



## **ONGOING ISRAELI ABUSES DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

### **Support H.R. 8050: Israeli Annexation Non-Recognition Act & Palestinian Demands for Justice**

The US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR), a national network of activists and organizations who are committed to freedom, justice, and equality, urges members of Congress to cosponsor H.R. 8050, the Israeli Annexation Non-Recognition Act, introduced by Representative Betty McCollum on August 14.

#### **1. Oppose Israeli annexation of Palestinian land through action: Cosponsor H.R. 8050**

- ❖ The bill prohibits U.S. government recognition of Israeli claims of sovereignty over any part of the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and prohibits U.S. military funding to Israel from being used to further annexation of Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank. Refusing to recognize or fund Israel's illegal theft of Palestinian land is an important step towards peace and justice.

#### **2. Condemn U.S. attempts to excuse and enable Israel's apartheid policies in the international arena, such as the U.S.-brokered UAE-Israel deal**

***"To go through the day as a Palestinian is a race against erasure and silencing, to witness not only the dismissal of Palestinian voices but the very intentional distortion of them. To be subject to collective punishment... Palestinians face mountains of repression every single day in their lives."*** -Amira Mattar, Palestine Legal Michael Ratner Fellow

- ❖ Earlier this month, the UAE advanced its military and economic interests in the region (Adalah Justice Project) and hastened the purchase of F-35s by "normalizing" relations with Israel's far right-wing government in a deal brokered by the U.S. The sale of F-35s also ignores the UAE's role in the war on Yemen that has killed thousands of civilians and continues the pattern of the U.S. perpetuating endless war in the region.
- ❖ Palestinian analysts were quick to name this as a deal between authoritarians to normalize Israeli oppression (Yousef Munayyer), cover up de facto annexation (Dana El Kurd), and allow the continuation of de jure annexation (Omar Baddar for IMEU) and repression against the Palestinian people (Marwa Fatafta)
- ❖ As de facto annexation continues, millions of Palestinians continue to suffer under racist, undemocratic Israeli apartheid rule. For Palestinians, U.S.-backed Israeli policies steal their land and homes to make way for illegal Jewish settlements and imprison them in a web of military checkpoints, preventing them from accessing education, treatment, or family.

#### **3. Support policies that Palestinian grassroots organizations, analysts, and organizers have been demanding: Defund Israeli annexation, blockade, and violence.**

***"When we speak of the need to heed Palestinian stories and demands, we do not mean merely to add a token Palestinian to a panel, but completely, with full agency, and with total recognition of the fact that a sharp and stark asymmetry of power has defined the Palestinian experience for 72 years, from Israel's so-called founding via brutal and violent***



*ethnic cleansing, up to the present.*" -Omar Zahzah, Eyewitness Palestine & Palestinian Youth Movement

- ❖ If we seek a lasting solution for all, we must address the root cause and center Palestinians and their demands for freedom, which include the Freedom is the Future principles articulated by Palestinians in the US, the international call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions for Palestinian rights, and the Palestinian principles for the 2020 elections. Following these demands, **we encourage Members of Congress to defund all forms of structural Israeli violence against the Palestinian people and oppose new funding to Israel (S. 3176/H.R. 1837)**.
- ❖ Likewise, Congress should **support Palestinian and UN calls to free Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and detention**, which include children separated from their families. A first step to ending US-complicity in Palestinian child detention is to **co-sponsor H.R. 2407**, "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation," which has only become more urgent **as a Palestinian child in Israeli detention tests positive for COVID-19**.
- ❖ **U.S. military funding and diplomatic support for Israel enables ongoing abuses**: the 14 year blockade of Gaza, now spelling disaster during a pandemic (Jehad Abusalim), Israel's escalation of nightly shelling of Gaza since August 6 that hits civilian areas including a school, dozens of extrajudicial killings this year including of a disabled 32-year old, Eyad Al-Hallaq, and a 27-year old, Ahmad Erekat, and increasing raids and detention without charge or trial of human rights defenders like Masters student Tasneem Al-Qadi and BDS organizer Mahmoud Nawajaa.

#### **4. Follow Palestinian analysts and center their voices in your policy work**

*"It is very difficult to pursue political work in Palestine. You're facing a settler colonial regime which doesn't want you to tell your story... **We can generate our own story. There is no excuse to continue our exclusion...** We have an incredibly knowledgeable people. **Al-Shabaka is just one of the many ways that we are trying to put forward, in particular, the Palestinian policy voice.**"* -Yara Hawari, Al-Shabaka Senior Fellow

- ❖ Subscribe to analysis from: Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network (follow on Twitter)
- ❖ Hear firsthand by following: Laila el Haddad (journalist from Gaza), Jehad Abusalim (AFSC advocate from Gaza), We Are Not Numbers (Gaza-based collective of young Palestinian writers), Noura Erakat (leading organizer & intellectual), Yara Hawari (Al-Shabaka fellow)
- ❖ Follow Palestinian organizations: Defense for Children International—Palestine, Addameer: Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Adalah Justice Project, alQaws (LGBTQ+ org)

#### **5. Support progressive leadership in Congress**

- ❖ Publicly push for the incoming chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to support just foreign policy that centers the demands of those most impacted, including the Palestinian people, as articulated in this letter to House leadership from Demand Progress, and supported by USCPR and 70 other organizations.