

# Three **myths** that keep America from achieving peace in the Middle East



- MYTH #1** - Criticism of the Israeli government's actions is anti-Semitic  
**FACT** - *It is no more anti-Semitic to criticize Israel than it is anti-Catholic to criticize Italy*
- MYTH #2** - U.S. taxpayer aid to Israel is used legally for defensive purposes  
**FACT** - *American money and weapons are being used to systematically oppress, torture and kill the indigenous Palestinian population*
- MYTH #3** - Israel is a cost-effective & beneficial ally to the U.S.  
**FACT** - *Since 1973, Israel has cost the United States about \$1.6 Trillion*

Find out the truth and see  
what you can do >>

# MYTH #1: Criticism of the Israeli government's actions is anti-Semitic

**FACT:** Criticism of Israeli government policies reflects **political disagreement** not ethnic or religious bias. Many of Israel's most vocal critics in the U.S. are Jewish Americans.

“Somehow the Israeli government is placed on a pedestal [in the U.S.] and to criticize it is to be immediately dubbed anti-Semitic, as if the Palestinians were not Semitic. I am not even anti-white, despite the madness of that group.

**People are scared in this country to say wrong is wrong because the Jewish lobby is powerful** – very powerful. **Well, so what?**

For goodness sake, this is God's world! We live in a moral universe. The apartheid government was very powerful, but today no longer exists.” – **Bishop Tutu**, “*Apartheid in the Holy Land*,” *The Guardian*, 4/29/02



Bishop Tutu won the **Nobel Peace Prize** in the struggle against apartheid in S. Africa



“The **state of Israel commits war crimes** and tramples over human rights, destroying Palestinian cities, towns and villages; expropriating land, detaining and executing without trial, conducting mass demolitions of houses, businesses, and public institutions; looting, closure, curfew, torture, prevention of medical care, construction and expansion of settlements - all these actions are opposed to human morality, and violate international treaties ratified by Israel.” – *Letter to Ariel Sharon from Israeli soldiers, 09/17/02*

# MYTH #1: Criticism of the Israeli government's actions is anti-Semitic

“Criticism of Israel’s political aims no more makes one anti-Jewish than criticism of Burma’s political aims makes one anti-Buddhist.” – Bruce Ramsey, *Seattle Times*, 5/08/02



Lands of Semitic Peoples

**NOTE:** Israel, a country of 6 million inhabitants, makes up a very small percentage of the world’s Semites. Contrary to popular thought [and linguistic convention], which designates Semites as adherents of Judaism, **Semites are those people who speak Semitic languages like Arabic and Hebrew.**


Semitic peoples [around 300 million] live primarily in areas of the Middle East and northern Africa as shown on this map.

(Source: **Microsoft** Encarta Encyclopedia)

# MYTH #2: U.S. aid to Israel is used legally & for defensive purposes

**FACT:** Israel uses money & weapons supplied by the U.S. to commit **human rights abuses**, including death squad activities and continues to violate international laws as well as our own Foreign Assistance Act.

**Israel has more U.N. resolutions against it than even Saddam's Iraq!**

1.  United Nations Resolutions: 106, 111, 127, 162, 171, 228, 237, [242](#), 248, 250, 251, 252, 256, 259, 262, 265, 267, 270, 271, [279](#), 280, 285, 298, 313, 316, 317, 332, 337, 347, [338](#), 427, 444, 446, 450, 452, 465, 467, 468, 469, 471, 476, 478, 484, 487, 497, 498, 501, 509, 515, 517, 518, 520, 573, 587, 592, 605, 607, 608, 636, 641, 672, 673, 681, 694, 726, 799 (Note: list is not all-inclusive. Source: UN.org)
2. The Hague Convention on war crimes, 1907
3. The Fourth Geneva Convention, 1949
4. U.N. Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, 1990
5. Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1969
6. International Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989



**“We must analyze how the German army operated in the Warsaw Ghetto.”** – An Israeli officer quoted in The Independent, 3/30/02

## MYTH #2: U.S. aid to Israel is used legally & for defensive purposes

FACT: There is a “legal requirement that American weapons are to be used by Israel only for defensive purposes, a **premise certainly being violated** in the recent destruction of Jenin and other towns of the West Bank. Richard Nixon **imposed this requirement** to stop Ariel Sharon and Israel’s military advance into Egypt in the 1973 war, and I used the same demand to deter Israeli attacks on Lebanon in 1979 (A full invasion was launched by Ariel Sharon after I left office).”



– **President Jimmy Carter**, “**America Can Persuade Israel to make a Just Peace.**” *The New York Times* 4/21/02

**“The government of Israel has lost all moral ground in this conflict”**

Terje Larsen, U.N. Envoy to the Middle East,  
commenting on the death and destruction in Jenin, April 2002

# Congress needs to enforce this act on Israel now

## The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961



Article (2) It is further the policy of the United States that **no security assistance may be provided** to any country the government of which engages in **a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.**

Article (3) In furtherance of the foregoing policy the President is directed to formulate and conduct international security assistance programs of the United States in a manner which will promote and advance human rights and **avoid identification of the United States**, through such programs, **with governments which deny to their people internationally recognized human rights** and fundamental freedoms, in violation of international law or in contravention of the policy of the United States as expressed in this section or otherwise. *(Source: U.S. Congress)*

