

Support Joint Resolutions of Disapproval Against Sales of Bombs to Israel

Last updated 03/31/2025

Background

The ceasefire in Gaza has [collapsed](#) and the Israeli government has [blocked](#) all humanitarian aid for nearly a month. The Israeli military has [killed](#) a reported 50,000 Palestinians in its bombing campaign in Gaza, and the number who have died from starvation or disease remain unknown.

Despite the war's devastating toll on civilians, the Trump administration is accelerating military aid to Israel. Within a week of taking office, President Trump [reversed](#) a crucial Biden administration hold on the supply of 2000-pound bombs to Israel. The Trump administration notified Congress of seven major arms sales to Israel in February, amounting to over \$11 billion of lethal weapons, including tens of thousands of 2,000-lb bombs. There is ample evidence that these U.S.-made weapons have been deployed in some of the war's most deadly attacks for civilians.

The Trump administration has flouted congressional oversight, invoking '[emergency authorities](#)' to bypass congressional review of multi-billion-dollar arms sales to Israel. The administration has not clarified how the notified arms sales are necessary to oppose an immediate threat to Israel. Most arms listed will not be exported for years. Given this timeline, there is no legitimate reason to invoke emergency authorities and bypass the 15-day congressional review period.

President Trump has threatened to '[take over](#)' the Gaza Strip and forcibly deport Palestinians from their territory against their will, which would amount to a [war crime](#). In light of [consistent violations](#) of international and U.S. law—including the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act—the Trump administration must suspend arms transfers to Israel. Congress must step up, oppose the proposed sales of lethal weapons to the Israeli government, and ensure the protection of civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Major Arms Sales Notified to Congress and Corresponding Joint Resolutions of Disapproval

- Since taking office, the Trump Administration has [approved](#) nearly \$12 billion in major Foreign Military Sales to Israel. This week, the Senate will vote on Joint Resolutions of Disapproval regarding two sales of bombs notified on February 7 and 28, 2025 and worth a cumulative \$8.8 billion. In each instance, the Trump administration sidestepped congressional oversight processes.
 - To push through the first sale, the Trump Administration [bypassed long-standing practice](#) by overriding a hold on the sale by House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Gregory Meeks.
 - For the second sale, the administration invoked 'emergency authorities' to bypass congressional review, and has not clarified how the notified arms sales are necessary to oppose an immediate threat to Israel. The bombs in question in the Joint Resolution of Disapproval will not even be delivered until 2026. There was no legitimate reason for the administration to bypass Congress's review period.

- Senator Sanders has introduced joint resolutions of disapproval to suspend the Trump administration’s major arms sales to Israel, including [S.J.Res.26](#), covering joint direct attack munition kits, small-diameter bombs, and 500-pound bombs, and [S.J.Res. 33](#), covering 2,000-pound bombs. A Senate floor vote using privileged procedures is [expected](#) the week of March 31.

S.J.Res.33: 2,000 Pound Bombs

- [S.J.Res.33](#) would oppose the sale of [35,529 MK-84 2,000-pound bombs](#) worth \$2.04 billion, to be delivered in 2026.
- **MK-84 or BLU-117 General Purpose 2,000-lb bombs** are general purpose aircraft bombs that [destroy](#) buildings, rail yards and lines of communication using blast and fragmentation. The explosion of a 2,000-pound bomb means "[instant death](#)" for people within 100 feet, with lethal fragments extending up to 1,200 feet. Such bombs are especially devastating to civilians and civilian infrastructure when used in dense urban areas like Gaza’s cities, where civilian harm from these bombs is virtually guaranteed.
- In May 2024, the Biden Administration suspended sales of 2,000-pound bombs to Israel, [acknowledging](#) that “civilians have been killed in Gaza as a consequence of those bombs and other ways in which they go after population centers.” Attempting to deter the Israeli assault on Rafah, where more than one million Palestinians were [sheltering](#), he invoked a high number of probable civilian deaths in the densely populated area. The Trump administration overturned and sharply [criticized](#) President Biden’s decision.
- Israeli forces have used U.S.-made general purpose 2,000-pound bombs (MK-84) in [hundreds of attacks](#) that have killed and harmed civilians. Reported examples include:
 - According to the *New York Times*, Israeli forces routinely [used](#) 2,000-lb bombs in the south of Gaza—a designated civilian safe zone— during the first weeks of the war. These bombs are almost never used by the U.S. military in densely-populated areas. Just one of the suspected 2,000-pound bomb strikes in Khan Younis killed [more than a dozen people](#) and buried scores under the rubble of destroyed buildings.
 - On October 10, 2023 an Israeli strike [hit](#) the al-Najjar family home in Deir al-Balah and killed 24 people including seven children, likely using a 2,000-lb bomb, according to research from Amnesty International. Survivor Suleiman Salman al-Najjar had just returned from receiving treatment for kidney problems when he [learned](#) his wife and children were killed.
 - On October 31, 2023, an Israeli strike with U.S-made JDAMs in Jabalia [killed](#) at least 126 civilians, including 69 children, according to an Amnesty International investigation. At least one survivor lost his entire family, and another survivor lost all his children. The 2,000-lb bomb left a 40-foot crater and destroyed 20 residential buildings.

