

June 3, 2026

Dear Members of the U.S House of Representatives,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to ask you to co-sponsor the Lebanon War Powers Resolution (H.Con.Res. 84), and to vote for its passage when it comes to the floor. Congress must assert its role under the Constitution and the War Powers Act of 1973 to end the United States' unlawful, unauthorized participation in Israel's military hostilities against Lebanon.

Israel's ongoing air campaign and invasion of Lebanon constitute a moral atrocity, as it has killed more than 3,000 Lebanese people since March 2, and more than 5,000 overall since 2024.<sup>1</sup> Israel has killed more than 700 since the beginning of the "ceasefire" on April 17th alone.<sup>2</sup> The U.S. has long been the leading supplier of weapons for Israel, which have long been used in a wide range of attacks against civilians in Lebanon.<sup>3</sup> Israeli forces have engaged in a systematic effort to render the south of Lebanon uninhabitable,<sup>4</sup> with multiple instances of the demolition of southern villages to create what Israeli officials describe as a "buffer zone".<sup>5</sup> This effort has included demands for Shia Lebanese to leave the south and for Christian and Druze communities to expel them, a crime tantamount to ethnic cleansing which serves to reinforce Hezbollah's recruiting narrative as the protector of that group from foreign aggression.<sup>6</sup>

The United States has participated in hostilities in the current Israeli-led war in Lebanon in violation of the War Powers Act. Under Article I of the Constitution, reaffirmed in law by the War Powers Act of 1973, the President may not introduce U.S. forces into hostilities or into situations where hostilities are imminent without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization from Congress. Furthermore, under Section 8(c) of the law, the "introduction of armed forces" includes "to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such military forces are engaged, or there exists an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged, in hostilities."<sup>7</sup> Section 8(b) of the War Powers Act makes clear that U.S. participation in the command structure of any foreign military operation may require specific statutory authorization from Congress. Congress reaffirmed both of these provisions by passing S.J.Res. 7, which cited the establishment of a "Joint Combined Planning Cell with Saudi Arabia" as evidence that the U.S. was participating in hostilities in violation of the War Powers Act.<sup>8</sup>

The Trump administration actions demonstrating overt command and coordination over Israeli offensive military decisions in Lebanon arguably represents the most well documented direct U.S. participation in a foreign military's engagement in hostilities in recent decades. This U.S. role in the war in Lebanon includes "green lighting" specific Israeli military operations in Lebanon — providing approval or disapproval over

---

<sup>1</sup> "Death toll from Israeli strikes on Lebanon passes 3,000, officials say", BBC, May 18, 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cqjpeglviwjeo>.

<sup>2</sup> "Lebanon ceasefire falters as Trump pushes for Iran deal", Washington Post, May 27, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2026/05/26/lebanon-ceasefire-falters-trump-pushes-iran-deal/>.

<sup>3</sup> "Lebanon: US Arms Used in Israeli Strike on Journalists," Human Rights Watch, Nov. 25, 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/11/25/lebanon-us-arms-used-israeli-strike-journalists>; "Israel used U.S.-supplied white phosphorus in Lebanon attack," Washington Post, Dec. 11, 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2023/12/11/israel-us-white-phosphorus-lebanon/>

<sup>4</sup> "Mapping the destruction: How Israel 'wiped out' Lebanon's Bint Jbeil", Al Jazeera, April 28, 2026, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/28/mapping-the-destruction-how-israel-wiped-out-lebanons-bint-jbeil>.

<sup>5</sup> "Israel is building a 'buffer zone' inside Lebanon", NPR, April 14, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/04/14/nx-s1-5783915/israel-plans-to-create-buffer-zones-in-lebanon-and-gaza-to-protect-its-territory>.

<sup>6</sup> "Israel's Message to a Broad Swath of Lebanon: Shiites Must Go", New York Times, April 1, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/04/01/world/middleeast/lebanon-shiite-israel-evacuation.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Pub. L. 93-148, §8(c), Nov. 7, 1973, 87 Stat. 558.