**“The U.S. needs to distance itself from Israel”**

*Samuel P. Huntington, [Harvard University](#), 11/30/01*

# MYTH #3: Israel is a cost-effective & beneficial ally

**FACT:** “**Israel is the most expensive ally** in the history of the human race”

– Charley Reese, *Israel is a Very Costly Ally*, Orlando Sentinel, 1/11/02

Since 1973, Israel has cost the United States about **\$1.6 Trillion**.  
If divided by today's population, that is more than \$5,700 per person

– David R. Francis, *Economist Tallies Swelling cost of Israel to US*, Christian Science Monitor, 12/09/02

## **Question:**

**What has the money that American taxpayers sent to Israel actually accomplished?**

## **Answer:**

**Increased violence, animosity and the oppression of the Palestinian people.**



“The Israeli jets and helicopters used in the assault are American F-16s, Blackhawks and Apaches. Machine guns, grenade launchers, missiles and bombs -- **made in the USA, paid for with our tax dollars** -- are being used to crush the Palestinian people.”

– Robert Jansen, *I Helped Kill A Palestinian Today*, Houston Chronicle, 4/09/02

## MYTH #3: Israel is a cost-effective & beneficial ally

**FACT:** “Every time anyone says that Israel is our only friend in the Middle East, I can’t help but think that **before Israel, we had no enemies in the Middle East.**” – *Father John Sheehan of the Jesuit Order*



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“Americans have not felt as much sympathy for the Palestinians as they should have out of pure ignorance... and I think it has something to do with the way the media covers it.”

– *President Clinton, NYU forum on Islam & America in a Global World, 1/24/02*

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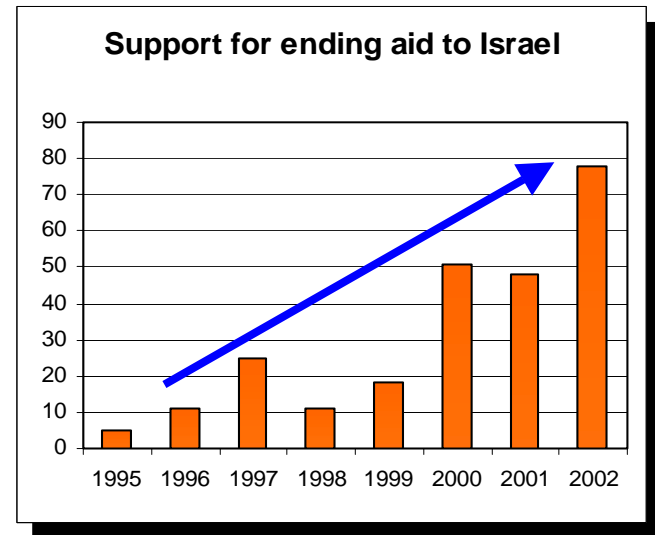
“In a recent **vote by the 185 nations** in the United Nations General Assembly calling on Israel to curb further encroachments on Palestinian lands **only the U.S. and Micronesia voted with Israel.**” **All other nations voted against Israel** or abstained, countries such as: Great Britain, France, Canada, Germany, Egypt, Italy, Spain, Mexico, China, Russia, Japan etc.

– *Richard Curtiss, **The Cost of Israel to US taxpayers**, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, 2001*

# Support for ending U.S. aid to Israel is growing

FACT: From 1995 – 2002, the number of articles in U.S. publications calling for ending aid to Israel has increased **over 1400%**

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(Source: Lexis-Nexis research, May 2002)

A recent poll showed that **61% of Americans** [175 million] want to withhold some of the aid that the U.S. gives to Israel. (Source: Program on International Policy Attitudes, 5/08/02)

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“The U.S. should not be aiding Israel no more than it should have been aiding South Africa under apartheid.”

– Todd May, “**The U.S. Should End Aid to Israel**,” Counterpunch magazine, 4/16/02

# It is time to seriously rethink our Middle East strategy

**“U.S. economic interests lie more with the Arabs than with Israel.** The U.S. gives Israel \$2 billion in military aid every year to buy arms that are used in conflicts with Palestinians. **Israelis should pay for their own military.** This would raise their taxes only 5%.” – Henry Thompson, Professor of Economics, Auburn University, **USA TODAY** 11/16/01

**OPTION 1** - Continue to send billions of taxpayer dollars each year to support a colonial occupation carried out by a State with a population the size of Dallas, thereby alienating the entire region.

**OPTION 2** - Befriend 300 million citizens in 22 countries, an economy of \$1.2 trillion per year and **sell them billions** worth of American goods & services. (Source: CIA World Factbook)



# Do you want to bring peace to the Middle East?

Let's help Israel with a little tough love by **withholding all aid** until they support the **Two State Solution**, the official policy of the U.S. government and the United Nations Security Council.



"Israel must be willing to end its occupation, consistent with the principles embodied in [U.N.] Security Council [Resolutions 242](#) and [338](#), and accept a viable Palestinian state in which Palestinians can determine their own future on their own land and live in dignity and security." – *Secretary of State, Colin Powell, 11/19/01*



**Write to Congress** and to the White House -- tell them to pressure Israel to end the illegal occupation and bring about peace.



[www.adc.org/israel](http://www.adc.org/israel)

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