AL GREEN 9 TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 2347 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225-7508 Fax: (202) 225-2947

HOUSTON DISTRICT OFFICE: 3003 S. LOOP WEST, SUITE 460 HOUSTON, TX 77054 (713) 383-9234 FAX: (713) 383-9202 algreen.house.gov Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-4309



RANKING MEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS

MEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & MONETARY POLICY

MEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIGITAL ASSETS, FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY, AND INCLUSION

April 20, 2024

RE: Why I voted no on The Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024

Mr. Speaker, Israel suffered a tragic loss on October 7, 2023. The people of Israel are in mourning. The lives of innocent civilian Israeli men, women, and especially children matter. They must be protected. This includes the hostages, all of whom must be immediately returned in tandem with a lasting ceasefire as the genesis of a two-state solution.

After the horrific human rights violations committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, the Netanyahu administration had just cause catalyzing a de jure right to pursue justice as it did by declaring war on Hamas, **not** hundreds of thousands of innocent civilian Palestinian men, women, and especially children.

To the contrary, and shamefully, Prime Minister Netanyahu has engaged in an unjust, revengeful, might-makes-right offense, creating more enemies than have been killed. He has engaged in lethal atrocities wherein the ends of destroying Hamas justifies:

- Killing thousands of innocent civilian Palestinian children;
- Collectively harming thousands upon thousands of innocent civilian Palestinian men, women, and especially children;
- Failing to properly aid hundreds of thousands of food-deprived Palestinians; and
- Committing domicide by destroying approximately 62% of Palestinian homes in Gaza, as well as damaging at least 84% of Gaza's health facilities, together with over 275 schools.

It has become intuitively and painfully obvious to me that Prime Minister Netanyahu's definition of "the right to defend" embraces an invidious ends-justifies-the-means strategy. This imprudent and unjust strategy of domicide, collective harm, and failure to feed the hungry, in tandem with the killing of thousands of innocent Palestinian children, cannot in good conscience receive a blind eye.

No one, no political entity, no country can commit such atrocious injustices in the name of justice and expect the blessings of people of good will. Injustice in the name of justice is still an injustice. Israel's de jure right (in the hands of Prime Minister Netanyahu) to defend itself in the name of justice has metamorphosed into unconscionable de facto human rights violations that offend the conscience and grievously tarnishes Israel's global image. In truth, Prime Minister Netanyahu's might makes right, by any means necessary - war - is making Israel an existential threat to Palestinians living in Gaza.

I cannot in good conscience oppose the above-cited atrocious transgressions and contemporaneously provide the munitions which can beget more of these God-awful inhumanities. Sadly, but righteously, I cannot vote to send the pending billions of supplemental funds to the opprobrious administration of Prime Minister Netanyahu. To do so would allow those funds, or free up other funds in their treasury, to purchase the lethality to kill more innocent civilian Palestinian men, women, and especially children, which I oppose. Palestinians (like Israelis) are in mourning, and the lives of innocent civilian Palestinian men, women, and especially children matter. <u>They too must be protected.</u>

For the reasons enumerated above, I voted no on The Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024.

Sincerely,

Al Green Member of Congress

Scion of the Enslaved Africans – Sacrificed to Make America Great

Progenitor of August 20th as Slavery Remembrance Day