

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2407

The Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act



Whereas, numerous international human-rights organizations (UNICEF, Defense of Children International-Palestine, Human Rights Watch, B'tselem) and even the State Department have documented ill-treatment, frequent arrest, detention without due process, and in some cases torture of Palestinian children by the Israeli military detention system; and

Whereas, every year, 500 to 700 Palestinian children as young as 12 years old are arrested (often taken from their beds at night by Israeli soldiers and police), bound, blindfolded, driven to detention centers and denied access to lawyers and their parents during interrogations and frequently to sign coerced confessions presented in Hebrew, a language they don't understand; and

Whereas, with 40 percent of the Palestinian population under the age of 14, a just peace between Israel and the Palestinians starts with promoting the dignity and the inherent human rights of Palestinian children; and

Whereas, Israel is the single greatest beneficiary of American military assistance, receiving \$3.8 billion, some 25 percent of its defense budget, from American taxpayers each year; and

Whereas, Israel is allowed to spend as much as \$800 million a year of this American taxpayer assistance with little transparency, accountability or oversight by U.S. officials; and

Whereas, the passage of H.R. 2407 will amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 ("The Leahy Law") to provide that "no funds authorized to be appropriated for assistance to a foreign country may be used to support the military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of children in violation of international humanitarian law . . ."; and

Whereas, the passage of H.R. 2407 will authorize to be appropriated not less than 19 million dollars each fiscal year to be made available for monitoring human rights abuses associated with Israel's military detention of Palestinian children and make public the findings of such monitoring and to provide treatment, support, and rehabilitation for Palestinian children victims of military detention, abuse and torture.

Whereas, wherever children are being abused, mistreated, or degraded, responsible adults, especially elected officials, have a duty to speak out and work to seek justice;

Now therefore, we the undersigned call on our Connecticut congressional representatives (John Larson, Joe Courtney, Rosa DeLauro, Jim Himes, and Jahana Hayes) to join Congresswoman Betty McCollum and other Congresspersons in co-sponsoring H.R. 2407.

Name (organization or individual)

Date

Address

Email

Phone

Please complete and return to Tree of Life Educational Fund, 2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or fill out endorsement of the resolution at the link www.tolef.org/pal-children. Sponsored by Tree of Life Educational Fund and Jewish Voice for Peace-New Haven