

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Members of Congress on Israel**

#### **Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)**

#### **Ocasio-Cortez, Pocan & Tlaib Lead Joint Resolution to Block Weapon Sales to Netanyahu – May 19, 2021**

*Today, Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Mark Pocan, and Rashida Tlaib led the introduction of a House [resolution](#) opposing the sale of \$735 million in American-made weapons to the Israeli government. [According to the Washington Post](#), “the bulk of the proposed sale is of Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAMS, kits that transform so-called “dumb” bombs into precision-guided missiles,” which the U.S. has also sold to Israel in the past. JDAMS are believed to [be used](#) in the current violence, which has killed ten Israelis and over 200 Palestinians, including at least 58 children.*

“It is unconscionable that, in the middle of a violent conflict that has taken the lives of over 200 people, including over 60 children, that we would continue to sell weapons to one of the parties committing those human rights abuses. Let’s be clear: these are the exact bombs being used to kill children in Gaza right now. This is the worst possible timing for us to be sending munitions that are being dropped on schools, refugee camps, media offices, and COVID clinics in Gaza. But let’s make no mistake – even if the current escalation wasn’t raging, Congress should be questioning the sales of these types of weapons to Israel—and any country in the world that has committed human rights abuses. The United States should be doing everything in our power to bring about an immediate end to this conflict and the carnage it has caused, not continuing to sell Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the very bombs used to kill Palestinian children,” said Rep Omar.

#### **Rep. Ilhan Omar Statement on Proposed Arms Sale to Israel Amidst Gaza Airstrikes – May 17, 2021**

“The United States should not stand idly by while crimes against humanity are being committed with our backing.

“The violence in Israel and the Gaza Strip is spiraling out of control. Far right ethnonationalist Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu is now responsible for at least 1,505 casualties in Gaza, including 200 deaths, 59 of them children. He has leveled entire residential buildings, targeting journalists and civilians alike in direct violation of international law. And he is doing so with direct funding and military assistance from the United States of America. At least 10 Israelis, including 2 children, have also been killed by indiscriminate Hamas rocket attacks. To be clear, this is also a war crime.

“It would be appalling for the Biden Administration to go through with \$735 million in precision-guided weaponry to Netanyahu without any strings attached in the wake of escalating violence and attacks on civilians. If this goes through this will be seen as a green light for continued escalation and will undercut any attempts at brokering a ceasefire.

“We should be standing unequivocally and consistently on the side of human rights—holding all state and non-state actors accountable for their crimes and using every tool at our disposal to end the violence and bring about peace. We should be affirming the right of all people, regardless of their faith, to have self-determination and equal rights. That includes both Israelis and Palestinians because, yes, Palestinian lives matter.”

### **Tweet – May 16, 2021**

Israeli TV Host Implores Israelis: Wake Up and Smell the Apartheid - YouTube Watch this and help end the Israeli Apartheid and [#FreePalestine](#)

### **Tweet – May 16, 2021**

While many in the west are still uncomfortable calling Israel an Apartheid state, this Israeli man was saying it four years ago. It's time to get on the right side of history.

### **Floor Speech – May 13, 2021**

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I extend my gratitude to Marie Newman for helping lead this important discussion, and I thank all the Members who are here and showed up in solidarity.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who has experienced war firsthand, I have a deep understanding of the suffering that comes along with it. As a child, I lived through a violent civil war that destroyed my home, ripped my family apart from each other, and killed many of my family and friends.

I can still remember, at just 8 years old, hiding under the bed, hearing bombs go off outside my window, and wondering if we were going to be hit next.

It is trauma I will live with for the rest of my life.

So, I understand, on a deeply human level, the pain and the anguish families are feeling in Palestine and Israel at the moment, and the helplessness people feel here in the United States who have family in the region, including many of my constituents. And it is for this reason that I abhor violence.

Whether rocket attacks or airstrikes, violence does nothing to make people more secure. It only furthers the interests of the powerful while costing lives, futures, and families.

