

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Northrop Grumman located in Mojave, CA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to NATO.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-57

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

#### Annex Item No. vii

##### (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This sale includes sensitive classified and unclassified spare components to sustain the aircraft, engine, and AN/APG-68 Synthetic Aperture Radar.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advance capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that NATO can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to NATO.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended,

we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-45, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-45

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Ukraine.

(II) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$0  
Other \$100 million.  
Total \$100 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
None.

Non-MDE: Equipment and services for sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and/or Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), as well as other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UP-B-KUP, UP-B-KWA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc. Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technologies Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 16, 2024.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—Blanket Order Sustainment of U.S. Army Supplied Systems

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services for sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and/or Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), as well as other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

Ukraine has an urgent need to strengthen local sustainment capabilities to maintain high operational rates for U.S.-provided vehicles and weapon systems. This sustainment support will directly contribute to Ukraine's battlefield effectiveness through improved logistics and will contribute to more resilient and rapid repair cycle times.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be determined from approved vendors. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Ukraine.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### VERMONT SHOOTING

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, on November 25, 2023, three Palestinian American students—Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad—were shot by a local resident while they were walking along a quiet street in Burlington, VT. The three friends had gone to Burlington to celebrate Thanksgiving with Hisham's uncle and grandmother, who lives there. Instead, shots rang out, and they fell to the ground bleeding, for no apparent reason other than that they were speaking a mix of Arabic and English and wearing Palestinian kaffiyehs. Hisham was paralyzed from the chest down and now uses a wheelchair.

This despicable crime shocked and outraged Vermont. This despicable act of violence is a tragic reminder that even relatively tranquil and tolerant communities like Burlington cannot escape the curse of Islamophobia, racism, and other forms of hate, such as anti-Semitism and homophobia. We all have a responsibility to speak out against hatred, extremism, intolerance, and stereotypes that divide our communities and can lead to violence.

The alleged perpetrator of this senseless attack was quickly arrested and is in jail awaiting trial. We can be reasonably confident that justice will be done. But the lives of Hisham, Kinnan and Tahseen have been changed forever.

One of the things that is especially insidious about this crime is that if these three young Palestinians had been shot and wounded or killed back home in the West Bank, the chances that anyone would be arrested or appropriately punished is next to zero, nor would they have access to anything remotely resembling the quality of medical care Hisham is receiving in this country.

Hisham wrote about his experience and what daily life is like for Palestinians in the West Bank in a moving guest essay published in the New York Times on May 16, 2024. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD. I encourage all Senators read it.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[May 16, 2024]

I WAS SHOT IN VERMONT. WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN IN THE WEST BANK?

(BY HISHAM AWARTANI)

That frigid autumn night in Burlington, Vt., was not the first time I had stared down the barrel of a gun. It was not even the first time I had been fired at. Half a world away, in the West Bank, it had happened before.

On a hot day in May 2021, a classmate and I, both of us 17 at the time, were protesting near a checkpoint in Ramallah. Bullets, both rubber and metal, were flying into the crowd, even though we were unarmed. I was

hit with one of the former; my classmate, the latter. Before, we had been students cramming for our chemistry final; then, on the other side of Israeli rifles, we were a mass of terrorists, disqualified from humanity.

So that night in November, when my two friends and I were shot while we were walking on North Prospect Street, I was not particularly surprised to find myself lying on the lawn of a white house and blood splattered across the screen of my phone. Back home in Ramallah, I knew that I was one wrong move away from bleeding out; Israeli soldiers have been known to prevent or hinder paramedics from tending to injured Palestinians. But I had never expected to feel this on a quiet street in Vermont, on a stroll before Thanksgiving dinner.

The shooting of three Palestinian Americans in Burlington has received more sustained coverage than any single act of violence against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank since Oct. 7. Why did reporters and news channels interview our mothers and take our portraits when young men my age have been shot at by snipers, detained indefinitely without trial and treated as a statistic? It's a question that has eaten away at me these past months. Was it the shock of such a violent crime in peaceful Vermont? Was it that my friends and I went to well-known American colleges? Did the timing of our shooting during a holiday weekend play a role? I'm sure it did, but to me, the determining factor is the renaming of the crime: Instead of settlements, the Oslo Accords or the intifada, the conversation around our shooting involved terms such as "gun violence," "hate crimes" and "right-wing extremism." Instead of being maimed in Arab streets, we were shot in small-town America. Instead of being seen as Palestinians, for once, we were seen as people.

Death and dehumanization are status quo for Palestinians. We grow used to being funneled through checkpoints and strip-searched, assault rifles trained on us all the while. The result is a constant existential calculus: If an unarmed autistic man, an 8-year-old boy and a journalist wearing a vest emblazoned "Press" could be perceived to be such a threat that they were shot dead, then I must accept that by existing as a Palestinian, I am a legitimate target.

This dynamic was so ubiquitous to me that I could not quite put it into words until I left the West Bank to attend college in the United States. My classes gave me the vocabulary to understand dehumanization, the portrayal of the colonized as a violent primitive. I realized that the infrastructure of the occupation—the checkpoints, the detentions, the armed settlers encroaching—is built around the violence I am assumed to be capable of, not who I am.

