

From: e-Dear Colleague
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010
To:
Subject: ForeignAffairs: Dear Colleague: Support Israel's Right to Self-Defense

Support Israel's Right to Self-Defense

From: The Honorable Ron Klein
Sent By: mira.kogen@mail.house.gov
Date: 2/22/2010

SUPPORT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SELF- DEFENSE

THE GOLDSTONE REPORT

DOES NOT BELONG AT THE ICJ

Current co-signers: Klein, Burton, McMahon, Berkley, Kirk, McClintock, Schiff, Engel, Shuler

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, an anticipated resolution to refer the Goldstone Report to the Security Council, and ultimately to the International Court of Justice, is expected to come up for a vote in the UN General Assembly in the coming days.

The Goldstone Report, formally known as the "Report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict," was commissioned by the UN Human Rights Council after Israel's Operation Cast Lead. Operation Cast Lead was undertaken to stop Hamas rocket fire from Gaza into Israel, and the Goldstone Report dismissed the terrorist threat that Israel faces every day.

We believe that the correct venue for investigating issues related to Operation Cast Lead lies within the independent and impartial Israeli justice system itself. The Security Council and the International Court of Justice are not the appropriate venues for the discussion of the Goldstone Report. Referral to the Security Council or the International Court of Justice would be extremely

troubling and would threaten to undermine the renewal of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks at a critical time.

I will be sending a letter to Secretary Clinton, urging the administration to continue its efforts around the world to prevent the referral of the Goldstone Report to the International Court of Justice. We must communicate with other countries that defending Israel's right to self-defense is an important American foreign policy priority.

I invite you to join me in sending this time-sensitive letter to Secretary Clinton. Please contact Mira Kogen Resnick of my office (mira.kogen@mail.house.gov or 5-3026) by **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd COB** to co-sign the letter.

I look forward to working with you as we help the administration to change the status quo at the United Nations and support their continued efforts to prevent multilateral institutions from being tainted by an anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic agenda that questions the legitimacy of Israel's right to self-defense.

Kindest regards,

RON KLEIN

Member of Congress

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We are writing to thank you for leading the Obama Administration's strong opposition to the biased and dangerous "Report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict," otherwise known as the Goldstone Report. We remain concerned, however, that nations which do not share the United States' vision of a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will continue to use the Report as a tool to delegitimize Israel and sabotage the peace process. Accordingly, we urge you to maintain your strong leadership on this issue and continue working to prevent these unjust attacks against Israel.

As you know, on January 29, 2010, the Israeli government submitted to the United Nations a 46-page response to the Goldstone Report outlining the steps it has taken to investigate charges of wrongdoing by its military during

Operation Cast Lead, which was undertaken to stop Hamas rocket fire from Gaza into Israel. The Israeli report addresses the allegations of the Goldstone Report and details the investigations, legal proceedings and lessons learned from the Gaza offensive. The Israeli response demonstrates that Israel is sufficiently prepared to investigate its own actions using existing impartial and independent mechanisms.

We know you share our concerns about an anticipated UN General Assembly resolution that is expected to refer the Goldstone Report to the Security Council, and ultimately to the International Court of Justice. This is an extremely troubling development that threatens to undermine the renewal of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks at a critical time, and is counterproductive to our foreign policy goals. The Security Council and the International Court of Justice are not the appropriate venues for the discussion of the Goldstone Report. We believe that the correct venue for investigating issues related to Operation Cast Lead lies within the world-class Israeli justice system itself.

We share your commitment to a secure and lasting peace in the Middle East, and we applaud you for making it clear that the United States is seeking to change the status quo at the United Nations. We support your continued efforts to prevent multilateral institutions from being tainted by an anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic agenda that questions the legitimacy of Israel's right to self-defense.

We urge you to continue communicating to your counterparts around the world that defending the right to self-defense for Israel, the United States, and all free democracies is an important American foreign policy priority. We must ensure that our allies help us to prevent the referral of the Goldstone Report to the International Court of Justice -- therefore jeopardizing the peace process. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,