



Participating Organizations

Alexandria for Palestine
 Alliance of Baptists
 American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
 American Muslims for Palestine
 American Muslims for Palestine Richmond Chapter
 Appalachian Peace Education Center
 Arab American Association of Central Virginia
 Central Atlantic Conference (UCC) Palestine/Israel Network
 Defenders for Freedom, Justice, and Equality
 Episcopal Peace Fellowship—National Capital Regional Chapter
 Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church - USA
 Here4TheKids
 Jewish Voice for Peace
 National Arab American Women's Association
 New Dominion PAC
 Northern Virginians for Peace & Justice
 Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace
 Plowshares Peace & Justice Center
 Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine
 Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Northern Virginia Chapter
 United Methodists for Kairos Response
 US Campaign for Palestinian Rights
 Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace

Sen. Tim Kaine
 231 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Mark Warner
 703 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Urging You Vote in Favor of The Joint Resolutions Of Disapproval

Dear Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner,

The Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR), a coalition of twenty-three faith-based and secular organizations that supports human rights, urges you to cosponsor and vote in favor of the joint resolutions of disapproval [introduced](#) by Senators Sanders, Welch, Schatz, and Merkley regarding several specific major arms sales to the government of Israel.

The joint resolutions of disapproval would suspend the transfer of some of the weapons that the Israeli government has used in strikes that have killed thousands of civilians, including aid workers and journalists, in Gaza over the last year. Independent human rights and conflict monitors have thoroughly documented the Israeli military's use of weapons from the United States in attacks that have killed Palestinian civilians. President Biden has [described](#) Israeli government attacks as "indiscriminate." The joint resolutions of disapproval would block certain sales of [joint direct attack munitions](#) (JDAMs) and [tank shells](#), which the Israeli military has repeatedly used in attacks that have killed civilians in densely populated areas. The resolutions do not implicate missile defense systems.

Israeli military attacks have [killed](#) more than 40,000 Palestinians and decimated Gaza's [hospitals](#), [schools](#), [critical infrastructure](#), and [residential housing](#). Human rights organizations have concluded that the Israeli military has [repeatedly violated](#) international humanitarian law. Humanitarian groups have stressed that Israeli forces [continue](#) to restrict the delivery of humanitarian aid as hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza [are](#) on the precipice of starvation and [suffering](#) from the spread of deadly diseases, including [polio](#).

The Israeli military is also [carrying](#) out attacks in Lebanon, including recent strikes in densely populated areas of Beirut, [that demonstrate](#) a similar disregard for the protection of civilians.

Continued arms transfers to the Israeli government are [contrary to U.S. law](#) and the Biden administration's own arms [transfer policy](#), which [include restrictions](#) on arms transfers to any country based on human rights, international humanitarian law, and humanitarian assistance criteria. For example, U.S. law prohibits military aid to governments that restrict the delivery of U.S.

humanitarian assistance. As [demonstrated by the National Security Memorandum 20 process](#), the Biden administration has not complied with these standards.

The Senate can soon demonstrate that it opposes further suffering and stands for the rule of law and the protection of civilians by supporting the joint resolutions of disapproval introduced on September 25. We endorse Senator Sanders, Welch, Schatz and Merkley's resolutions and urge all Senators to cosponsor and vote in favor of their passage.

We respectfully request the courtesy of a thoughtful and expedited response to this letter and the serious concerns listed herein.

Sincerely,
Virginia Coalition for Human Rights



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The Virginia Coalition for Human Rights is committed to advocating for justice, peace, and human rights for all. We stand with the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for freedom, dignity, and self-determination amid one of the gravest humanitarian crises of our times. Our collective moral and humanitarian obligation is to speak out against injustice and tirelessly work towards a future where peace and human rights are honored for the Palestinians in Gaza, all occupied Palestine, and throughout the diaspora.