

December 8, 2015

Mr. Tom Malinowski
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Ambassador Anne W. Patterson
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Malinowski and Ambassador Patterson,

The four attached case summaries evidence several of many specific, well-documented instances of probable "gross violations of human rights" by Israel, the largest recipient of United States Foreign Military Financing.¹ The undersigned organizations urge the Department of State to designate the military units involved as ineligible for foreign assistance under the Leahy Law.

As you are aware, two provisions, collectively known as the "Leahy Amendments" or "Leahy Laws" address concerns about human rights related to US security assistance. Under section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, "No assistance shall be furnished under this Act or the Arms Export Control Act to any unit of the security forces of a foreign country if the Secretary of State has credible information that such unit has committed a gross violation of human rights." A comparable provision in the Department of Defense annual Appropriations Act similarly prohibits funds to foreign security units that have committed a gross violation of human rights.

These case summaries are part of a comprehensive project to seek accountability for documented human rights violations by Israeli forces. Further cases evidencing violations will be forthcoming.

If you have questions or need more information, please feel free to contact us at advocacy@faithforum.me. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

¹ U.S. Congressional Research Service, *U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel*, RL 33222, Jeremy M. Sharp, June 10, 2015, <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33222.pdf>.

² Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, <https://legcounsel.house.gov/Comps/Foreign%20Assistance%20Act%20of%201961.pdf>

American Friends Service Committee
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Pax Christi International
Pax Christi USA
Presbyterian Church (USA)
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society