But we must speak out truthfully and forcefully about the seeds of this conflict and about what is happening today. The truth is that this is not a conflict between two states. This is not a civil war. It is a conflict where one country, funded and supported by the United States Government, continues an illegal military occupation over another group of people.

This is not my description of it. This is the description of conservative Israeli leader Ariel Sharon, who, in 2003, said: ``To hold 3.5 million Palestinians under occupation is, in my opinion, a very bad thing for us and for them."

``It is occupation," he said. ``You might not like this word, but it is really an occupation."

To understand what is taking place at this moment, we must understand how it began.

In 1948, 700,000 Palestinians were forcefully removed and uprooted from their homes in what has come to be known as the Nakba, or the catastrophe. Seventy-eight percent of their land was taken from them. Now, consider that: 78 percent of their land was taken from them.

Since then, 5.6 million Palestinians have been continually displaced from their homes in one of the largest and longest-lasting refugee crises in human history.

For decades, the United States, the United Nations, and many Israelis and Palestinians have pushed for a Palestinian state in which the Palestinians can enjoy the same rights afforded to their Israeli counterparts. But in the past several years, that hope has increasingly slipped away.

The Israeli Government and the far-right ethnonationalist leader Benjamin Netanyahu have legally razed Palestinians' ancestral homes, leveled entire neighborhoods, and violently suppressed any resistance.

This is all to make way for illegal Israeli settlement outposts designed to displace Palestinians from their homes and prevent a future Palestinian state.

Since 1993, when the first Oslo peace accord was signed, illegal settlements have increased by nearly 400,000. And Netanyahu has made explicit his goal to annex much of the West Bank, home to over 3 million Palestinians.

On top of that, Palestinian movement, speech, and economic activity are severely limited. Palestinians are not allowed to leave the Gaza Strip except in extreme cases.

Medical shortages are rampant. Youth unemployment was already at 40 percent before the pandemic hit. People who protest, including young children, are routinely shot by the IDF soldiers--often killed--with no consequences in Israeli courts.

As a recent report by Human Rights Watch detailed, this can only be described as an apartheid.

All of which brings us to the current crisis. This week, the Israeli authorities were planning more forced displacement in Sheikh Jarrah, a Palestinian neighborhood in East Jerusalem--home to Palestinian refugees who had already been displaced.

On Thursday, settlers began harassing and attacking Palestinians who were breaking their Ramadan fast during a protest vigil in Sheikh Jarrah.

The deputy mayor of Jerusalem joined to mock Palestinians, saying to one protestor: "Did they take the bullet out of your ass?" "It is a pity it didn't go here," pointing to his head.

Then, on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, Israeli military forces stormed al-Aqsa mosque, one of the holiest sites in Islam, firing stun grenades, teargas, and rubber bullets. Over 300 people were injured; 200 of them were hospitalized.

What happened next is well known: Hamas fired rockets into Israel, which has taken the lives of six Israelis. And the Israeli military launched air strikes into Gaza, targeting civilian buildings, which have already killed 69 people, including 16 children.

Let me be clear: Every single death in this conflict is a tragedy.

Every rocket and bomb that targets civilians is a war crime.

I feel the pain of every child who is forced to hide under their beds because they fear for their life, and every parent who deals with that anguish. And I wish we, as a nation, treated that pain equally; but right now we are not.

And instead of condemning blatant crimes against humanity and human rights abuses, many Members of Congress have instead fallen back on a blanketed statement defending Israel's air strikes against civilians under the guise of self-defense, without even a mention of the children getting killed, much less what happened at al-Aqsa or in Sheikh Jarrah.

When the 15-member United Nations Security Council proposed a resolution this week calling on the Israeli Government to cease settlement activities, demolitions and evictions, and urging general restraint, the United States reportedly blocked it from happening.

We are currently blocking the United Nations Security Council from calling on ceasefire. And to this day, we, as Members of Congress, have not had yet a hearing or a briefing on this conflict or gotten answers on whether our weaponry or money is being used to commit human rights abuses.

