



Senator Elizabeth Warren
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

April 11, 2024

Dear Senator Warren,

As your constituents, we are appalled and heartbroken by the silence and complicity of our leaders in response to the continuing violence and starvation Israel is exacting on the millions of civilians in Gaza, the vast majority of whom are women and children. We have repeatedly called on you to heed these demands we expand on below.

No US Weapons to Israel

U.S. law prohibits arms support for governments that block lifesaving aid or violate international law with U.S. weapons. Last month, Human Rights Watch and Oxfam issued [a joint memorandum](#) detailing such violations by Israel. They include indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilians, the imposition of collective punishments on them, depriving the population of objects indispensable to its survival, and using starvation as a weapon of war. Given this report, the recent ruling of the International Court of Justice against Israel and other mounting, incontrovertible evidence of Israel's gross violations of international law, Congress must halt all military aid to Israel lest its members and the administration be in violation of both U.S. and international law. In particular, Congress must abandon current efforts to force a House vote on the spending package passed in the Senate that includes more aid to Israel and reject Biden's current aims for an \$18 Billion sale of F-15 fighters to Israel, one of the largest U.S. arms sales to the country in recent years.

Let Gaza Live - Lift the Siege - Hands off Rafah

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to warn of an all-out invasion of Rafah, the city in the southernmost tip of the Gaza Strip where 1.5 million Gazans are crowded, ostensibly to root out Hamas fighters. While President Biden has

publicly called such an invasion a “red line” Israel should not cross, he not only steadfastly refuses to attach consequences to his statement, but also supports targeted actions that would somehow miraculously minimize civilian casualties in the most densely populated area on earth. Biden’s words are merely an effort to allay the concerns of Americans, the majority of whom continue to support a permanent ceasefire, and of the world, without a real change in policy. As Israel’s funder and arms supplier, the U.S. has the leverage to prevent an invasion by withholding further weapons shipments to Israel. Instead, not only do these shipments continue multiple times a week since the war began, but also President Biden has just authorized the transfer of hundreds of 2000 pound bombs to the country. Citing the Canadian parliament’s recent vote to halt all weapons there, Senator Sanders (D-VT) has called on the Biden administration to follow the country’s example. Israeli war crimes become more brazen by the day, as seen by the unspeakable brutality unleashed at al Shifa hospital and the reprehensible murder of the World Central Kitchen aid workers. As Senator Sanders asserts, “the U.S. should not provide another nickel for Netanyahu’s war machine.”

Restore UNRWA Funding - Israel Must Open All Aid Routes to Gaza

We are distressed that Congress passed the minibuss spending bill (HR.2882) that will send \$4 billion in aid to Israel and block United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) funding for one year. Since 1948, UNRWA has provided indispensable aid and essential services to Palestinian refugees. In January, within hours after Israel’s allegations that a dozen of UNRWA’s 13,000 staff in Gaza took part in the Oct. 7 attacks, the US and a number of other countries rescinded their funding of the agency despite the absence of any evidence having been provided. This action exacerbated an already dire situation for the besieged population. Furthermore, in February [UNRWA released a report detailing allegations](#) by Palestinians, including several UNRWA employees, of coercion and torture inflicted while in Israeli detention to coerce false admissions of their links to those attacks. Their testimonies are consistent with other well-documented abuses and fabrications by the Israeli military uncovered by investigative news reports and multiple investigations by human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Oxfam and Human Rights Watch. No other agency or institution has the capacity, experience and thousands of employees to replace the life-saving services UNRWA provides to Palestinians. The U.S. must immediately restore all funding to the agency.

Stop Israel from blocking the hundreds of aid trucks waiting at the borders.

A [new Oxfam report](#) documents how Israel is deliberately blocking humanitarian operations in Gaza and using starvation as a weapon of war. While the IDF targets workers distributing aid and blocks the passage of the hundreds of aid trucks lined up for miles at the border, starving, emaciated children wait days without food in displacement centers. Half the population in the Gaza strip is in the worst phase of classification according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a globally recognized authority for hunger assessment. In other words, for over a million Gazans, "starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident". The much touted pier to be built by the U.S. in the next months is as irrelevant to the starving as it is absurd, as are the humiliating and dangerous U.S. aid drops that continue to kill and injure those running to retrieve them. The only appropriate way to relieve Gazans' suffering is by using the considerable leverage of the US over Israel to insist they allow all aid to enter.

