

APN message to the Senators/Staff on S. Res. 6 (January 4, 2017)

Dear ,

The Senate is poised to vote on the [Rubio-Cardin resolution](#), objecting to the Obama Administration's recent abstention in the UN Security Council on a resolution related to Israeli settlements. On behalf of Americans for Peace Now, the veteran American pro-peace, Zionist organization, I am writing to urge your boss to vote "NO" on this very problematic resolution.

The Rubio-Cardin resolution purports to be about defending Israel and supporting peace. In reality, it is about preventing even legitimate criticism of Israeli actions – actions that are antithetical to Israel's own interests – and changing U.S. policy to support settlements. Moreover, this resolution unfairly slams the Obama Administration's action, misrepresents longstanding U.S. policy, and mischaracterizes the abstention in the Security Council as a betrayal of Israel.

The resolution adopted by the Security Council is, in fact, pro-Israel in the deepest sense of the term – supporting Israel's existence and security, and standing against those who, for the sake of an ideologically motivated expansionist agenda, would sacrifice both. In substance it is also consistent with longstanding U.S. policy – upheld by presidents from both parties – opposing Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and with previous Security Council resolutions adopted under presidents from both parties.

"Pro-Israel" does not mean blindly supporting policies – even if they are supported by some in Israel and some in the Jewish community – that are irrational, reckless, and counter-productive. Pro-Israel means supporting policies that are consistent with Israel's interests and promote its survival as a Jewish, democratic state. Longstanding U.S. opposition to settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is one example of a genuinely pro-Israel policy; permitting passage by the Security Council resolutions that are supportive of Israel's existence and security, and also challenge Israel's settlement policies, are another.

I urge your boss to show real support for Israel by opposing the Rubio-Cardin resolution and any other efforts to reverse U.S. policy and give political cover to or support for Israel's self-destructive settlement enterprise.

Sincerely,

Lara Friedman
Director, Policy & Government Relations
Americans for Peace Now

PS: Contrary to one of the core premises of the Rubio-Cardin resolution, prior to the recent vote in the Security Council there was never a longstanding policy of preventing passage of resolutions in the Security Council critical of Israel or pertaining to the settlements or other Israeli-Palestinian issues. To the contrary: prior to President Obama, every U.S. president since 1967 has abstained on or voted in favor of multiple resolutions critical of Israel, including resolutions to which Israel strenuously objected, when those resolutions were consistent with U.S. policy. You can review for yourself [the history of U.S. votes](#) on such resolutions, and you can also read clear [analysis](#) of this data, published in the New York Times earlier this year.