So I must ask: When we defend the Israeli citizens' right to peace and security, how can we at the same time ignore the 5 million Palestinians living under occupation?

When we say that Israel has the right to self-defense, how can we ignore the home demolitions, settlement violence, and forced annexation of Palestinian land that is happening?

And how can we say they, themselves, do not have the right to defend themselves?

How can we pay lip service to a Palestinian state, yet do absolutely nothing to make that state a reality while the Israeli Government we fund tries to make it impossible?

I will end with this: Today is Eid, the final day of Ramadan, one of the joyous days in the Muslim calendar. And while I would rather be spending it with my family, I know there are families who are mourning the death of their children because of this, and I owe it to them to speak out on their behalf.

So I am here today to stand for our common humanity, to say that every child deserves a life free of violence and oppression. Every child deserves advocates for their humanity, for their safety, and for their security.

And it should not be controversial to say the same for Palestinian children.

Eid Mubarak.

### **[Tweet](#) – May 10, 2021**

Many will tell you Israel has a right to defend itself, to safety and security, but are silent on whether Palestinians have those rights too. Until we can defend the rights of Palestinians just as we do Israelis, we have no leg to stand on when it comes to justice or peace.

### **[Reps. Omar, Carson, and Tlaib Statement on Attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque During Ramadan](#) – May 10, 2021**

*Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-MN), André Carson (D-IN), and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) issued the following statement today on the attacks on Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan.*

“We are horrified by the violent assault by Israeli forces on the Al Aqsa mosque, and the continued violent attacks on the Palestinian people during the holy month of Ramadan. More than 300 people were injured in the attack, 200 of whom have been hospitalized.

“Everyone, regardless of their faith, deserves refuge and peace in their places of worship. The same should apply to Palestinians, especially during the holy month of Ramadan.

"Many Muslims were praying Tarawih and Tahajjud in this mosque. For Muslim families, the mosque is like home. Many pray all night during Ramadan.

"This is happening as the Israeli government plans to move forward with forced evictions in the predominantly Palestinian East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, in direct violation of international law, the Geneva Convention, and basic human rights.

"Today, the Israeli military launched air strikes into Gaza, killing 20 people, including 9 children, according to Palestinian health officials. And Hamas fired rockets into Israel. We condemn all violence in this conflict - these acts only serve to advance the political goals of the powerful at the expense of the suffering of the people.

"Let us be clear, however: we continue to provide the Israeli government with over \$3 billion in military aid every year—with no conditions or accountability for wanton human rights abuses and continuing illegal seizures of Palestinian land.

"For decades, we have paid lip service to a Palestinian state, while land seizures, settlement expansion, and forced displacement continue, making a future home for Palestinians more and more out of reach.

"It is long past time we finally take action to protect Palestinian human rights and save lives."

### **Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA)**

#### **Floor Speech – May 13, 2021**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the deep trauma and loss of life perpetuated by systems of oppression here in the United States and globally. Many times, I have stood at this dais and affirmed that our destinies are tied. That was clear when protestors took to the streets in the face of police murders, seeking to build a nation where Black lives matter. That was clear when our democracy and our lives were put at risk by violent white supremacists, who shattered glass and broke doors while wearing anti-Semitic phrases on their chests, carrying the Confederate flag, erecting a noose on the west lawn.

That was clear when students protesting to end poverty and oppression in the streets of Bogota were shot dead. That was clear when families kneeling during this holy month at the third holiest site in Islam were met with teargas, rubber bullets, and hand grenades. Our destinies are tied. As a Black woman in America, I am no stranger to police brutality and State-sanctioned violence. We have been criminalized for the very way we show up in the world.

Last summer, when Black Lives Matter protestors took to the streets to demand justice, they were met with force. They faced teargas, rubber bullets, and a militarized police, just as our Palestinian brothers and sisters are facing in Jerusalem today.

