

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful



**Council on American-Islamic Relations**

453 New Jersey Ave. S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20003

Tele 202-488-8787 Fax 202-488-0833

E-mail: [info@cair.com](mailto:info@cair.com) URL [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com)

June 9, 2026

**The Honorable Roger F. Wicker**

Chairman

Committee on Armed Services

United States Senate

**The Honorable Jack Reed**

Ranking Member

Committee on Armed Services

United States Senate

**Re: CAIR Opposes Section 224 and Any Similar U.S.-Israel Defense Technology Integration Provisions in the FY2027 NDAA**

Dear Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee:

On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, we urge you to oppose any provision in the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would establish or expand a permanent U.S.-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative, including language substantially similar to Section 224 of the House Armed Services Committee's adopted FY2027 NDAA.

Section 224 does not appear in a vacuum. The provision is substantially similar to legislation previously introduced as the United States-Israel FUTURES Act (S. 3855), which sought to establish a permanent framework for expanded U.S.-Israel defense technology cooperation and integration. Rather than advancing as stand-alone legislation subject to full congressional debate, substantially similar language is now being advanced through the NDAA process. Congress should not use must-pass defense legislation to institutionalize a long-term military integration framework with a foreign government.

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As the Committee prepares to mark up the FY2027 NDAA, Congress should reject efforts to further integrate America's military research, weapons development, procurement systems, artificial intelligence capabilities, and emerging defense technologies with those of the Israeli government. Such proposals raise profound questions about U.S. sovereignty, congressional authority over war and foreign policy, strategic independence, accountability, and the risk of future military entanglements.

These concerns are particularly acute because the proposed integration is being advanced at a time when Israel faces credible allegations of genocide, apartheid, war crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, and the unlawful targeting of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories. Major human rights organizations, U.N. experts, and international legal authorities have documented grave abuses in Gaza and raised serious concerns about Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Israel's military actions have raised serious concerns far beyond Gaza. In Lebanon, U.N. officials and human rights organizations have warned that attacks on civilian infrastructure, healthcare facilities, rescue workers, and displaced populations constitute war crimes. Israeli military operations and the unauthorized U.S.-Israeli war against Iran since 2025 and 2026 brought the region to the brink of a wider war, risking catastrophic consequences for millions and further destabilizing an already volatile Middle East. These actions underscore the danger of further integrating U.S. military resources and strategic decision-making with a foreign government engaged in multiple ongoing conflicts.

International organizations, U.N. agencies, human rights groups, and other independent observers have also documented widespread concerns regarding the treatment of Palestinian prisoners, including child prisoners. Reports have detailed allegations of torture, rape, sexual abuse, degrading treatment, denial of due process, prolonged detention without charge, and other serious violations of international law. Restrictions on humanitarian aid, including food and medical supplies entering Gaza, have contributed to famine conditions, widespread malnutrition, and preventable civilian deaths. These realities underscore the need for accountability, not deeper military integration.

Congress should also consider the continuing pattern of American citizens being killed by Israeli forces or illegal Israeli settlers operating with impunity in the occupied Palestinian territories. The killings of Americans such as Shireen Abu Akleh, Omar Assad, Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, Omar Mohammad Rabea, Sayfollah "Saif" Musallet, and others have raised serious concerns regarding accountability and equal protection under the law. Congress should be demanding justice for American victims, not creating new mechanisms to further integrate U.S. military and defense technology infrastructure with the government responsible for these actions.

Derived from the framework proposed in S. 3855, Section 224 would move beyond traditional security cooperation and establish a framework for expanded collaboration in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber capabilities, advanced weapons development, battlefield networking, and other emerging technologies. Once established, these integration

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mechanisms could become difficult for future Congresses to unwind and could further align American military planning and technology policy with the priorities of a foreign government.

Congress should also consider whether Section 224 increases the risk of future U.S. entanglement in regional conflicts. Americans have already witnessed the consequences of the unauthorized U.S.-Israeli war against Iran and repeated regional escalations that have brought the Middle East closer to a broader conflict. Congress should not create permanent structures that could increase pressure on future administrations to support additional military actions, weaken congressional war powers, or draw the United States deeper into conflicts that do not serve core American interests.

**Congress should reject Section 224 and any similar proposal outright. The following questions highlight why lawmakers should be deeply concerned about establishing a permanent framework for military integration with the Israeli government:**

- Why are existing U.S.-Israel defense cooperation authorities insufficient?
- Why should Congress deepen military integration with a government accused of genocide, apartheid, war crimes, crimes against humanity, torture, and other serious human rights abuses?
- Could jointly developed technologies be used in military operations that contribute to unlawful civilian harm, violations of international humanitarian law, or the further entrenchment of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory?
- How would this initiative affect America's strategic independence and ability to conduct foreign policy based on U.S. interests rather than the priorities of a foreign government?
- What safeguards exist to ensure that deeper integration does not increase the likelihood of future U.S. involvement in conflicts initiated by Israel?
- Is further military integration consistent with the spirit of longstanding U.S. nonproliferation laws when Israel maintains an undeclared nuclear weapons arsenal outside the normal framework of international transparency and inspection?

The United States has already provided Israel with billions of dollars in military assistance and extensive defense cooperation despite its ongoing actions in Gaza, the occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon, and Iran. At a time when Americans are struggling with rising housing costs, healthcare expenses, and economic uncertainty, Congress should not be committing additional taxpayer dollars to deepen military integration with Israel. Congress should be reassessing that relationship and demanding accountability and not working to create new

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pathways for deeper integration that could further entangle the United States in regional conflicts and Israeli war crimes.

We respectfully urge members of the Senate Armed Services Committee to oppose any provision that would establish, authorize, or expand a permanent U.S.-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative or any substantially similar framework in the FY2027 NDAA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. McCaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert S. McCaw  
Government Affairs Department Director  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

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