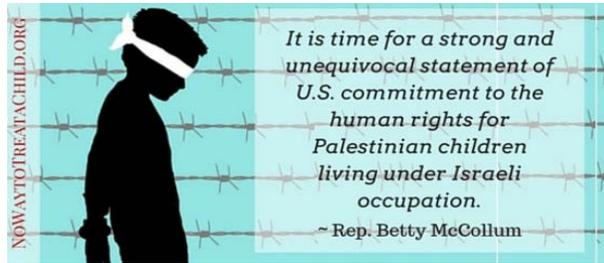


MASSACHUSETTS' RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF U.S. CONGRESS H.R. 2407
The Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act



Whereas, numerous international human-rights organizations (UNICEF, Defense of Children International-Palestine, Human Rights Watch, B'tselem) and even the State Department have documented widespread and systematic ill-treatment, arrest and 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, and driven to detention centers where they are denied access to lawyers and their parents during interrogations, physically abused, and frequently required 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, under the separate and unequal system of laws operating in the West Bank, Palestinian children (who are arrested mainly for throwing stones) are subject to Israeli military law which lacks basic due process, while Israeli settler children (who also throw stones) are entitled to far greater protection under Israeli civilian law; 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, 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 Massachusetts congressional representatives (Richard Neal, James McGovern, Lori Trahan, Joseph Kennedy, Katherine Clark, Seth Moulton, Ayanna Pressley, Stephen Lynch, and William Keating) to join Congresswoman Betty McCollum and other Congresspersons in co-sponsoring H.R. 2407.

Name (organization or individual)

Date

Address

Zip Code

Email

Phone

Please complete and return to Tree of Life Educational Fund-MA Chapter, 2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371 or fill out endorsement of the resolution at the link www.tolef.org/pal-children_massachusetts. Sponsored by Tree of Life Educational Fund, Jewish Voice for Peace-Boston, Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine, Massachusetts Peace Action, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East-MA Chapter.