An Immediate Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza

With every passing hour the already unacceptably high numbers of civilian casualties in Gaza increase. The official numbers surpass 33,000 dead and over 80,000 injured, not counting the thousands buried under the rubble. Torrents of shocking, heartbreaking images and videos from Gaza flood social media: the suffering women and children, the gaunt faces of babies starved to death, people tortured, humiliated, shackled, shot and bulldozed and simply executed point blank by the IDF. We are enraged by the fact that our government, with our tax dollars, gives Israel the diplomatic and military cover to continue these barbaric acts . According to Philippe Lazzarini, the UNRWA Commissioner-General, the number of children reported killed in just over 4 months in Gaza is higher than the number of children killed in 4 years of wars around the world combined! Like the hundreds of thousands of Democratic primary voters from Hawaii to Michigan to Rhode Island continue to make crystal clear, 60,000 "No Preference" voters in Massachusetts alone have called on you and the administration to heed our demands for an immediate and permanent ceasefire followed by the swift, unimpeded delivery of substantial aid to the starving population of Gaza.

End the Occupation and Apartheid

For 75 years, Israel has forcefully separated and denied equal rights to Palestinians, policies that qualify Israel as an apartheid state according to Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other respected human rights groups. During the war that erupted at Israel's founding in 1948, over 800,000 Palestinians - more than half the population - were ethnically cleansed and permanently

displaced from their lands. The majority of people living in the Gaza Strip today are refugees from that time. In the wake of the 1967 war, Israel drove another 500,000 Palestinians from their homes at which point it began its illegal occupations of the Gaza Strip, West Bank and much of East Jerusalem. Israel has remained hostile to U.N. Resolution 242 of 1967 that would offer national independence and sovereignty to both peoples by partitioning the land into two independent states. Instead, for decades it has proceeded with its own plans for a "Greater Israel", an ethnic cleansing in slow motion marked by its regular confiscation of indigenous land, continuing expansion of illegal settlements, the ongoing demolition of Palestinian homes and orchards,, and systematic brutalization of the people in the occupied territories. And after the electoral victory of Hamas in 2006, Israel proceeded to punish Gazans with a blockade, imprisoning and laying siege on that tiny strip of land, denying them sufficient food and clean water and conducting mass surveillance, drone strikes and bombardments that killed and maimed thousands. Those crimes, conducted with impunity then as they are today, were inevitably followed by US vetoes of UN Security Council resolutions condemning them. After 75 years of enduring the longest occupation in modern history, Palestinians deserve to live in peace, dignity and freedom. A permanent ceasefire is but the first of many steps to end this nightmare. Only when the Israeli occupation ends and the apartheid system is dismantled will we have the space allowing for Palestinian freedom.

Reject AIPAC

For decades, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has been a hawkish, warmongering, and bullying force in U.S. politics. AIPAC advocates for a US foreign policy directly at odds with human rights and international humanitarian law, and has supported an unconditional flow of US military funding and weapons to the Israeli government that have been used to support human rights violations against Palestinians. Domestically, they have supported and amplified far-right politicians and candidates, including insurrectionists. We urge you to sign the Reject AIPAC Pledge at <https://www.rejectaipac.org/pledge>.

Signed,

Massachusetts Peace Action
 Jewish Voice for Peace Boston
 Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine
 Boston Workers Circle
 Massachusetts for Palestine
 North Shore for Palestine

Doctors Against Genocide

Joe Waldstein, West Dennis
Sharon Matzek, Marion
Ellen T Corcoran, Hyannis
John J Bangert, Harwich
Corinn Williams, New Bedford
Lin Deats, Falmouth
Sara Johnston, Rochester
Sharilyn Geistfeld, Vineyard Haven
Eileen Wheeler Sheehan, Westport
Maria Larrain, South Dennis
Jennifer Smith, South Dennis
Beverly Baccelli, Mattapoisett
Elizabeth DiCarlo, Mattapoisett
Colin Green, New Bedford
Nadim Jamal, East Falmouth
Peter Waasdorp, Falmouth
James Corkeron, Falmouth
Pamela Benjamin, Vineyard Haven
Richard Drolet, New Bedford
Mark Gabriele, Wellfleet
Tammy King, Gardner
Lynn Cina, Westford
Bonnie Miskolczy, Carlisle
Mary Lambert, Marlborough
David Kendall, Harvard
Eleanor Toth, Bolton
Gabriel Pereira, Lowell
Rochelle Chambless, Chelmsford
Judy Matthews, Haverhill
Pat Westwater-Jong, Bolton
Felix Brown, Lowell
Hannah Strong, Lowell
Holly Johnson, Lowell
Kimberly Boutin, Lawrence
Dilenia Martinez, Lawrence
Rashida Abraham, Haverhill
Allysha Roth, Lawrence
Kathy Roberts, Cambridge
Christine Alves, Medford
Alyssa Baer, Arlington
Allison Beaufort, Malden
Johannah Murphy, Malden

