



[Latest Announced U.S. Weapons Sales to Israel Draw Criticism Due to Numerous Concerns](#)

Late last week, the U.S. State Department formally notified Congress of its intent to move forward with the sale of more than \$8 billion in weapons to Israel. The decision has elicited unease due to a multitude of legitimate concerns. Firstly, in announcing the move, the Trump administration bypassed a Congressional review process that had been underway in a U.S. House committee. U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY), a ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs committee, condemned the circumventing of Congress as a blatant disregard for long-standing prerogative and also outlined the Trump administration's failure to provide sufficient documentation or justification for bypassing the Congressional review process. Secondly, and of particular alarm, the planned weapons sales are believed to include the controversial Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb – often colloquially referred to as the “mother of all bombs” – a weapon capable of destroying underground bunkers and leveling vast areas. Peace advocates have been quick to point out that this raises serious concerns about the risk of further escalations in the Middle East and emboldening Israel to engage in potential strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities given the state of heightened tensions between Israel and Iran. Previous U.S. administrations had all refused to provide Israel with this munition, and thus, a change in policy could have a devastating and harmful effect on the prospect of peace and stability in the region. Lastly, the continual supplying of weapons to Israel in general despite overwhelming evidence of their use in Israeli war crimes and human rights violations is itself troubling as well.

In the most recent planned sale of U.S. weapons to Israel, the full scope of details is still unknown, however, several reports have cited the potential inclusion of MOABs. This is something that would be especially worrying at a time like this due to the current volatility of the Middle East, including the elevated tensions between Israel and Iran. MOABs are designed to be able to destroy deep underground facilities, such as those linked to Iran's nuclear weapons production, and because of this, analysts suspect that Israel would use them to carry out these types of attacks targeting Iran's underground uranium enrichment sites. Doing so would almost certainly lead to a direct and deadly confrontation between the two that could also drag in other countries like the United States. Observers have highlighted that, for years dating back to the early 2000s, Israel has requested MOABs but this has consistently been denied by the previous administrations of George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden. Now, if true, the change has prompted some former U.S. officials to [express](#) grave concern regarding the negative impact it would have on worsening conflict and hostilities in the region. The MOAB is also scary because of how it [operates](#). The bomb explodes before hitting the ground, which creates a pressure wave that extends for miles in every direction, and would therefore undeniably kill and injure civilians. Organizations like Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) have [condemned](#) the possible MOAB sale to Israel, calling it “a dangerous escalation in the militarization of an already volatile region.” The group has documented how explosive weapons like MOABs affect civilians disproportionately in urban areas.

The announcement of the latest plan for additional weapons sales comes at a time of uncertainty and fragility, due to a delicate Gaza ceasefire deal that has yet to reach its second phase, in conjunction with President Trump's widely condemned proposal for the United States to take over the territory and for Palestinians to be forcibly displaced. It also takes place after Trump recently lifted the hold on the supplying of 2,000-pound bombs to Israel back in late January. Originally, the Biden administration had paused the shipment over concerns of potential mass

civilian deaths. The latest U.S. weapons sales are intended to be provided in two separate packages. The first would be for a myriad of munitions, guidance kits, and other related equipment. Among other things, it [reportedly](#) includes “166 small-diameter bombs, 2,800 500-pound bombs, and thousands of guidance kits, fuses, and other bomb components and support equipment” – all of which would begin shipping this year. The second package consists of 3,000 hellfire missiles and related equipment for \$660 million. Those will not begin shipping until 2028, as the equipment requires further training from the United States military.

The United States accounts for [roughly 66%](#) of all the weapons sold to Israel – munitions which impartial experts contend have been used to commit egregious war crimes and human rights violations. This has led analysts to [say](#) that there are “no moral arguments that can justify the continued sale of weapons to Israel by states that respect the principle of the universality of human rights.” Yet, arms sales and transfers have persisted nevertheless, largely from countries like the United States, Germany, and Italy. What makes the repeated flow of weapons particularly problematic is the clear evidence of their use to indiscriminately target civilians and non-combatant infrastructure – something that has led the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and his former defense minister. There is also an ongoing genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), however despite all of this, weapons sales have continued on a consistent basis.

Since the onset of the Gaza War back in October of 2023, a notable movement has taken shape both in the United States and globally calling for a curtailing of weapons sales to Israel. Many commentators have sought to draw attention to how the constant supplying of arms has enabled Israeli forces to carry out heinous war crimes and human rights violations. With that in mind, many rights groups have demanded that the United States and others end their complicity in this. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam, and many more have documented the indiscriminate use of weapons against civilians in Gaza, and have thus initiated efforts aimed at pressuring governments around the world to stop arming Israel with weaponry that is knowingly being used in this manner.