S.J.Res.26: Joint Direct Attack Munition Kits, Small Diameter Bombs, & 500 Pound Bombs

- [S.J.Res.26](#) would oppose the [sale](#) of 17,479 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) kits, 2,166 GBU-39 small-diameter bombs, and 2,800 MK-82 500-pound bombs worth \$6.75 billion, to be delivered in 2025.
- **Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) guidance kits** attach to general purpose bombs, including 500-, 1000-, and 2000-pound bombs to guide them to their target.

- Israel used U.S.-made JDAMs in some of the bloodiest attacks in Gaza. Reported examples include:
 - On October 10, 2023, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in Deir al-Balah [killed](#) 24, including 7 children. Amnesty International, which conducted the investigation, reported that survivor Suleiman Salman al-Najjar had just returned from receiving treatment for kidney problems when he [learned](#) his wife and children were killed.
 - On October 22, 2023, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in Deir al-Balah [killed](#) 19, including 12 children, according to Amnesty International. Survivor Samaher Abu Mu'eileq had just left the home of his brother, sister-in-law, and nephews and nieces when their house was bombed.
 - On October 31, 2023, an Israeli strike with U.S. JDAMs in Jabalia [killed](#) at least 126 civilians, including 69 children, according to the civilian harm monitor Airwars. At least one survivor lost his entire family, and another survivor lost all his children. The bomb left a 40-foot crater and destroyed 20 residential buildings.
 - On January 18, 2024, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in al-Mawasi [targeted](#) a humanitarian facility, according to the International Rescue Committee. Coordinates had been shared with the Israeli military as part of the UN deconfliction program. The injured medical team had to evacuate from Nasser hospital.
 - According to *The Guardian*, on March 27, 2024, an Israeli strike with a U.S. JDAM in al-Habariyeh, Lebanon [killed](#) 7 healthcare workers, all of whom were university volunteers who joined the ambulance corps after the war started.
 - On July 14, 2024, an Israeli strike on a displacement camp in al-Mawasi, which had been designated a safe zone for civilians, killed at least [90 people](#), according to a *CNN* investigation. Munitions expert Trevor Ball identified a fin from a [JDAM](#) at the scene.
 - On September 1, 2024, a strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians killed at least [11 people](#). Video [footage](#) of the strike shows a U.S.-made MK 80-series bomb with an attached JDAM targeting the school, according to munitions expert Trevor Ball.
 - On September 27, 2024, planes that later struck Beirut suburbs were recorded with several 2,000-lb bombs, including a BLU-109 with a [JDAM kit](#), according to the *New York Times*. Six people were [killed](#) and 91 injured in the strikes.
- **GBU-39 small-diameter bombs** are 250-pound air-launched guided munitions. GBU-39 bombs can injure or kill people in open areas within 1,122 ft in [any direction](#).
- GBU-39 bombs have become a “[weapon of choice](#)” for the Israeli military in Gaza, where they have killed civilians in numerous attacks during the war. Reported incidents include:
 - According to Amnesty International, on January 9, 2024, a strike on a 5-story family home in Tal Al-Sultan, Gaza, conducted with a [GBU-39 bomb](#), killed 18 civilians, including 10 children.
 - On May 26, 2024, an Israeli strike on a camp for displaced people near Rafah ignited a fire that [killed 45 people](#) and wounded more than 240. The *New York Times* reported that the strike was conducted using a U.S.-made [GBU-39 bomb](#).
 - On May 13, 2024, a strike on a UN school and family home in Nuseirat killed ‘[dozens](#),’ reported the *New York Times*. Fragments of GBU-39 bombs [were](#) found at the scene, according to munitions expert Trevor Ball.

- In May 2024, an [unexploded GBU-39 bomb](#) was found at a school in Jabalia refugee camp, according to munitions expert Trevor Ball.
- On 6 June 2024, two GBU-39 bombs were used in a strike on an [UNRWA school](#) where civilians were sheltering in the Nuseirat refugee camp, reported the *New York Times*. At least [33 people](#) were killed.
- On July 10, 2024, a strike on a school complex that was housing displaced people near Khan Younis in southern Gaza killed at least [27 people](#) and injured 53. A remnant of a US-made [GBU-39 is clearly visible](#) in a video filmed in the strike's aftermath, according to *CNN*.
- On August 10, 2024, an Israeli strike on a school and mosque in al-Daraj killed at least 93, according to *CNN*. Remains of a [GBU-39 bomb](#) were identified from videos of the scene.
- On November 14, 2024, an Israeli strike on the Salah al-Din School [killed](#) four civilians, including two children, 13-year-old Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud Dababsh and nine or 11-year-old Anas Ahmed Abdul Rahman al-Mashharawi, per the civilian harm monitor Airwars. A [GBU-39 series](#) bomb was found at the scene.
- **MK-82 500-pound bombs** are general purpose bombs. Within a 31m radius, they [cause](#) the collapse of most buildings, severely damage heavily built concrete structures, and kill most people.
 - The Israeli military has used 500-pound bombs to strike civilian infrastructure and kill civilians. On October 6, 2024, an Israeli strike on a mosque and a school sheltering displaced people in central Gaza killed [at least 26](#), according to *Al Jazeera*. Based on remnants of a JDAM at the scene and the size of the blast, munitions expert Trevor Ball [estimated](#) that either an MK-82 or 500-lb MPR 500 was used.