<sup>8</sup> S.J. Res. 7, 116th Cong. (2019).

whether they may proceed — a defining function of military command. For example, on March 12, Israel Hayom reported that President Trump “approved the ground incursion” by Israel into Lebanon, and “also authorized expanding it if necessary.”<sup>9</sup> On April 8, Axios’ Barak Ravid reported that “without that green light from Donald Trump, you wouldn’t have seen Israel go ahead with these very massive strikes in Lebanon that ... killed 250 people.”<sup>10</sup> President Trump then issued directives to decelerate the operational tempo of the war in Lebanon on April 9, stating that “we” need to be “more low-key” in military operations in Lebanon, while Netanyahu’s chief foreign policy adviser made clear to NBC News that Trump and Netanyahu were in “complete agreement.”<sup>11</sup> The following week, Trump issued a public prohibition on further Israeli bombing, effectively “issuing an order that Israel had no choice but to obey,” an act that Axios said “would have been unthinkable under other U.S. administrations.”<sup>12</sup> Weeks later, Israel sought, and was granted, Trump’s “green light” for its May 6 strike on Beirut, and coordinated with the U.S. in advance, according to Israel’s state broadcaster Kan.<sup>13</sup>

Israeli officials made clear last week that the U.S. continues to dictate which cities and types of targets in Lebanon Israel’s military is allowed to attack, with Ynet reporting that “Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz acknowledged on Tuesday that the military did not strike Beirut because of an American veto,” and Kan reporting that “Washington ordered Israel not to strike high-rise buildings in the Dahiyeh neighborhood in southern Beirut.”<sup>14</sup> The Times of Israel reports that “Washington approved Israeli plans to expand fighting against Hezbollah in the coming days, but warned Jerusalem against striking in Beirut,” while a senior Israeli official stated that the US has given “approval for targeted assassinations in Beirut if an operational opportunity presents itself.”<sup>15</sup> This unprecedented public record of direct and overt U.S. command and coordination over Israeli hostilities in Lebanon goes alongside deep U.S.-Israel operational integration that includes critical U.S. intelligence sharing and coordination that has directly led to Israeli strikes on targets in Lebanon.<sup>16</sup> More broadly, Israeli security policy analysts also describe “a shift from traditional strategic alignment toward a more integrated operational partnership” between CENTCOM and the Israeli Defense Force in recent years, and this integration includes “closely coordinating both their military and diplomatic activities, with joint intelligence sharing” and “supporting Israeli actions against Hezbollah resupply efforts”.<sup>17</sup> Previous forensic investigations of Israeli attacks in Lebanon in 2024 found the use of U.S.-made JDAMs to strike civilian targets in Beirut, and given a lack of specific prohibitions from the White House, these weapons were also likely central to Israel’s recent attacks on the city, painting a broad picture of U.S. involvement.

---

<sup>9</sup>“Trump gave Israel green light for ground operation in Lebanon”, Israel Hayom, March 12, 2026,

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2026/03/12/trump-gave-israel-green-light-for-ground-operation-in-lebanon/>

<sup>10</sup>OutFront CNN on X, April 8, 2026, <https://x.com/OutFrontCNN/status/2042038600385360171>.

<sup>11</sup> “Netanyahu adviser says attacks on Hezbollah will continue after Trump call to scale back”, NBC News Meet the Press, April 9, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/video/netanyahu-adviser-says-israel-u-s-agree-on-lebanon-attacks-despite-trump-call-to-scale-back-261049925741>.

<sup>12</sup> “Trump ‘optimistic’ about Iran peace deal even as ceasefire appears strained”, NBC News, April 9, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/iran/trump-optimistic-iran-peace-deal-even-ceasefire-appears-strained-rcna267428>; “Trump shocked Netanyahu with post declaring Lebanon strikes ‘prohibited’”, Axios, April 17, 2026, <https://www.axios.com/2026/04/17/lebanon-strikes-israel-trump-prohibited>.

<sup>13</sup> “Source close to Hezbollah: Radwan commander assassinated in Israeli attack”, Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation, May 6, 2026, <https://www.kan.org.il/content/kan-news/defense/1038164/>; “Israel targets top Hezbollah commander in first strike in Beirut since ceasefire”, CNN, May 6, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/06/world/live-news/iran-war-trump-strait-of-hormuz?post-id=cmoucfcx7000a356uv4e4nnz4>.

