

**For Immediate Release: May 21, 2025**

## **U.S. Taxpayers File Historic Legal Complaint in DC, Charging the U.S. Government with Complicity in Genocide**

*Taxpayers from Both C[Final Petition Redacted \(1\).pdf](#)foasts Converge in DC*

*“We are filing this complaint at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights because the U.S. government has effectively shielded itself from accountability for its international crimes under its own legal system, even for crimes against humanity and genocide.” -- **Huwaida Arraf**, lead attorney and also one of the founders of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition*

Watch [link](#) of the full press conference courtesy of CAIR.

On Wednesday, May 14, [Taxpayers Against Genocide](#) (TAG) and the [National Lawyers Guild International Committee](#) filed a [legal complaint](#) with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) against the U.S. government for complicity in genocide in Gaza. The lawsuit includes notarized affidavits by Palestinian-American plaintiffs who have lost loved ones to the U.S.-funded genocide. One plaintiff, **Monadel Herzallah**, has lost 43 family members. He states: “We as Palestinians in the U.S. have sought accountability in federal court but we also made a pledge to seek justice in any other possible venue available.” In the words of **Susan Abulhawa**, Palestinian human rights activist, best selling author, and the lead petitioner in this complaint: “I want to do everything in my power to put a stop to the unfathomable horrors that I witnessed in Gaza.”

The 133 page complaint (with annexes) provides overwhelming evidence of complicity by the U.S. government, including both the Biden and Trump Administrations, as well as Congress.

**Huwaida Arraf**, the lead attorney who drafted the lawsuit and also one of the organizers of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, announced the filing of the complaint at a press conference yesterday in Washington, D.C.. She was joined by **Robert S. McCaw**, the Government Affairs Department Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), **Dr. Nidal Jboor**, co-founder of Doctors Against Genocide (DAG), and **Jacqueline Luqman**, Chair, Coordinating Committee, Black Alliance for Peace (BAP), along with TAG and Palestinian American plaintiffs.

Immediately after the press conference, participants filed the complaint at the nearby IACHR headquarters and then marched to the White House. On May 15, plaintiffs had meetings with Congressional offices to deliver copies of the complaint.

The complaint is endorsed by a wide range of civil organizations, including the Arab Resource Organizing Center Action, Palestinian Youth Movement, the U.S. Palestinian Community Network, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, Black Alliance for Peace, Doctors Against Genocide, the Tribunal Project, CODEPINK, Friends of Latin America, Nicaraguan Solidarity Coalition, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Alliance for Global Justice, and many more.

TAG is a growing grassroots movement, representing more than 3,000 taxpayers across the U.S. backing this complaint.

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More Quotes:

**Huwaida Arraf, lead TAG attorney and also one of the founders of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition:**

“We are filing this complaint at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights because the U.S. government has effectively shielded itself from accountability for its international crimes under its own legal system, even for crimes against humanity and genocide. While the United States actively enables and materially supports Israel’s atrocities, it has constructed legal shields at home that deny victims even the chance to seek redress. The United States cannot continue to finance, arm, and politically cover for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide abroad while remaining immune from international scrutiny. This petition is a call for accountability where none has yet been possible.” -- Huwaida Arraf, lead attorney and also one of the founders of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition

**Tarik Kanaan, Palestinian-American plaintiff in the complaint:** “Over the course of this genocide, I have witnessed the systematic destruction of my history, heritage and parts of the beautiful culture of which I am a product. I have witnessed the bombing of hospitals and schools, churches, mosques, playgrounds, museums, cultural centers, libraries, and seaside promenades. The intentional destruction of the ancient Al-Omari mosque, the ancient Byzantine Church and the Church of Jabalia, the third oldest in the world, to name a few, inflicts irreversible damage to our traditions and cultural history. I have seen the desecration of burial grounds and have seen the remains of forebears being unearthed, erasing our history on the land so that refugees have nothing to return to. Israel, with the full support and protection of the U.S., has been destroying anything and everything that sustains life or connects us, the Palestinian people, to our homeland and our history.”

