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CIP Assessment of Supplemental Emergency Aid Package

The Center for International Policy applauds President Biden's request to Congress for more than \$60 billion in additional security aid to Ukraine to help it defend its people and territory against illegal and brutal Russian aggression and occupation. As the president has rightly noted, supporting Ukraine in its fight to repel an expansionist Russian invasion and its associated crimes against humanity is necessary to bolster and defend global security and an international rules-based order against militarism and anti-democracy. In contrast, the proposal by House Republicans to separate aid to Ukraine from aid to Israel — as well as cynically using the emergency aid package as a vehicle to defund an Internal Revenue Service [effort](#) to ensure wealthy individuals and corporations pay owed taxes — is a dangerous abdication of American responsibility and values in the face of aggressive challenges to international peace and of hardships here at home.

We also commend the president's request for more than \$9 billion in humanitarian relief for civilians impacted by the wars in Ukraine and Israel-Palestine. This vital aid reflects both the values and smart power the United States should center in its foreign policy — and its total omission from the House Republican bill is another indefensible feature of that dangerous partisan legislation.

At the same time, we are concerned about the massive difference in the amount the president's proposal is likely to make available for Palestinian aid and the approximately \$14 billion in military subsidies it provides to the Israeli government. Sending Palestinians humanitarian aid that totals only a small fraction of the amount being spent on additional arms to Israel suggests a troubling disparity in how the United States values Palestinian and Israeli lives.

As numerous Israeli security experts have made clear, Israel's failure to prevent Hamas' [brutal and illegal](#) October 7 attack wasn't due to lack of weapons or resources — it was a failure of the Israeli government's intelligence and command and control systems meant to detect and repel any such attack. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government ignored the dire situation in Gaza, prioritizing [sending military personnel and assets to assist far right settlers in its voting base](#) with the harassment of Palestinian communities, demolitions, outpost legalizations, and even missions to take down Palestinian flags in the West Bank, leaving Israel's south poorly defended. Moreover, multiple officials in Netanyahu's extremist pro-settlement government have made [statements](#) pledging or endorsing population transfers, permanent occupation or annexation in Gaza and the West Bank both before and in response to the attack, including officials in one ministry drafting a memo [proposing](#) the relocation of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip outside of the territory — one of the most serious violations of the law of armed conflict.

Given this record and risk of further Israeli misallocation and misuse of US-supported military forces, coupled with an egregious proportion of civilian casualties and outright promises by officials to violate the law of armed conflict and other international law, Congress and the president must include binding, enforceable provisions to prevent US arms provided to Israel in this package from being used in connection with attempts to displace Palestinian civilians, permanently occupy land in the Palestinian Territories or otherwise violate Palestinian rights. Especially alongside a major initiative to help Ukraine's fight against Russian occupation and annexation, it would be deeply hypocritical and grossly negligent not to ensure that military assistance given to Israel is used in its actual defense, rather than to violate Palestinian human rights and permanently take over Palestinian land, deepening the underlying conflict that has led to the horrors of recent weeks.