<sup>14</sup> “Netanyahu and Katz acknowledge American veto preventing strikes in Beirut: ‘They are blocking it’”, Ynet Global, May 27, 2026, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/2ffxjzred>; “US gave Israel ‘tacit agreement’ to target senior Hezbollah figures”, Al-Monitor, May 26, 2026, <https://archive.ph/UnzrC>.

<sup>15</sup> “Reports: Concerned for Iran talks, US has warned Israel against striking Beirut in expanded op against Hezbollah”, Times of Israel, May 26, 2026, [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/reports-concerned-for-iran-talks-us-has-warned-israel-against-striking-beirut-in-expanded-op-against-hezbollah/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/reports-concerned-for-iran-talks-us-has-warned-israel-against-striking-beirut-in-expanded-op-against-hezbollah/); “‘Very bad news’: Israel alarmed as Trump pushes ahead toward Iran deal”, Al-Monitor, May 27, 2026, <https://archive.is/dudPX#selection-1889.0-1901.307>.

<sup>16</sup> “Israeli Intelligence Reportedly Aiding Lebanese Army in Dismantling Hezbollah”, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, May 29, 2025, <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2025/05/29/israeli-intelligence-reportedly-aiding-lebanese-army-in-dismantling-hezbollah/>.

<sup>17</sup> “From Integration to Operation: Israel’s Role in US CENTCOM”, Jewish Policy Center, Summer 2025, <https://www.jewishpolicycenter.org/2025/07/01/from-integration-to-operation-israels-role-in-us-centcom/>.

To our knowledge, the Executive Branch does not claim that the current U.S. military and intelligence role with Israel in Lebanon specifically excludes activities that Congress has considered participation in hostilities that violate Section 8(c). On May 7th, a dozen U.S. Senators formally wrote to Admiral Bradley Cooper, requesting specific information about a range of potential U.S. activities that Congress has previously viewed as violating the War Powers Act in the absence of Congressional authorization, including coordination, refueling, intelligence, support, targeting, or other assistance.<sup>18</sup> The Senators also asked whether anyone under Admiral Cooper's command had even analyzed whether the U.S. role in Israeli actions in Lebanon "violate international law, U.S. law, and the laws of armed conflict". The Senators have received no response, and the Executive Branch has offered no assurance that any U.S. role in Israeli hostilities in Lebanon complies with these statutes.

A concurrent War Powers Resolution is the appropriate legislative remedy for Congress to end unauthorized participation in hostilities, as envisioned by Section 5(c) of the War Powers Act, which states that "at any time that United States Armed Forces *are engaged in hostilities* outside the territory of the United States [...] *such forces* shall be removed by the President if the Congress so directs by concurrent resolution." [Emphasis added.] Legal scholars and Congressional leaders agree the concurrent resolution is valid and binding in the War Powers context.<sup>19</sup> War Powers Resolutions may be passed even in situations where the hostilities in question have concluded, as happened before Congress passed War Powers Resolutions in 2020 after Trump's strikes on Iran, and when Congress passed the Sanders-Lee-Murphy Yemen War Powers Resolution in 2019 to prohibit Pentagon refueling of Saudi warplanes bombing Yemen in the middle of their bombing runs, after the Administration announced that such Pentagon refueling operations had ceased.<sup>20</sup> And as Section 5(c) makes clear, the removal clause of H.Con.Res. 84 applies only to those forces "engaged in hostilities" — not to activities such as routine protection of U.S. diplomatic facilities or training of foreign military forces in ways that do not violate Section 8(c). This means that the Lebanon War Powers Resolution will exclusively end U.S. participation in Israeli hostilities against Lebanon, and has no legal effect on any other U.S. activity in Lebanon unrelated to these hostilities.

As the White House continues to wage unauthorized and illegal wars in the Middle East that kill U.S. servicemembers and countless innocent civilians, and cause economic hardship both in the U.S. and around the world, we urge you to forcefully reassert your role under Article I of the Constitution and pass H.Con.Res. 84, the Lebanon War Powers Resolution.

