

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 797

Requesting information on Israel's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2026

Mr. WELCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Requesting information on Israel's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Whereas Israeli military operations in Lebanon during the 2026 war have been characterized by the destruction of thousands of civilian homes, residential buildings, and religious sites, and by mass evacuation orders resulting in the displacement of more than 1,000,000 people;

Whereas, according to Lebanon's National Council for Scientific Research, since February 28, 2026, Israeli operations across Lebanon have destroyed or damaged more than 60,000 housing units;

Whereas press reports indicate that Israel Defense Forces have used bulldozers and controlled demolitions to destroy dozens of centuries-old villages, mosques, and

churches across southern Lebanon, with the New York Times reporting the controlled destruction of “at least two dozen towns and villages near the border, with damage to government offices as well as civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals and mosques”;

Whereas the destruction of civilian homes in Lebanon has been enabled by the imposition of unilaterally declared “evacuation zones,” which have displaced more than 1,000,000 people, including 700,000 who were forcibly displaced from a single Beirut neighborhood;

Whereas Israeli officials have spoken of occupying a “security zone” and indefinitely occupying Lebanon to the Litani River;

Whereas Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the destruction of property by occupying powers “except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations”;

Whereas the “extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly” is a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and a war crime under section 2441 of title 18, United States Code; and

Whereas intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects is a war crime: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ISRAEL’S**
 3 **HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.**

4 (a) STATEMENT REQUESTED.—The Senate requests
 5 that the Secretary of State, not later than 30 days after
 6 the date of the adoption of this resolution, submit to the

1 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the
2 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
3 tives, pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assist-
4 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)), a statement re-
5 garding Israel’s human rights practices that has been pre-
6 pared in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of
7 State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the
8 Office of the Legal Adviser.

9 (b) ELEMENTS.—The statement submitted under
10 subsection (a) should include—

11 (1) all available credible information concerning
12 alleged violations of internationally recognized
13 human rights by the Government of Israel since
14 February 28, 2026, including—

15 (A) the full scale and scope of the Israeli
16 government’s destruction of homes and civilian
17 infrastructure in Lebanon since February 28,
18 2026, including the destruction of religious,
19 educational, and medical facilities, and the
20 razing of objects indispensable to the survival of
21 the civilian population, including farmland and
22 orchards; and

23 (B) an assessment of civilian casualties in
24 unilaterally imposed “evacuation zones” and the
25 denial of the right to life in the context of the

1 armed conflict in Lebanon caused by indiscrimi-
2 nate or disproportionate operations in such
3 zones, including the use of so-called “double
4 tap” strikes on civilians; and

5 (2) other information with regard to operations
6 by the Israeli armed forces in Lebanon since Feb-
7 ruary 28, 2026, including—

8 (A) an assessment of whether United
9 States-provided bulldozers, munitions, and de-
10 fense articles or services have been used in
11 mass destruction or demolition operations, or
12 civilian harm incidents in Lebanon;

13 (B) a description of any actions taken by
14 the Secretary of State to solicit a determination
15 from the Office of the Legal Adviser of whether
16 actions by the Government of Israel in Lebanon
17 present risks of violating international humani-
18 tarian law or of constituting war crimes or
19 gross violations of human rights for purposes of
20 compliance with the Foreign Assistance Act of
21 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.); and

22 (C) a description of any actions taken by
23 the Secretary of State to seek information and
24 a determination on whether Israel’s operations
25 in Lebanon violate Israel’s assurances to the

1 United States Government that United States-
2 provided defense articles and services would be
3 used in accordance with international humani-
4 tarian law and for “legitimate self-defense”.

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