Palestinians are being told the same thing as Black folks in America: There is no acceptable form of resistance. We are bearing witness to egregious human rights violations. The pain, trauma, and terror the Palestinians are facing is not just the result of this week's escalation, but the consequence of years of military occupation.

In Sheikh Jarrah, the Israeli Government is violently dispossessing yet another neighborhood of Palestinian families from homes they have lived in for decades.

We cannot stand idly and complicitly by and allow the occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people to continue. We cannot remain silent when our government sends \$3.8 billion of military aid to Israel that is used to demolish Palestinian homes, imprison Palestinian children, and displace Palestinian families.

A budget is a reflection of our values. I am committed to ensuring that our government does not fund state violence in any form anywhere. Many say that "conditioning aid" is not a phrase that I should utter here, but let me be clear: No matter the context, American Government dollars always come with conditions.

The questions at hand are: Should our taxpayer dollars create conditions for justice, healing, and repair? Or should those dollars create conditions for oppression and apartheid?

Now, while I hold due space for the storied history and the unique lived experiences on the ground globally, there is a through line here.

And whether we are talking about the militarization of our communities or weapons of war, the question is the same. If our budgets are a statement of our values, what do we value? Whose lives do we value? We have seen footage of Israeli and Palestinian children huddled fearfully while rockets blanket their homeland. No child should live in fear. No child should grow up in the midst of a conflict that robs them of a childhood. And Palestinian children do not have the same protections afforded to them.

Without the U.S. exerting pressure on Israel to deescalate, the explosive situation in Jerusalem is igniting further violence not just in the city, but beyond. It is clear there is a grave asymmetry of power here. Palestinians do not have a sovereign state and the protections that come with it.

Following forceful violence against the Palestinians simply seeking to remain in their family homes, militant groups in Gaza have launched rockets at Israeli cities, resulting in seven deaths, including a child. In response, the Israeli military has launched severe attacks on Gaza, killing 83 people, 17 of whom are children. This is devastating.

The destinies of the Israeli and Palestinian people are tied. Our outrage at the pain, violence, and oppression they face must be clear and unapologetic. Equal outrage for violence perpetrated against all people, and moral clarity when state-sanctioned violence is claiming the lives of innocent mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons.

From Jerusalem to Boston, from Randolph to Gaza, from Colombia to Yemen, our destinies are tied, and everyone deserves to live from fear and to know peace.

**Tweet – May 13, 2021 (statement made as part of floor speech)**

We can't stand idly by when the United States government sends \$3.8 billion of military aid to Israel that is used to demolish Palestinian homes, imprison Palestinian children and displace Palestinian families. Our government should not fund state violence in any form, anywhere.

**Tweet – May 13, 2021 (statement made as part of floor speech)**

From Jerusalem to Boston. From Randolph to Gaza. From Colombia to Yemen, our destinies are tied. I'll express equal outrage for violence perpetrated against all people. Everyone deserves to live free from fear and to know peace.

**Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)**

**Tweet – May 21, 2021**

There is no room for anti-semitism in the movement for Palestinian liberation. Our critique is of Israel and their human rights abuses. This is not an excuse for anti-semitic hate crimes.

**Ocasio-Cortez, Pocan & Tlaib Lead Joint Resolution to Block Weapon Sales to Netanyahu – May 19, 2021**

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“For decades, the U.S. has sold billions of dollars in weaponry to Israel without ever requiring them to respect basic Palestinian rights. In so doing, we have directly contributed to the death, displacement and disenfranchisement of millions,” said Rep. Ocasio-Cortez in a statement. “At a time when so many, including President Biden,



support a ceasefire, we should not be sending 'direct attack' weaponry to Prime Minister Netanyahu to prolong this violence.”

### **Tweet – May 13, 2021 (statement made as part of floor speech)**

The President has said that Israel has a right to defend itself. But do Palestinians have a right to survive? The U.S. must acknowledge its role in the human rights violations of Palestinians. This isn't about both sides. It's about an imbalance of power.

