

1 CALL ARMS EMBARGO NOW

Groups and individuals across the United States and the world, including the American Friends Service Committee, are calling for their governments to impose an immediate two-way arms embargo on Israel. Popular opinion polls show a majority of people in the U.S. are in favor of halting weapons sales to Israel, and some of the most deadly attacks on Gaza have been carried out with US-made bombs. As a Quaker organization, AFSC opposes all violence and works toward its end. Lasting change must address the roots of conflict, including historic and ongoing displacement of Palestinians, occupation, and apartheid.

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WORKING BEYOND AN ARMS EMBARGO

Violence did not begin on October 7th, and although arms embargoes will limit Israeli military capabilities, violence will not end there. AFSC will continue to work for the changes needed to end violence and build a just and lasting peace. This includes working to dismantle the root causes of harm, including the four listed below, which come together to create a system of violence.

APARTHEID

Inside Israel, Palestinians live under laws that limit their basic rights including where they can buy a home, what they can say, and who they can marry, limits not imposed on Jewish Israeli citizens. Leading human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and B'Tselem have described the situation as apartheid.

BLOCKADE

For 17 years, the people of Gaza have lived under an Israeli-imposed blockade that severely limits travel, trade, and everyday life. Since October 7th, so few trucks of aid and everyday items have been let through, that Palestinians in the north and south of Gaza are starving to death.

OCCUPATION

Israel's military occupation has entrenched a deeply abusive system of inequality and injustice that denies Palestinians their basic rights. This system of injustice is ongoing, and includes checkpoints, permits, military detention, and many other abuses.

SETTLER COLONIALISM

Academic Patrick Wolfe explains, "settler colonialism destroys to replace." Under settler colonialism, Palestinians face abuses including forced evictions, forcible transfers, and home demolitions. Israel's policy of constructing and expanding illegal settlements on occupied Palestinian land increases the number of human rights violations resulting from the occupation.