



Gaza, Palestine. Photo from the U.N. Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs, WFP

Block the Bombs

The unfolding regional war between the United States, Israel, Iran, and Hezbollah has negatively impacted the civilians of Gaza who continue to lack crucial medical, food, and fuel aid. According to the [United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#), **restrictions on aid operations mounted as crossing closures were accompanied by the suspension of humanitarian movement coordination, medical evacuations, returns of residents from abroad, and staff rotations.** The closure of the crossings drove up prices and increased reliance on humanitarian assistance. Gaza's civilians continue to face grave human rights violations and inhumane humanitarian conditions. A true cease of Israeli military action is required for adequate measures of doctors, medical supplies, clean water, and food can enter and be distributed safely. While there is a ceasefire in place in the Gaza strip, [Israel violated the ceasefire agreement at least 1,620 times](#)

[from October 10, 2025 to February 10, 2026](#), through the continuation of attacks by air, artillery and direct shootings, the Government Media Office in Gaza reports. A ceasefire agreement has not proven enough to end the genocide in Gaza.

[The United States sends more than 3.8 billion dollars in weapons aid annually to Israel](#). As Christians who oppose state-sponsored violence against civilian populations, it is important that Congress hear often from their constituents that they oppose further weapons funding allocations to Israel. As of March 2026, 63 United States Representatives have signed onto H.R.3565 bill, called “Block the Bombs”. [If enacted into law, this bill would block the following weapons to Israel: BLU-109 bunker busting bombs, MK80 series bombs, GBU-39 small diameter bomb variants, Joint Direct Attack Munitions \(JDAMs\), SPICE gliding bomb assemblies, 120mm tank ammunition, and 155mm artillery ammunition, including white phosphorus munitions](#). ELCA Sumud invites you to use [this link](#) to learn if your representative has cosponsored this bill, and then take the following actions:

If your Representative **IS** a cosponsor, you are encouraged to reach out via letter or a call to their office and thank them!

If your Representative is **NOT** a cosponsor, please use the resources and script below to advocate for this bill:

[Click Here to see Cosponsors for Block the Bombs Act](#)

[Click Here to find Your Representative](#)

Advocacy Script: Block the Bombs Act

Dear [insert Representative Name here],

My name is [Your Name]. I am your constituent and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As a member

in a denomination that uplifts the sanctity of every human life, it pains me greatly to see so much of our taxpayer money being used to send weapons including BLU-109 bunker busting bombs, MK80 series bombs, GBU-39 small diameter bomb variants, Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs), SPICE gliding bomb assemblies, 120mm tank ammunition, and 155mm artillery ammunition, including white phosphorus munitions, to Israel. These offensive weapons have caused immense harm on the civilian population of Gaza, even today—nearly five months after President Trump helped to secure a ceasefire deal. It is unacceptable that the only a fraction of the medical aid, water, and food needed in Gaza is able to enter due to the Israeli military's continued use of weaponry we provide to them which endangers humanitarian operations.

We've seen too many images of dead Palestinian children, destroyed homes, and civilians starved by Israel's blockade. This has to stop.

I'm asking you today to cosponsor the Block the Bombs Act, H.R. 3565, to withhold major weapons to Israel -like the 2,000-pound bombs, 500-pound bombs, and tank ammunition, that Israel has used repeatedly in documented apparent war crimes.

The majority of Americans support withholding weapons to Israel. And as Israel continues to block aid, US law - Section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act - prohibits providing weapons to Israel. Will you promise to uplift US law and international law and join dozens of your colleagues who are already sponsoring the Block the Bombs Act?

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

**May Ecumenical Advocacy Opportunity
in DC: CMEP Summit**

From May 5-7, all are welcome and encouraged to join several ELCA bishops, rostered ministers, and Churchwide staff on the Hill for an Advocacy Summit for justice in Palestine and Israel. Hear from our very own ELCA Service and Justice Executive Director Rev. Khader Elyateem, as well as journalist Peter Beinart, and join an ecumenical group of Christians in advocating in congressional offices for justice in Palestine and Israel. Registration link below!



[Register Here!](#)

Salam Radio Station Opens This Weekend!



In a bit good news, ELCA Sumud celebrates alongside the Arab and Middle East Heritage community (ALAMEH), and Pastor Charbel Zgheib, who founded “Salam Radio”, at the radio’s grand opening this weekend. Salam Radio Station, which will broadcast out of Staten Island, is the first Arabic Christian ecumenical online radio station in the United States. They will celebrate their grand opening at Christ Lutheran Church on Staten Island Saturday, March 14th.



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