### **Floor Speech – May 13, 2021**

Mr. Speaker, I know this has been a very difficult week for us as a global community, as communities that are concerned for human rights, all human rights in general, and in particular, the rights of Palestinians and Israelis alike that have been impacted by the fear and violence of this week.

Now, what I think is, you know, important is that--I will start with a story. As a little girl, my family comes from the island of Puerto Rico, and I grew up visiting my family on the island of Vieques, communities on the island of Vieques, where the United States bombed its own territories, its own communities.

And I would go to sleep as a little girl to the sound of U.S. bombs detonating. Practice is what it was called at the time. Practice. And when I saw those air strikes that are supported with U.S. funds, I could not help but wonder if our communities were practice for this.

This is our business because we are playing a role in it. And the United States must acknowledge its role in the injustice and human rights violations of Palestinians. This is not about both sides. This is about an imbalance of power.

When I first got here in 2019, the Israeli Government refused to admit two Members of the United States Congress, Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, into the country. They banned Members of this very body because of who they were. They said it was a sign of weakness.

We have to have the courage to name our contributions, and sometimes I can't help but wonder if the reason we don't do that, if we are scared to stand up to the incarceration of children in Palestine, is because maybe it will force us to confront the incarceration of children here on our border.

If by standing up to the injustices there, it will prompt us to stand up to the injustices here. We have a responsibility. And if we have historically said and committed to a role as an honest broker, then we must fulfill that role. That means we have to be honest with ourselves, with what our aid supports. We have to be honest and ask ourselves questions like why we are using our veto power on the U.N. Security Council in preventing statements from being released about concerns for this violence alike.

The President and many other figures this week stated that Israel has a right to self-defense, and this is a sentiment that is echoed across this body. But do Palestinians have a right to survive? Do we believe that? And, if so, we have a responsibility to that as well.

### [Rep. AOC Releases Statement on Sheikh Jarrah – May 7, 2021](#)

“We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian residents of The Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. The Israeli military is forcing families from their homes during the Holy Month of Ramadan and inflicting violence. It is inhumane and the U.S. must show more leadership in safeguarding Palestinian rights.”

### **Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)**

#### [Tweet](#) – May 20, 2021

A ceasefire is necessary, but will not alone achieve freedom, justice, and equality for all who live under Israel's apartheid government. The U.S. must condition funding to uphold human rights, and end the funding entirely if those conditions are not met.

### [Ocasio-Cortez, Pocan & Tlaib Lead Joint Resolution to Block Weapon Sales to Netanyahu – May 19, 2021](#)

*Today, Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Mark Pocan, and Rashida Tlaib led the introduction of a House [resolution](#) opposing the sale of \$735 million in American-made weapons to the Israeli government. [According to the Washington Post](#), “the bulk of the proposed sale is of Joint Direct Attack Munitions, or JDAMS, kits that transform so-called “dumb” bombs into precision-guided missiles,” which the U.S. has also sold to Israel in the past. JDAMS are believed to [be used](#) in the current violence, which has killed ten Israelis and over 200 Palestinians, including at least 58 children.*

“The harsh truth is that these weapons are being sold by the United States to Israel with the clear understanding that the vast majority of them will be used to bomb Gaza. Approving this sale now, while failing to even try to use it as leverage for a ceasefire, sends a clear message to the world – the U.S. is not interested in peace, and does not care about the human rights and lives of Palestinians. You cannot claim to support human rights and peace on Earth and continue to back the extremist Netanyahu regime, it’s that simple,” said Rep. Tlaib in a statement.

#### [Tweet](#) – May 15, 2021

Listen to Palestinians living under apartheid Israel directly. You can hear this father's desperation. Hear about the violence, continued ethnic cleansing and racism.

#### [Tweet](#) – May 15, 2021

Israel targeting media sources is so the world can't see Israel's war crimes led by the apartheid-in-chief Netanyahu. It's so the world can't see the killing of babies, children and their parents. It's so the world can't see Palestinians being massacred.