Sincerely,

---

<sup>18</sup> "Welch Leads Eleven Colleagues in Demanding Answers about U.S. and Israeli Military's Adherence to International Law in the Middle East", Sen. Peter Welch, May 7, 2026, <https://www.welch.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Welch-Letter-Lebanon-050426.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> "Pelosi Made the Right Choice on Iran", The American Prospect, January 13, 2020, <https://prospect.org/2020/01/13/pelosi-made-the-right-choice-on-iran/> (The "veto-proof system of concurrent resolution [was] endorsed by the bipartisan coalition that enacted the [War Powers Act] by overwhelming majorities in 1973" and "has a solid foundation in the constitutional text and principles affirmed two centuries earlier in 1787."); "Engel Floor Remarks on War Powers Resolution," House Foreign Affairs Committee chair Eliot Engel, January 9, 2020, <https://archive.ph/8xuAn> ("We don't get authority over war powers if the President says so. We get authority over war powers, period.")

<sup>20</sup> "House Passes War Powers Resolution In Effort To Restrict Trump's Actions Against Iran," NPR, Jan. 9, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2020/01/09/794999691/house-passes-war-powers-resolution-in-effort-to-restrict-trumps-actions-against>; "House Votes to Halt Aid for Saudi Arabia's War in Yemen," NYT, Feb. 13, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/13/us/politics/yemen-war-saudi-arabia.html>

A New Policy  
 Action Corps  
 ActionAid USA  
 Afghans For A Better Tomorrow  
 American Friends Service Committee  
 American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
 Antiwar.com  
 Arab American Civic Council  
 Arab American Heritage Council  
 Arab American Institute (AAI)  
 Arab Caucus of the North Carolina Democratic Party  
 Arab Resource & Organizing Center Action (AROC  
 Action)  
 CAIR Action  
 Center for Islamic Life at Rutgers University  
 Christian-Jewish Allies for a Just Peace for  
 Israel/Palestine  
 Cleveland Peace Action  
 CODEPINK  
 CODEPINK Detroit  
 Common Defense  
 Community Alliance for Peace and Justice  
 Defending Rights & Dissent  
 Demand Progress  
 Democratic Socialists of America  
 Detroit Anti-War Committee  
 Doctors Against Genocide  
 Flint Alliance for Immigrant Rights (FAIR)  
 Fresno Free Press  
 Friend of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)  
 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)  
 Global Exchange  
 Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of  
 Christ) and United Church of Christ  
 Hind Rajab Foundation  
 Hindus for Human Rights Action  
 IfNotNow Movement  
 IMEU Policy Project  
 Indiana Center for Middle East Peace  
 Indivisible  
 Institute for Policy Studies, New Internationalism  
 Project  
 Jewish Voice for Peace Action  
 Just Foreign Policy  
 Justice Democrats  
 Justice is Global  
 Justice4Palestine - Actions Enablement Network (J4P)  
 MADRE  
 Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego  
 Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
 Migrant Roots Media  
 Minnesota Peace Project  
 MPower Change Action Fund  
 Muslim Civic Coalition  
 Muslims for Just Futures  
 National Iranian American Council (NIAC)  
 National Nurses United  
 New Hampshire Peace Action  
 New Mexico Alliance for Justice in Palestine  
 NYC Metro Raging Grannies  
 Orange County for Justice in Palestine  
 Our Revolution  
 Pax Christi New York State  
 Peace Action  
 Peace Action New York State  
 Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!  
 Pennsylvania National Iranian American Council  
 Philly Neighborhood Networks  
 Pittsburgh Palestine Solidarity Committee  
 Progressive Democrats of America  
 Progressive Democrats of America - Central New  
 Mexico  
 Progressive Peace Coalition  
 Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft  
 Rabbis for Ceasefire  
 Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice  
 ReThinking Foreign Policy  
 RootsAction  
 Showing Up For Racial Justice - Bay Area  
 SWIM - StateWide Indivisible Michigan  
 The American Council for Judaism  
 The Justice Coalition  
 The People's Coalition  
 The United Methodist Church - General Board of  
 Church and Society  
 Union Square Women in Black, NYC  
 Unite for Peace NYC  
 United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)  
 Veterans For Peace  
 Veterans For Peace Chapter 74 – Metro Detroit  
 Washington for Peace and Justice  
 Western PA Coalition for Single Payer Healthcare  
 WILPF-US  
 Women for Weapons Trade Transparency  
 Women in Black  
 World BEYOND War  
 Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation