



Senate Resolution No. 2021/2022-019
In Support of U.S. H.R. 2590, Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act

Primary Sponsor

Riya Master (ASUC External Affairs Vice President)

Cosponsors

Khwal Rafique (Organizing Director), Bailey Henderson (Federal Government Relations Director), Zaynab Attaras (President, Faces of African Muslims), Hesham Jarmanaki (Political Director, Bears for Palestine), Kyra Abrams (Chair, Black Student Union), Matthew Villa (Co-President, Berkeley Anti-Trafficking Coalition), Ishita Srivastava (Recruitment Director, Berkeley Anti-Trafficking Coalition), Filomena Franchina (Co-President, Berkeley Anti-Trafficking Coalition), Cadence Dobias (Outreach Director, Berkeley Anti-Trafficking Coalition), Atiana Novikoff (Administrative Director, Berkeley Anti-Trafficking Coalition), Susan Osmani (Vice President, Afghan Student Association), Hunayn Anwar (President, Association for Muslim Professional Development), Rida Mahmood (Executive Director, Financial Literacy and Economic Justice Conference), Hamayl Cheema (Vice Executive Director, Financial Literacy and Economic Justice Conference), Ayman Azizuddin (President, Pakistani Student Association), Yusra Arub (President, Muslim Student Association), Dina Ghandour (President, Arab Student Union), Gabbi Sharp (ASUC Senator), Osirus Polachart (ASUC Senator), Amanda Hill (ASUC Senator), Varsha Madapoosi (ASUC Senator), Ashley Rehal (ASUC Senator), Stephanie Wong (ASUC Senator), Sammy Raucher (ASUC Senator), Sam Coffey (ASUC Senator), Griselda Vega Martinez (ASUC Senator), Mehnaz Grewal (ASUC Senator), James Weichert (ASUC Academic Affairs Vice President), Giancarlo Fernandez (ASUC Executive Vice President), James Reyna (Community Engagement Executive, ASUC President), Kalli Zervas (ASUC Senator), Griselda Vega Martinez (ASUC Senator), Era Goel (ASUC Student Advocate), Jerry Xu (ASUC Senator)

WHEREAS, the Government of Israel has and continues to carry out acts of violence against Palestinians while actively occupying their internationally recognized land; and,

WHEREAS, its military detains around 500 to 700 Palestinian children between the ages of 12 and 17 annually and prosecutes them before a military court system that lacks basic and fundamental guarantees of due process in violation of international standards;¹ and,

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch, in its World Report 2020, reported that “Israel denied Palestinian children arrested and detained in the West Bank legal protections granted to Israeli children, including settlers, such as protections against nighttime arrests and interrogations without a guardian present. Israeli forces frequently used unnecessary force against children during arrest and physically abused them in custody.”²; and,

WHEREAS, the State Department’s 2016 Annual Report on Human Rights Practices noted the renewed use of “administrative detention” against Palestinians, including children, a practice in which a detainee may be imprisoned indefinitely, without charge or trial, by the order of a military commander or other government official;³ and,

WHEREAS, Palestinian properties are subject to demolition or confiscation as part of Israeli-imposed planning and zoning regimes in Area C and East Jerusalem and other parts of the West Bank, and subject to punitive demolition following an incident of violence against Israeli military and police forces, settlers, or other civilians⁴; and,

WHEREAS, Palestinians are required to obtain Israeli-issued building permits and the lack of permits is typically cited as the reason for demolitions or confiscations, even though, due to the restrictive and discriminatory Israeli planning regime, Palestinians are overwhelmingly denied permits and therefore forced to build without the necessary permits in order to live on their own land⁵; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported in January 2021 that during 2020, Israeli authorities demolished or seized 851 structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing 1001 Palestinians as a result, including over 524 children. This is the highest number of home demolitions since 2016⁶; and,

WHEREAS, demolitions clearly and deliberately create oppressive conditions that leave Palestinians with no other choice than to leave their homes and lands; and,

WHEREAS, the restrictive and discriminatory Israeli planning regime undermines rights

¹ https://www.dci-palestine.org/military_detention

² <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/israel/palestine>

³

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2016-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/israel-and-the-occupied-territories/>

⁴

https://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_authorities_repeatedly_demolish_palestinian_community_displacing_dozens_of_children

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/12/israel-discriminatory-land-policies-hem-palestinians>

⁶ https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/demolition_monthly_report_december_2020.pdf

and guarantees in international human rights law and facilitates unlawful acts and policies, including destruction of property and forcible transfer of civilians, expropriation of land and natural resources, illegal settlement expansion, and further annexation of Palestinian land; and,

WHEREAS, Israel has been the largest cumulative recipient of United States military aid compared to all other U.S. allies⁷; and,

WHEREAS, the US federal government, under its current Memorandum of Understanding with Israel that runs from fiscal year 2019 to fiscal year 2028, provides \$38,000,000,000 in military assistance to the Israeli government, increasing military assistance by \$8 billion from the previous 10-year MOU⁸; and,

WHEREAS, this includes \$33,000,000,000 in Foreign Military Financing grants plus \$5,000,000,000 in missile defense appropriations monitored and audited by the Government Accountability office; and,⁹

WHEREAS, there are few restrictions on how this aid can be used as it relates to Palestinian nationals and the occupation of Palestine; and,

WHEREAS, the total \$38 billion in U.S. military aid to Israel is paid for at the taxpayer expense and, thus, policymakers are accountable to the people for how it is used; and,

WHEREAS, House Resolution 2590 or the Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act, sponsored by Representative Betty McCollum, sets guidelines for how these funds cannot be used by the Israeli government to deny Palestinians human rights; and,¹⁰

WHEREAS, these prohibitions include “military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill treatment of Palestinian children,” “the seizure, appropriation, or destruction of Palestinian property,” the “forcible transfer of civilians in the Israeli-controlled and occupied West Bank,” the deployment of military personnel and equipment in the occupied West Bank, and the annexation of said territory by Israel; and,¹¹

WHEREAS, HR 2590 would also require the Secretary of State to provide a report to Congress whether the funds given to Israel were used for any of the prohibited activities and the nature and extent of the ill-treatment of Palestinian children, the confiscation of Palestinian land, and the settlement activities of Israel in the West Bank in violation of

7

https://usafacts.org/articles/how-much-military-aid-does-the-us-give-to-israel/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw6s2IBhCnARIsAP8RfAhH5cEVwBMSmhr4VHtRt7o3fLWZ37U9TdVJCiSZ_r38QXf6ilJfGMaAtDpEALw_wcB

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2590/text>

¹¹ Ibid

international law; and,¹²

WHEREAS, HR 2590 would finally clarify the policy of the United States in opposition to the further annexation of Palestinian land and the oppression of the Palestinian people; and,¹³

WHEREAS, as residents of the United States and taxpayers, we have a responsibility to ensure that our budget is not being used to oppress or deny rights to any human, no matter where they may live; and,

WHEREAS, there are several communities on campus whose education and lived experiences are detrimentally affected by Islamophobia, Zionism, and anti-Palestinian rhetoric arising from the occupation of Palestinian land; and,

WHEREAS, we have a responsibility as student leaders to stand up to injustice and uplift the voices and needs of our marginalized communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of California unequivocally supports the passage of the Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act (HR2590); and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of California calls upon the students, faculty, and staff of UC Berkeley to lobby their [congressperson](#)¹⁴ by calling, emailing, or writing to their office in support of H.R. 2590; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ASUC is charged with hosting civic engagement events on campus supporting the passage of H.R. 2590 including info-sessions, phone banking, social media campaigns, etc; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Associated Students of the University of California will not tolerate misinformation about Palestine; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ASUC will provide resources such as private community space, institutionalized safety within ASUC/Senate Chambers, inclusion of Palestinians in conversations that affect them, and many more for Palestinian students and other marginalized groups negatively affected by anti-Palestinian rhetoric and violence.

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ <https://ziplook.house.gov/>