

February 4, 2025 12:00AM EST | News Release

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# Suspend Arms Transfers to End US Complicity in Israeli Abuses

## US-Supplied Weapons Linked to Israel's Atrocities in Gaza



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The US has provided unprecedented security assistance and [arms sales](#) to Israel since the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. Despite the [Israeli forces' repeated use](#) of US weapons to carry out [apparent war crimes](#) in Gaza, the Biden administration continued to transfer arms, making the US complicit in their unlawful use.

“If President Trump wants to break with the Biden administration’s complicity in the Israeli government’s atrocities in Gaza, he should immediately suspend arms transfers to Israel,” said [Bruno Stagno](#), chief advocacy officer at Human Rights Watch. “Trump said the hostilities in Gaza were ‘not our war’ but ‘their war,’ but unless the US ends its military support, Gaza will also be Trump’s war.”

US military assistance to Israel has increased since October 7, 2023, at least \$17.9 billion in the year since, a Brown University [study](#) found. In March 2024, the Washington Post [reported](#) that the US had approved more than 100 military sales to Israel since the previous October, “amounting to thousands of precision-guided munitions, small-diameter bombs, bunker busters, small arms and other forms of lethal aid.” In early January 2025, the Biden administration [informed Congress](#) of an additional planned \$8 billion sale of arms to Israel.

Gaza’s Health Ministry has reported that Israeli military operations in Gaza have resulted in the killing at least 47,000 Palestinians, and most likely many more. Israeli authorities have [forcibly displaced](#) virtually all of Gaza’s population, used [starvation of civilians](#) as a weapon of war, [deliberately deprived](#) civilians of water, electricity, medical aid, and other objects necessary for their survival, and damaged or destroyed Gaza’s essential [infrastructure](#) and the majority of homes, schools, universities, and hospitals. These actions amount to [war crimes](#), [crimes against humanity](#), and acts of genocide.

[Human Rights Watch](#), [Amnesty International](#), and dozens of [media](#) reports, including by [CNN](#), [NPR](#), the [New York Times](#), the [Washington Post](#), and [AFP](#), have identified US weapons being used in Israeli attacks that [killed and maimed](#) scores of [civilians](#) and aid workers and most likely violated [international humanitarian law](#).

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Biden administration officials were well aware of the mounting evidence that Israeli forces have committed grave abuses in Gaza, including with US weapons. Human rights and humanitarian organizations and [independent experts](#) have [submitted extensive documentation](#) to the US government, and civil servants have [said](#) they submitted similar reports internally.

The International Court of Justice concluded that claims South Africa put forward in its case against Israel under the Genocide Convention of 1948 were “[plausible](#)” and the World Court’s [provisional measures](#) to safeguard Palestinians put the Biden administration on notice about the risk of atrocity crimes in Gaza.

Biden administration officials spoke openly about the Israeli government’s abuses. In November 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that “far too many Palestinians have been killed” by Israeli forces. A month later, President Biden [described](#) Israeli government attacks as “indiscriminate.” He later said that, days after the October 7 attacks, [he told Netanyahu](#) that Israel “can’t be carpet bombing” Gaza.

The Biden administration’s report to Congress in May 2024 on [National Security Memorandum 20](#) concluded that Israeli security forces had most likely used US-provided arms in [manners](#) “inconsistent with its IHL [[international humanitarian law](#)] obligations.” Biden [went further](#) in a May 2024 CNN interview: “civilians have been killed in Gaza as a consequence of those bombs and other ways in which [Israel goes] after population centers,” which factored into withholding 2,000-pound bombs.

President Trump has approved [releasing](#) the 2,000-pound bombs to Israeli forces and called to “clean out that whole thing [Gaza],” which would amount to an alarming escalation in the [ethnic cleansing](#) of Palestinians in Gaza.

US officials could also be found [criminally liable](#) for “aiding and abetting” [war crimes](#) by Israeli forces. US forces have provided extensive intelligence that has been used in Israel’s targeting operations and

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The Intercept [reported](#) that the US Air Force in November 2023 sent US officers “to provide satellite intelligence to the Israelis for the purpose of offensive targeting.” US intelligence [reportedly helped identify](#) the location of four hostages whom Israeli forces rescued in a May 2024 operation that killed, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, [274 Palestinians](#). US intelligence also [reportedly stated](#) that Palestinian armed groups operated within Al-Shifa Hospital, which Israeli authorities subsequently attacked, killing scores of people.

The Israeli government and Hamas reached a ceasefire agreement in January 2025, but Palestinian civilians in Gaza [continue to suffer](#) from a dire humanitarian situation and extensive damage from Israel’s unlawful blockade and assault.

The US should suspend military assistance and arms sales to Israel so long as Israeli forces commit widespread, serious abuses amounting to [war crimes](#) against Palestinian civilians with impunity. Given US provision of weapons used to carry out apparent war crimes, the US should also contribute to [reparation](#) and reconstruction in Gaza, Human Rights Watch said.

Providing military assistance to Israel also violates US law. Several statutes, including Section 502B of the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act, prohibit arms transfers to countries that do not adhere to the laws of armed conflict. Another section of that law bars the US from sending weapons to any country that “prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance,” which multiple US government agencies [said](#) Israel had done and Human Rights Watch had [documented](#).

“President Trump said that the US will measure success in part by ‘the wars we never get into,’ but he promptly lifted a pause on 2,000-pound bomb shipments to the Israeli government,” Stagno said. “Trump should instead be taking steps to end support for Israeli government atrocities in Gaza.”

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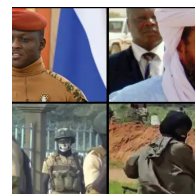
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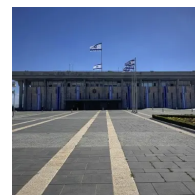
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