign aid to the country.

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81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls on the Biden
82 administration, the United States Congress, and the international community to work toward lifting
83 the inhumane blockade of Gaza and repairing the devastation caused by the Israeli military
84 assault; ending Israeli military rule over the Occupied Territories; and ultimately ending Apartheid
85 as practiced by Israel in all the areas it controls, so that all residents of historic Palestine, including
86 Palestinian refugees, are afforded equal rights.

87 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution will be sent to President Joseph Biden
88 Jr., Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, and the
89 Wisconsin Congressional delegation.