### [Tweet](#) – May 14, 2021

[@SometimesPooh](#), your words are powerful. We hear you. I wish I could wrap you and your babies with the safety and love you deserve.

*[@SometimesPooh](#): I woke up to my friend's mention on a tweet that says [@RashidaTlaib](#) read my tweet in her speech on the House Floor. This is how we know our words are as powerful as their weapons. This is how I know my kids screams of fear are heard around the world. Palestinians do indeed exist!*

### [Floor Speech](#) – May 13, 2021

Mr. Speaker, I believe I am actually the second, but I am the only Palestinian-American Member of Congress now, and my mere existence has disrupted the status quo. This is so personal for me. I am a reminder to colleagues that Palestinians do, indeed, exist, that we are human, that we are allowed to dream. We are mothers, daughters, granddaughters, we are justice seekers and are unapologetic about our fight against oppressions of all forms.

Colleagues, Palestinians aren't going anywhere, no matter how much money you send to Israel's apartheid government.

If we are to make good on our promises to support equal human rights for all, it is our duty to end the apartheid system that, for decades, has subjected Palestinians to inhumane treatment and racism.

Reducing Palestinians to live in utter fear and terror of losing a child, being indefinitely detained or killed because of who they are, and the unequal rights and protections they have, under Israeli law, it must end.

One of Israel's most prominent human rights organizations, B'Tselem, has declared Israel an apartheid state. Human Rights Watch recently recognized it, too. This is what Palestinians living under Israel's oppression have been telling us for decades.

I have been told by some of my colleagues who dispute the truth about segregation, racism, and violence in Israel toward Palestinians that I need to know the history.

What they mean, unintentionally or not, is that Palestinians do not have the right to tell the truth about what happened to them during the founding of Israel. They, in effect, erase the truth about the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in Israel that some refer to as the Nakba, or catastrophe.

As Palestinians talk about our history, know that many of my Black neighbors and indigenous communities may not know what we mean by Nakba, but they do understand what it means to be killed, expelled from your homeland, made homeless, and stripped of your human rights.

My ancestors and current family in Palestine deserve the world to hear their history without obstruction. They have a right to be able to explain to the world that they are still suffering, still being dispossessed, still being killed as the world watches and does nothing.

As Peter Beinart, an American of Jewish faith, writes: ``When you tell a people to forget its past, you are not proposing peace. You are proposing extinction."''

The Palestinian story is that of being made a refugee on the lands you called home.

We cannot have an honest conversation about U.S. military support for the Israeli Government today without acknowledging that, for Palestinians, the catastrophe of displacement and dehumanization in their homeland has been ongoing since 1948.

To read the statements from President Biden, Secretary Blinken, General Austin, and leaders of both parties, you would hardly know Palestinians existed at all.

There has been no recognition of the attack on Palestinian families being ripped from their homes in East Jerusalem right now or home demolitions; no mention of children being detained or murdered; no recognition of a sustained campaign of harassment and terror by Israeli police against worshipers kneeling down and praying and celebrating their holiest days in one of their holiest places; no mention of Al-Aqsa being surrounded by violence, tear gas, and smoke while people pray.

Can my colleagues imagine if it was their place of worship filled with tear gas? Could you pray as stun grenades were tossed into your holiest place?

Above all, there has been absolutely no recognition of Palestinian humanity. If our own State Department can't even bring itself to acknowledge that the killing of Palestinian children is wrong, well, I will say it for the millions of Americans who stand with me against the killing of innocent children no matter their ethnicity or faith.

I weep for all the lives lost under the unbearable status quo, every single one, no matter their faith or their background. We all deserve freedom, liberty, peace, and justice, and it should never be denied because of our faith or ethnic background.

No child, Palestinian or Israeli or whoever they are, should ever have to worry that death will rain from the sky.

How many of my colleagues are willing to say the same, to stand for Palestinian human rights as they do for Israelis?

There is a crushing dehumanization to how we talk about this terrible violence.

The New York Post reported the Palestinian death toll as Israeli casualties.

