



Sen. Van Hollen NDAA Amendment Barring U.S. Security Funds for Annexation

CMEP supports the [amendment](#) (S. Admt 2435) filed July 2 by 13 U.S. Senators, led by Sen. Van Hollen, to bar U.S. military aid from being used by Israel to annex unilaterally parts of the West Bank. We encourage our supporters to work with the several other organizations of many faiths supporting this amendment, and to ask their Members of Congress to do likewise.

- The amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would prohibit U.S. security aid, currently around \$3.8 billion dollars a year, from being used to deploy U.S. defense articles, services, or training to territories in the West Bank if Israel unilateral annexes them. Also to prohibit those funds from facilitating a unilateral annexation.
- In other words, Israel could not use U.S. military aid - - weapons, logistics or training - - in any part of the West Bank it might annex, even if they were originally supplied elsewhere in Israel, nor could Israel use U.S. military aid to make the annexation work.
- It is a good first step. [27 U.S. church leaders, including CMEP Executive Director the Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, wrote to Congress in June](#), calling on Congress to wield its power of the purse and not allow any United States funds provided to Israel to be used for the recognition, facilitation or support of annexation.
- The Van Hollen Amendment translates that call into action. It would prevent U.S. aid from being used to implement or facilitate Annexation.
- Support for the Amendment also sends a powerful message to Israelis and Palestinians, as well as to the Trump Administration, that the American people will neither support nor accept Annexation.

Annexation would be a disaster for both Palestinians and Israelis.

- While Palestinians will bear the brunt of the harm, [Annexation](#) would actively work to discourage a peace process, create further fractures within Israeli and Palestinian civil societies, and contribute to regional instability that will make both Israelis and Palestinians less safe.
- There is wide support for the amendment among Americans opposed to unilateral annexation. [J Street](#) and several other organizations support the Van Hollen amendment. Sen. Sanders, a co-sponsor, wrote, "Israel's annexation of occupied Palestinian territory would be a disaster for human rights, international law, self-determination, and equality. American taxpayers shouldn't be supporting policies that undermine our values and interests, in Israel, in Palestine, or anywhere. We should be supporting an end to the conflict and helping build a future of security and prosperity for both peoples."

Churches for Middle East Peace Contact: Kyle Cristofalo, kyle@cmep.org



- Sen. Van Hollen, the lead sponsor wrote, “Israel’s annexation of Palestinian territory would undermine the long-held understandings between the United States, Israel, the Palestinians, and the international community, and would ultimately undermine the security of Israel itself. It will end the chance of a viable two-state solution and is a violation of international law. Neither the U.S. government nor American taxpayers should finance or facilitate this unilateral move that goes against our shared democratic values.”