

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 223

Reps. Wegela, Farhat, Byrnes, Dievendorf, McFall, Wilson, McKinney, Miller, Pohutsky, Myers-Phillips, T. Carter, Coffia, Rheingans and Liberati offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge Congress to restrict the sale of U.S.
2 arms to Israel and to urge the United States Secretary of State to
3 reinstate the issuance of visitor visas to individuals from Gaza.

4 Whereas, The United States signed the Convention on the
5 Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, otherwise known
6 as the Genocide Convention, on December 11, 1948. In 1988, Congress
7 passed and the President signed the bipartisan Genocide Convention
8 Implementation Act, leading to the United States' ratification of
9 the Genocide Convention on November 25, 1988; and

10 Whereas, A growing number of humanitarian groups and scholars,
11 including Israeli organizations, are concluding that Israel is
12 committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. South Africa has

1 even instituted proceedings against Israel in the International
2 Court of Justice, arguing that Israel is committing genocide, has
3 failed to prevent genocide, and has failed to prevent or punish the
4 incitement of genocide; and

5 Whereas, Our nation has provided billions of dollars' worth of
6 weapons to Israel, which are being used to facilitate Israel's
7 genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. The United States obligated over
8 300 billion dollars in foreign assistance to Israel from 1948 to
9 2024, adjusting for inflation. Researchers at Brown University's
10 Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs calculate
11 that Congress appropriated at least 17.9 billion dollars in
12 security assistance for Israel between 2023 and 2024. The U.S.
13 Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action has calculated that, based
14 on the proportion of federal income tax paid by Michigan residents
15 in fiscal year 2020, Michigan's share of this 17.9 billion is over
16 420 million dollars. This is Michigan taxpayers' money, and it
17 should be used to meet the needs of Michigan residents; and

18 Whereas, Congress is empowered to prevent certain arms
19 transfers by federal law. Congress can prohibit sales of U.S. arms
20 to specific countries by adopting a joint resolution under Section
21 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, if a country uses U.S.-origin
22 weapons or defense services for an unauthorized purpose, or under
23 Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, after
24 requesting a report from the United States Secretary of State about
25 the country's "observance of and respect for human rights and
26 fundamental freedom." Alternatively, Congress can adopt a joint
27 resolution of disapproval to block specific sales of U.S. arms,
28 under Section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act; and

29 Whereas, Congress can further restrict the provision of

1 military or other foreign aid through the regular legislative
2 process. For example, House Bill 3565 of 2025 would prohibit the
3 sale of certain weapons and related services to the Government of
4 Israel unless "a law is enacted identifying the specific purpose or
5 purposes for which such [weapons] or services may be used" and
6 Israel provides written assurances that such articles will be used
7 "in accordance with international humanitarian law, international
8 human rights law, and relevant bilateral agreements." This
9 legislation is colloquially known as the "Block the Bombs Act"; and

10 Whereas, From May to September 2025, over 2,500 Palestinians
11 were killed while attempting to retrieve food. At the time, many of
12 these distribution sites were operated by the Gaza Humanitarian
13 Fund, an organization reportedly established by or in close
14 consultation with Israel and backed by a 30 million dollar grant
15 from the U.S. government. Furthermore, data from an Integrated Food
16 Security Phase Classification Global Famine Review Committee
17 analysis completed in August 2025 confirmed that Gaza has been
18 experiencing a famine, with over 500,000 people facing starvation.
19 In a July 2025 screening, over 2,500 children were diagnosed with
20 severe acute malnutrition, the most life-threatening form of
21 malnutrition, which can require medical stabilization that is
22 difficult to provide in Gaza's under-resourced hospitals; and

23 Whereas, A supposed ceasefire went into effect on October 10,
24 2025, but since that time, Israel has killed hundreds of
25 Palestinians and failed to meet its commitment to allow 600 trucks
26 of humanitarian aid to enter Gaza per day. Israel continues to
27 occupy approximately half the territory of Gaza; and

28 Whereas, Under the Genocide Convention, signatories are
29 obligated to prevent and punish genocide wherever it occurs.

1 Providing humanitarian relief, including access to medical care for
2 children and families, is an essential means by which the United
3 States can fulfill its obligations under international law and
4 uphold its commitment to human rights and dignity. However, in
5 August 2025, the United States Department of State suspended the
6 issuance of all visitor visas for individuals from Gaza, including
7 those for medical treatment. Blocking Palestinian children, injured
8 by U.S.-supplied weapons, from obtaining medical treatment in the
9 United States is unnecessarily cruel, undermines America's global
10 standing, and contradicts both domestic and international values;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge
13 Congress to utilize its existing statutory powers and adopt joint
14 resolutions to prohibit sales of U.S. arms to Israel; and be it
15 further

16 Resolved, That we urge Congress to enact legislation further
17 restricting the sale of U.S. arms to Israel; and be it further

18 Resolved, That we urge Congress not to appropriate any
19 additional funds for weapons to Israel until it ends its genocide
20 of Palestinians in Gaza and those responsible for committing
21 genocide are prosecuted and held responsible for their crimes; and
22 be it further

23 Resolved, That we urge the United States Secretary of State to
24 immediately reinstate the issuance of visitor visas to individuals
25 from Gaza, with particular priority given to visitor visas for
26 children in urgent need of medical care; and be it further

27 Resolved, That we call upon the President of the United
28 States, the United States Secretary of State, and members of
29 Congress to ensure that the United States remains a safe haven for

1 children whose survival depends on timely medical treatment; and be
2 it further

3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of
5 State, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
6 the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives,
7 the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority
8 Leader of the United States Senate, and the members of the Michigan
9 congressional delegation; and be it further

10 Resolved, That we request a personal response to this
11 resolution be sent from the Speaker of the United States House of
12 Representatives and the Majority Leader of the United States Senate
13 to the Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives and the
14 Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate within one month of receipt.