ABC says that Israelis are "killed" while Palestinians simply "die," as if by magic, as if they were never human to begin with.

Help me understand the math. How many Palestinians have to die for their lives to matter?

Life under apartheid strips Palestinians of their human dignity.

How would you feel if you had to go through dehumanizing checkpoints two blocks from your own home to go to the doctor or travel across your own land? How would you feel if you had to do it while pregnant, in the scorching heat, as soldiers with guns controlled your freedom?

How would you feel if you lived in Gaza, where your power and water might be out for days or weeks at a time, where you were cut off from the outside world by an inhumane military blockade?

Meanwhile, Palestinians' rights to nonviolent resistance have been curtailed and even criminalized.

Our party leaders have spoken forcefully against BDS, calling its proponents anti-Semitic, despite the same tactics being critical to ending South African apartheid mere decades ago.

What we are telling Palestinians fighting apartheid is the same thing being told to my Black neighbors and Americans throughout America who are fighting against police brutality here: There is no form of acceptable resistance to state violence.

As long as the message from Washington is that our military's support for Israel is unconditional, Netanyahu's extremist, rightwing government will continue to expand settlements, continue to demolish homes, and continue to make the prospects for peace impossible.

Mr. Speaker, 330 of my own colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, 75 percent of the body here, signed a letter pledging that Israel shall never be made to comply with basic human rights laws that other countries that receive our military aid must observe.

When I see the images and videos of destruction and death in Palestine, all I hear are the children screaming from pure fear and terror.

I want to read something a mother named Eman in Gaza wrote 2 days ago. She said: ``Tonight, I put the kids to sleep in our bedroom. So that when we die, we die together and no one would live to mourn the loss of one another."

That statement broke me a little more because my country's policies and funding will deny this mother's right to see her children live without fear and to grow old without painful trauma and violence.

We must condition aid to Israel on compliance with international human rights and an end to apartheid. We must, with no hesitation, demand that our country recognize that the unconditional support of Israel has enabled the erasure of Palestinian life and the denial of the rights of millions of refugees, and it emboldens the apartheid policies that Human Rights Watch has detailed so thoroughly in their recent report.

I stand before you not only as a Congresswoman for the beautiful 13 District Strong but also as a proud daughter of Palestinian immigrants and the granddaughter of a loving Palestinian grandmother living in the occupied Palestine.

You take that and combine it with the fact that I was raised in one of the most beautiful, Blackest cities in America, a city where movements for civil rights and social justice are birthed, the city of Detroit.

So, I can't stand here silent when injustice exists and where the truth is obscured. If there is one thing Detroit instilled in this Palestinian girl from Southwest, it is you always speak truth to power even if your voice shakes.

The freedom of Palestinians is connected to the fight against oppression all over the world.

Lastly, to my Sity in Palestine, `` `aqaf huna bsbvik." I stand here because of you.

#### **Tweet – May 12, 2021**

[@POTUS](#) + [@SecBlinken](#): If you're having trouble finding the courage to speak up against Israel's actions and stop supporting this inhumane violence, try imagining that this family isn't Palestinian. Maybe then they'll deserve human rights?

#### **Tweet – May 12, 2021**

[@MoveOn](#) urging [@POTUS](#) to address the root causes of violence and force Israel to end the occupation, ease the blockade & put an immediate stop to forcing Palestinians out of their homes. This is what solidarity looks like.

#### **Tweet – May 10, 2021**

Al-Aqsa is the 3rd holiest site in Islam, & people praying during the holiest days of the holy month of Ramadan have been beaten, gassed, shot, & killed by Israeli forces. They are denied medics & forced to use prayer mats as stretchers. A place of peace desecrated by violence.

### [Reps. Omar, Carson, and Tlaib Statement on Attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque During Ramadan – May 10, 2021](#)

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"Many Muslims were praying Tarawih and Tahajjud in this mosque. For Muslim families, the mosque is like home. Many pray all night during Ramadan.

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