

July 7, 2022

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Chairman  
Rules Committee  
House of Representatives  
370 Cannon House Office Building

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
Armed Services Committee  
House of Representatives  
2264 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building

Dear Speaker Pelosi, and Chairmen Smith and McGovern,

As Christian faith organizations with a deep concern for the Holy Land, we urge you allow floor consideration and support passage of Representative Andre Carson's amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to require the State Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. This echoes a request already made by many members of Congress and resembles similar legislation that became law after the brutal murder of *Washington Post* reporter Jamal Khashoggi.

We believe Shireen Abu Akleh and her family deserve no less, and that the inquiry described by the State Department on July 4 was wholly inadequate. That investigation was not US-led, as a bipartisan, bicameral group of over 110 members of Congress have called for, and leaves many important questions unanswered. It also appears to have been narrowly focused on forensics, lacked transparency, and made no attempt to establish accountability for the killing.

Shireen Abu Akleh was a U.S. citizen, and her family has the right to expect that the U.S. government will vigorously pursue justice on her behalf. This proposed amendment to the NDAA will do just that, by requiring a U.S.-led investigation that identifies those responsible and assesses whether U.S. defense materials or services were used in the killing. Israeli forces have killed many journalists over the past two decades, so it is vital to obtain a clear understanding of the ways in which U.S. assistance may have contributed to this crime, to reduce the chances for U.S. complicity in these kinds of acts in the future.

Accountability for the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh is critical for bringing us back on the path toward peace. Chances for peace diminish when it appears that such transgressions can be carried out with impunity. For these reasons, we urge you to ensure the Carson amendment receives floor consideration and gets adopted in the FY23 NDAA.

We thank you for your service and commitment as we work together for justice and peace.  
Please know we are lifting you in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Baptist

American Baptist Churches USA

American Friends Service Committee

Churches for Middle East Peace

Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding Policy

Community of Christ

The Episcopal Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Franciscan Friars (ofm)-- English Speaking Conference

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

National Council of Churches

Pax Christi USA

Person2Person International

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Reformed Church in America

The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society