

November 2025

Re: U.N. Security Council authorization of an International Stabilization Force for the Gaza Strip –  
Fails to address the “root causes” of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;  
Prolongs Israeli impunity for international law crimes

Dear Senator Mike Lee, Senator John Curtis, Congressman Blake Moore, Congresswoman Celeste Maloy, Congressman Mike Kennedy, and Congressman Burgess Owens:

On 11/17/2025, the U.N. Security Council adopted [Resolution 2803](#) sponsored by the U.S. authorizing an International Stabilization Force (“ISF”) for the Gaza Strip. The resolution annexed President Trump’s 20-point “peace plan.”

We urgently request the Utah congressional delegation to urge the Trump administration to follow international law in implementing the ISF.

Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967, issued a concise statement [on 11/19/2025](#) published by the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on what the ISF could and should be doing in order to comply with international law:

“[The Palestinians in Gaza] need a protective international presence that ends Israel’s unlawful occupation, stops the genocide and restores their capacity for self-governance. Protection means lifting the blockade, ensuring unhindered humanitarian access, supporting Palestinian-led governance, guaranteeing the right of return and enforcing international law in full.”

That should be the mandate guiding the Board of Peace and the International Stabilization Force

Unfortunately, however, Res. 2803 once again, reflects the U.S. siding with Israel and completely avoiding the issue of Israeli responsibility for international law crimes of [genocide](#), [apartheid](#), [ethnic cleansing](#), and massive illegal land confiscation, both [in the occupied territories](#) and [inside Israel proper](#). ([Two-thirds](#) of Gazans are refugees from 1948, including descendants, whose lands and properties were confiscated by Israel.)

Res. 2803 vests the Trump-created “Board of Peace” with oversight responsibility for managing an interim administration in “New Gaza” which has the Palestinian population jumping through specific political hoops while leaving Israeli compliance completely up to unspecified “standards, milestone, and timeframes linked to [Palestinian] demilitarization that will be agreed upon between the IDF, ISF, the guarantors, and the United States.”

As every first-year law student learns in Contracts class, an “agreement to agree” in the future is no agreement at all.

Israel has committed to nothing. And the Palestinian people are absent in this agreement, apart from the Palestinian Authority, which is acting as both puppet and subcontractor for the U.S. and Israel. The Palestinian Authority has virtually no legitimacy in the eyes of the Palestinian people, a fact which is well-known by honest observers of the Middle East and is [borne out by polling](#).

As the International Federation for Human Rights (“FIDH”) [wrote on 11/20/2025](#), Res. 2803 “omits international crimes or transitional justice mechanisms. By failing to establish accountability mechanisms for all those crimes and a pathway to democratic governance, the resolution risks creating a *de facto* occupation that denies the Palestinian people their right to self-determination.”

Res. 2803 gives Israel’s war crimes a complete whitewash. As the FIDH writes: “By excluding any provisions aimed at ensuring accountability for Israel’s historic crimes and by disregarding the extreme brutality of its genocidal campaign, its settler-colonial apartheid system, and its decades-long unlawful occupation, the resolution effectively normalizes these violations.”

Francesca Albanese summarized the deficiencies of Res. 2803 [as follows](#):

“Despite the horrors of the last two years and the ICJ’s [International Court of Justice] clear jurisprudence, the [UN Security] Council has chosen not to ground its response in the very body of law it is obliged to uphold: international human rights law, including the right of self-determination, the law governing the use of force, international humanitarian law, and the UN Charter.... The mandate to ‘secure borders,’ ‘protect civilians,’ and ‘decommission weapons,’ focuses almost exclusively on disarming Palestinian armed groups while doing nothing to end the root cause of the violence: Israel’s ongoing unlawful siege, occupation, racial segregation and apartheid, and ethnic cleansing.... The ICJ was clear: self-determination is an inalienable right of the Palestinian people, and the UN and all States have an obligation to assist in its realization. This can only begin with the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel’s unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territory. Replacing an abusive trustee with another is not self-determination, it is unlawful.”

Res. 2803 also fails to mention the West Bank, where Israel’s ["Gazafication" campaign](#) is progressing full speed ahead.

Why are we addressing these issues to Utah’s congressional delegation? President Trump needs to hear from his Republican base that principles of international law – including international humanitarian law and the law of occupation – need to be respected in “New Gaza.” This means holding Israel to account for its war crimes.

*TruthOut* [reported the following on 10/31/2025](#), based on a *Washington Post* [article dated 10/30/2025](#) titled “Classified U.S. report finds backlog of hundreds of possible Israeli human rights violations”:

“a classified U.S. State Department report released just days before the current ceasefire agreement went into effect found that Israel has committed ‘many hundreds’ of potential human rights violations in Gaza that would render it illegal to continue sending weapons to many Israeli military units. According to the Washington Post, officials say that the possible violations were reported by the State Department’s watchdog, known as the Office of Inspector General. These reports would take ‘multiple years’ to investigate, officials told the Post, as former officials have noted that the U.S. maintains a special process for potential Israeli violations to give preference to the Israeli military. The office’s website has a page for the report, but it is listed as ‘Classified’ and ‘not available for public viewing.’ The report is notable as it’s the first confirmation of the State Department’s acknowledgment of the scale of Israel’s violations in relation to the Leahy Laws. The Leahy Laws bar the U.S. from sending weapons to foreign military units credibly accused of human rights violations and have been cited countless times by advocates for Palestinian rights calling for an arms embargo to Israel.”

It is time to close this ["Israel loophole"](#) in the Leahy Laws process.

It is also time for the U.S. to restore funding to UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees). UNRWA has been the lead organization providing aid in the Gaza Strip for 75 years and has the most comprehensive existing infrastructure to do so.

Meanwhile, *The Guardian* newspaper [reported on 11/14/2025](#) that the U.S. is “planning for the long-term division of Gaza into a ‘green zone’ under Israeli and international military control, where reconstruction would start, and a ‘red zone’ to be left in ruins.” The newspaper reports that “[a]lmost all Palestinians have been displaced to [the] ‘red zone’ where no reconstruction is planned.” The reporting states: “The US military plans raise serious questions about Washington’s commitment to turning the ceasefire announced last month into an enduring political settlement with Palestinian rule across Gaza, which was promised by Donald Trump.”

It will take generations for Gaza to heal from Israel’s genocide. The U.S. indeed has a role to play in bringing out peace with justice in Israel/Palestine. The International Stabilization Force must be implemented to protect Palestinian human rights, not to contribute to further violations of them.

Sincerely yours,

The undersigned Utah constituents.