Sally Orme, Cambridge
Mary Lynn Cramer, Arlington
Maggie Day, Maynard
Mary Anna Foskett, Arlington
Munir N Jirmanus, Medford
Robin Schulman, Maynard
Nina Kornstein, Framingham
Howard Kaplan, Watertown
Simon Klein, Cambridge
Michael J. Gilbreath, Wayland
Patricia Kepler, Arlington
Peter Lowber, Cambridge
Kaitlyn Coppola, Malden
Melissa Grondin, Malden
Thea Paneth, Arlington
Clare M Sheridan, Medford
John Boshar, Belmont
Noble Larson, Arlington
Lili Allen, Watertown
Mutaa Khalifa, Medford
Steve Gallant, Cambridge
Gary Thaler, Revere
Roger Stillwater, Maynard
Carrie Pollack, Sudbury
Loredana Leonard, Framingham
Pat Irwin, Newton
Eileen Kurkoski, Newton
Jacques Weissgerber, Brookline
Haynes Miller, Newton Center
Karin Hemmingsen, Attleboro
Edward Churchill, Brookline
Zoë Hughes, Newton Center
Lorenz Glaser, West Newton
Howard Silverman, Newtonville
Sharon Ellis, Brookline
Nazik Kazimi, Newton Center
Nora Lester Murad, Auburndale
Ali Guermazi, Newton
Lewis Pepper, Newtonville
Susan Mirsky, Newton
Gina Crandell, Brookline
Ellen Resnik, Brookline
Laura Derman, Brookline
Boryana Tacconi, Andover

Rick Eramian, Lynn
William Woodward, Ipswich
Darlene Domian, Swampscott
Susan Nicholson, Gloucester
Caroline Kipling, Georgetown
Jill El-Ashkar, Salem
Erika O'Mara, Reading
Kristen Seashore, Ipswich
Georges Atallah, Cambridge
Bob Bowes, Somerville
Ben Brooks, Somerville
Robert Cable, Somerville
Anne Fabiny, Jamaica Plain
Dorothy Gaydosh, Cambridge
Donald Gianniny, Brighton
Jon Hiratsuka, Cambridge
Cathy Hoffman, Cambridge
Phoebe Knopf, Allston
Carolyn Magid, Cambridge
Jeanette Mathy, Allston
Nancy Murray, Cambridge
Shelley Rieman, Cambridge
Rains Rouner, Chelsea
Amy Stearns, Cambridge
Nick Weiske, Brighton
Joan Whitaker, Cambridge
Zulfiqar Ahmed, Quincy
Malek Al-Khatib, Boston,
Stephanie Beaudoin, Norwood
Mira Brown, Jamaica Plain
Ruth Caplan, Jamaica Plain
Andrew Davey, Quincy
Laura Foner, Jamaica Plain
Bonnie Gorman RN, Quincy
Claire Gosselin, Roslindale
Jonathan Group, Canton
Cole Harrison, Roslindale
Roberta Keegan, Boston
David Miller, Jamaica Plain
Kathleen Mireault, Quincy
Jane Reader, Boston
David Rohrich, Jamaica Plain
Robert Schwartz, Jamaica Plain
Hannah Shaby, Westwood

Susan Sheinfeld, Quincy
Edward Sullivan, East Bridgewater
Rachel Tedesco, East Bridgewater
Denise Zwahlen, Jamaica Plain
Judith Ellenburg, South Hadley
Christine Roane, Springfield
ChristiAnne Sullivan, Southwick
Robert Ajello, Conway
Katie Cournoyer, Grafton
Karen Fogliatti, Greenfield
Congetta Gemmell, Worcester
Anna Gold, Northborough
Cailey Hauver, Sterling
Patricia Hynes, Montague
Virginia Jastromb, Northampton
Harry Pappas, Webster
Raymond Stanley, Wheelwright
Deirdre Sweeney, Worcester
Maura Sweeney, Worcester
Jonathan Tassi, Greenfield
Marguerite Toll, Barre
Ellen Zimmerman, Westborough