

To Congress from Civil Society Orgs

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

September 3rd, 2026

Dear Chairmen Wicker and Rogers and Ranking Members Reed and Smith,

As you enter into conference to resolve the differences between the House-passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2027 ([H.R.8800](#)) and the pending Senate bill ([S.4784](#)), We, the undersigned U.S. organizations, strongly urge you to reject the entrenchment of U.S. and Israeli defense collaboration, which goes against U.S. national interests and values, and would expand the risk of U.S. complicity in, and exposure to, human rights violations, war crimes, and genocide.

Specifically, we are deeply concerned by Section 219 in the House NDAA and Section 1217 in the Senate version, which establish a new U.S. Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative aimed at accelerating joint research, development, and integration of Israeli-origin and jointly developed defense technologies into U.S. military systems and programs of record. This would expand U.S-Israeli military integration across some of the most sensitive domains of emerging technology, including quantum computing, AI and autonomous systems, cyber and electronic warfare, directed energy, and defense industrial base co-production, while expediting pathways from R&D into procurement.

Israel's grievous violations of U.S. and international law and its other human rights violations include the use of [U.S.-supplied weapons](#) in killing Palestinian civilians, [extrajudicial killings](#) by Israeli soldiers, the systemic use of [torture and sexual abuse](#) by Israeli security forces, and policies such as the [withholding of humanitarian assistance](#), other forms of [collective punishment](#), [ethnic cleansing](#), [apartheid](#), and [genocide](#). These facts alone should prevent even the discussion of deepening military

ties, especially given the complete inability of the United States to apply existing laws, such as the Foreign Assistance Act or the Arms Export Control Act, that would require the suspension of U.S. military aid and arms transfers to Israel.

Many of Israel's military technologies have been developed and used in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Israeli AI-enabled targeting systems, surveillance platforms, and predictive tools [have been used in operations](#) linked by human rights organizations and U.N. experts to war crimes and genocide. Israel uses [AI-powered tools](#) to generate lists of buildings to be attacked, assign ratings to residents of Gaza to determine if they are military targets, and determine when a resident is in a particular location. Furthermore, Israel is one of only 10 countries around the world that has [neither signed nor ratified](#) the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), an international treaty that prohibits the production, acquisition, and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.

Despite the above, Section (b) of Section 219/1217 extends cooperative efforts to the U.S.' most sensitive areas of military technology, including artificial intelligence and biotechnology. This proposal would encourage U.S. military biotechnology cooperation with a country that has refused to forswear biological weapons and has previously been reported to possess a biological weapons program. States party to the BWC (such as the United States) are [required to ensure](#) that any biomedical collaboration with an entity that is not party to the BWC (such as Israel) does not in any way contribute to biological weapons programs, but this program does not include any such safeguards. Without sufficient safeguards, this initiative risks implicating the US in the development of biological weapons and AI systems used for human rights violations, further eroding international trust.

The American people do not want American military integration with a country responsible for war crimes, international law violations, and mass killings amounting to genocide. Six in 10 voters now [oppose](#) the United States sending more military aid to Israel. The breadth of this opposition is also increasingly reflected among political commentators and public figures across the political spectrum, with criticism stemming from both the right and the left. Section 219/1217 works to hide continuing U.S. military support to Israel from public scrutiny and congressional oversight and involvement. Far from working to shift the U.S.-Israel relationship in line with American public opinion, this section encourages the direct use of Israeli-manufactured technology into the U.S.' systems, which may render the United States dependent on Israel's provision of such technologies, and make disentangling the relationship in the future ever more difficult. At a time in which American interests are increasingly diverging from those of Israel, and American public opinion is turning increasingly against unconditional support to Israel, creating new points of influence for Israel in the U.S. defense-technology ecosystem is exceptionally dangerous.

The repercussions of this legislation would be compounded should the conferees include the non-germane Section 622 of the 2027 Intelligence Authorization Act, introduced in May 2026 by Senator Tom Cotton, to the NDAA. Section 622 would limit the President's ability to restrict America's intelligence-sharing and military collaboration with Israel by requiring the President to identify and document a specific national security concern that necessitates any changes, and expand intelligence sharing and cooperation with countries that have normalized relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords. Governments have an obligation to ensure the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms when advancing their national security interests, including countering threats to their populations' right to privacy or other freedoms. Intertwining U.S. and Israeli information-gathering and defense raises significant concerns given the recent evidence of Israeli espionage against people in the U.S., including government officials. In June, the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency [raised its counterintelligence threat assessment of Israel](#) from "high" to "critical" amid concerns that Israel was surveilling senior U.S. officials to obtain information about U.S. deliberations and policy on the Middle East. Additionally troubling is the [well-documented](#) use of inhumane Israeli intelligence practices, including torture. The United States must not tie itself to the intelligence practices of a country that, [according to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture](#), "has encouraged, tolerated and condoned torture and ill-treatment, at times with support at ministerial and functional levels."

We strongly urge the conferees to reject Section 219/1217, as well as any legislation seeking to intertwine US and Israeli defense or intelligence capabilities.

Sincerely,

A New Policy

Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)

Center for International Policy Advocacy

Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft

Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity

American Committee for Middle East Rights

Win Without War

Amnesty International USA

Common Defense