**Tariq Ra’ouf, human rights activist and son of a major plaintiff:** “What is happening in Gaza is a blatant violation of morality, human rights, and ethics. If we allow these horrors to continue without accountability, we will be entering a dangerous time for humanity, where any attack on civilian life can be excused by false and racist claims of terrorism, by any violent oppressor, not just Israel. I did not consent to my tax dollars being used to commit violence against my own family; I did not consent to paying for the bullets and bombs that have killed 43 of my family members. It is a ludicrous and delusional expectation that we, the American taxpayers, will stand idly by while money that should be going to our education, healthcare and veterans is instead going on to fund more war crimes, and more deaths. Justice is inevitable, and we will make sure that the United States government is held accountable for their role in this genocide.”

**Robert S. McCaw, the Government Affairs Department Director of the Council on**

**American-Islamic Relations (CAIR):** “I want to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to Taxpayers Against Genocide and the National Lawyers Guild International Committee for their courageous and vital work in this historical complaint with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. CAIR offers our fullest support in their effort and this effort in holding our government accountable for its complicity in Israel’s ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza,

against their occupation and Apartheid of Palestinians throughout the region including the West Bank.”

**Dr. Nidal Jboor, MD, co-founder of Doctors Against Genocide:** “We are doctors. We swore to protect life— not to fund its destruction. In our name, with our tax dollars, children in Gaza are being starved and bombed while food and medicine sit just five miles away. This isn’t complicated. It is cruelty. One phone call could save thousands. Let the aid in. Let the children eat. Bread, not bombs. Those who commit or enable these crimes must be held accountable.”

**Nida Liftawiya, Palestinian refugee, US taxpayer, and organizer with the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC):** “I’ve dedicated myself to amplifying not only the voices of my Palestinian brethren, but also those of Indigenous and marginalized voices everywhere. In my dedication for human rights and justice, I am seeking restitution for the complicity of our government officials in misusing my tax dollars to commit genocide and the ethnic cleansing of my homeland and people.”

**Jacqueline Luqman, Chair, Coordinating Committee, Black Alliance for Peace (BAP):** “The Black Alliance for Peace supports Taxpayers Against Genocide in its demand to end US facilitation of genocide in Gaza with taxpayer resources, which also facilitates the deepening degradation of material conditions of US citizens already struggling under capitalist exploitation...From the opposition to fascism in Spain and the invasion and occupation of Ethiopia by Italy in the 1930s through the 1960s when leading black organizations like the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) sparked the anti-Vietnam War movement with their opposition to the war and their expression of solidarity with the Palestinian national struggle, Black anti-war and anti-imperialist positions reflected the Black internationalist stance at the center of the Black radical tradition. We support TAG’s campaign to end the use of US taxpayer dollars to fund genocide in Palestine, Lebanon, and everywhere else Israel is implicated in human rights violations and war crimes, such as in Congo. While US citizens struggle to make ends meet and a capitalist dictatorship that deprives the people of their needs for the profit of a few, the US is once again violating international law and its own Congressional mandates against facilitating genocide with its citizens resources. Resources that are denied use for meeting the needs of the people, but are freely used instead to destroy life, and on an unimaginable scale...BAP joins TAG in once again charging the US with genocide, carrying on the example set by William Patterson and Paul Robeson in the historic We Charge Genocide petition highlighting the deadly brutalization of Black people in this country submitted to the United Nations in 1951.”

**Cynthia Papermaster, Bay Area Coordinator of CODEPINK:** “As US taxpayers, our government is making us complicit in the Israeli genocide, recently allocating another \$8.8 billion in lethal weapons to Israel, meaning thousands more 2000 pound bombs and thousands more hellfire missiles which are shredding the children of Gaza. The world is being traumatized as the U.S. is supplying weapons for a genocide that we are watching unfold daily. We demand aid be allowed to reach the people who are starving to death. We demand that our Senators and Representatives stop funding this barbaric and illegal massacre. This is the moment to do everything we can and we are answering that challenge.”