This system of othering—Israeli-only roads, fenced-off settlements, the "security" wall—is an inherent part of the Israeli state psyche. Yet far from ensuring Israelis' safety, it instead inflicts mass humiliation on Palestinians. Close to half of the Palestinians alive today were born after the violence of the second intifada, and have interacted with Israelis only in the confines of the security apparatus built in its wake. The military apparatus in my home in the West Bank is a judge, jury and executioner. While settlers in the West Bank are subject to Israeli civilian law, Palestinians are subject to military law. It is as if we are all already combatants.

The dehumanization we face is twofold: Beyond the day-to-day aspects of our lives, it permeates the media coverage of what we experience. In the news, our militancy is presumed, our killers unnamed, and our deaths repackaged into statistics. Somehow, we die

without being killed. The very veracity of our deaths is called into question. The extent of the civilian death toll in Gaza should not come as a surprise when Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, can speak unchecked of "human animals."

My story is one drop in the ocean of suffering faced by Palestinians, and compared to the immense and indescribable suffering of the people of Gaza, frankly trivial. As I wheeled myself down the smooth corridors of the hospital where I received care after the shooting, I thought of those in wheelchairs in Gaza, struggling to navigate the rubble-strewn streets as they fled their homes. I thought of the reports about a woman being shot dead as she held her grandson's hand while he clutched a white flag. I thought of a 17-year-old shot in the back by settlers in the West Bank. The pain of knowing their fates is fathomless, and it has yet to cease.

I think back to the circumstances in which I was shot with my two friends, Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Aliahmad, and imagine them instead in the context of the West Bank. A Hisham, Kinnan and Tahseen shot there could have been left to die. Our names would circulate for a day or two in pro-Palestinian circles, but in the end, we would be commemorated only on a poster in the streets of Ramallah, our faces eventually worn down with time like the countless others I've walked past in the streets of my home. If that scenario does not stir the same feelings in you as my shooting, if your first instinct when a Palestinian is shot, maimed or left handicapped is to find excuses, then I do not want your support.

When I was still in the hospital, my family and I were visited by a friend who had just recently made it out of Gaza. He recounted how he saw the beginning of the Israeli bombing from his balcony, and soon after showered and left his house with a prepacked bag. He told me of tents, of hunger, of explosions, but there is one thing that really stood out for me as he recounted his ordeal.

He explained how the only way for him to survive in Gaza was to accept that he had already died. Only after he had come to terms with the realization that his life as he knew it was over could he enjoy a puff of a cigarette and a sip of coffee in the morning. This acceptance is the goal of the Israeli dehumanization complex. To be Palestinian today is to accept this fate.

I have been back on campus since February, and the adjustment has been tough. The man who is accused of shooting me has pleaded not guilty to three counts of attempted second-degree murder. But my mind is elsewhere. Every morning when I wake up, I check for one number. It has exceeded 35,000. It's difficult for me to come to terms with the reality of so much loss.

In class, between Mesopotamian myths and commutative algebra, a few thoughts play on a loop in my mind: How can we come back from so much grief? How could we let this happen? What are we supposed to make of the world when Palestinian deaths are excused by talking points, repeated again and again on the news? I yearn to return to my home, to my olive trees, my cats and my family.

I realize, though, that when I cross the King Hussein Bridge from Jordan into the West Bank, I will return to my designation as a potential terrorist. I cease to be a junior at Brown University, a student of archaeology and mathematics, a San Francisco Giants fan, a Balkan history nerd. My entire identity will be reduced to my capacity for violence, not as a human being, but as a Palestinian.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTANA YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing the Montana Youth Challenge Academy's—MYCA—25th anniversary.

The Youth Challenge Academy in Dillon, MT, is one of approximately 40 programs of its kind across the country and the only one located on a college campus. Over the past 25 years, MYCA has graduated almost 4,000 successful cadets. These young people are empowered to complete their education and choose a new path in life, whether that be enlisting in military service, becoming skilled in the trades industry, or enrolling in college classes; this program lays the foundation for a successful future through their implementation of a quasi-military training model.

Academy leaders and mentors teach valuable life skills while forging trusted relationships with program participants, their parents and guardians, and a network of supporters. Mentorship continues to be among the most unique and important aspects of this program, as it ensures each cadet is receiving support that best fits their needs and promotes a seamless transition into the next phase of their journey. Upon completion of the program, each graduate is connected with a local community mentor for 1 year to help them see how the skills they have learned in the program translate beyond the academy to benefit not just themselves, but their communities. It is clear that when cadets successfully exit the program, they bring with them a renewed sense of confidence, responsibility, and positivity they are ready to share with others.

The Montana Youth Challenge Academy exemplifies what it means to look out for your neighbor and pour into the next generation of Montanans.●

### RECOGNIZING RUTHVEN MEAT PROCESSING

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Ruthven Meat Processing of Ruthven, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2002, Terry and Beth Kraft founded Ruthven Meat Processing in Ruthven in the former Farmers' Creamery building. Ruthven Meat Processing offers customers a wide range of meats, custom meat processing, meat storage, and seasoning rubs. In 2018, Ruthven Meat Processing opened a location in Spirit Lake, IA, and the "Locker at the Park" in Arnolds Park Amusement Park. In 2022, Ruthven Meat Processing