

[The Silence of the Dems](#)

As bombs fall and civilians die in Yemen and Gaza, the party's leaders sit on their hands.

On March 15, National Security Adviser Michael Waltz [informed](#) fellow Trump Administration officials through their now-infamous Signal chat that a U.S. missile attack had resulted in the collapse of an apartment building filled with Yemeni civilians. Vice President J.D. Vance replied, “Excellent.”

Democrats on Capitol Hill have since [expressed outrage](#)—not at the deaths of innocent civilians, or at the United States’ unprovoked attack on a sovereign country, but at the fact that the conversation was not more carefully shielded from the public.

The Trump Administration claims to have resumed bombing in Yemen to stop the Houthi rebels’ attacks on shipping vessels in the Red Sea, despite the fact that the Houthis, who serve as the de facto government of much of the country, had [ceased](#) those attacks months ago. Scores of Yemeni civilians have [died](#) since the United States resumed the bombing last month. Air strikes have [denied](#) tens of thousands of people in this impoverished country access to electricity and drinking water. The Democratic leadership in Congress has refused to condemn this destruction or attempt to invoke the [War Powers Resolution](#), which was enacted in 1973 to limit a President’s ability to engage in armed conflict without the consent of Congress.

Those same Democratic leaders have expressed little opposition to President Donald Trump’s support of Israel’s ongoing occupation forces in Lebanon, which violate the terms of the [cease-fire](#) agreement made between Israel and Lebanon last fall. Nor have the Democrats objected to Trump’s support for Israel’s violation of its 1974 [disengagement agreement](#) with Syria, or his defense of the ongoing large-scale [seizure](#) of Palestinian lands and destruction of villages in the occupied West Bank.

And it’s not just Israel. The Democratic leadership has also backed Trump’s arms shipments and other support for oppressive Arab dictatorships, including Morocco, whose [illegal annexation](#) of Western Sahara he recognized in 2020, violating a series of U.N. Security Council resolutions and a landmark ruling of the International Court of Justice.

Soon after Trump launched his war on Yemen, Israel’s far-right government [tore up](#) its cease-fire agreement with Hamas, which was the product of months of negotiations led by the United States, Egypt, and Qatar. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the indicted war criminal [feted](#) this week in Washington, D.C., relaunched devastating air strikes as Israeli troops re-occupied large swathes of the territory, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people.

More than [1,000 Palestinians](#), primarily civilians, have been killed in these post-ceasefire attacks, including [more than 300 children](#). The recent [execution-style slaying](#) of fifteen paramedics and rescue workers in clearly marked ambulances by Israeli forces, who attempted a coverup by burying the victims and their vehicles in a mass grave, has sparked international outrage.

Meanwhile, both Netanyahu and Trump are pushing forward with their plan to [ethnically cleanse](#) the Gaza Strip of surviving Palestinians in order [to develop resorts](#) there, per Trump’s aspiration. Rather than try to force 2.3 million people out by bayonet point, the U.S. and Israel appear determined to drive out the population by bombing civilians and blocking food and medicines from entering the besieged enclave, forcing the remaining population to flee in order to survive.

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, Independent of Vermont, has sponsored [Joint Resolutions of Disapproval](#) over some of Trump's continued backing of Netanyahu.

“As a result of Israel's blocking of humanitarian aid into Gaza, many thousands of children there face malnutrition and even starvation,” Sanders said. “Sadly, and illegally, much of the carnage in Gaza has been carried out with U.S.-provided military equipment. Providing more offensive weapons to continue this disastrous war would violate U.S. and international law.”

Among the weapons included in the resolution are [35,000 two-thousand-pound bombs](#), which have caused thousands of civilian casualties over the past eighteen months. The international outcry over these war crimes was so great that even President Joe Biden [suspended](#) their shipment last spring. Trump insisted that such arms shipments should be resumed, however, and the majority of Senate Democrats are supporting him.

Indeed, only [fourteen Democratic Senators](#) voted for Sanders's resolutions to block the transfer of these and other deadly weapons.

This was not a result of political pressure. Only [15 percent](#) of Americans and just 5 percent of Democrats support additional military aid to Israel. Senate offices were flooded with calls to support the resolutions in a campaign organized by a wide array of peace, human rights, and religious organizations. Despite this, more than 70 percent of Senate Democrats [sided](#) with Trump and the arms industry over the wishes of their constituents.

The truth is that a number of Democratic members of Congress, whom millions of people see as leading the resistance, actually ally with Trump on foreign policy.

While Senator Cory Booker—a prominent supporter of Trump's massive arms transfers—was widely praised for his [marathon speech](#) warning of the dangers of Trump's policies, few pointed out that Booker [expressed support](#) for Trump's [backing](#) of Israel's far-right government and autocratic Arab allies during his address and joined the majority of Democrats if voting against limiting arms shipments.

Instead of challenging Trump's Middle East policies, today's opposition party resembles the so-called “Death Squad Democrats” who [backed](#) Reagan's policy in Central America. The difference is that such Democratic militarists were then in the minority. Today, it is the majority of Congressional Democrats who are allying with a Republican President to support war crimes and undermine international humanitarian law.

Had today's Democrats been in office forty years ago, they would have likely backed arming the Contra terrorists in Nicaragua, the death squads in El Salvador, and the Guatemalan genocide against the indigenous Mayans. A few years earlier, they would have probably supported Nixon's carpet bombing of Vietnam.

Perhaps today's Democratic Party leadership assumes that the threat to basic government institutions and our very democracy posed by the Republicans is so great that progressive voters will support their candidates even if they side with Trump on such issues as offensive military operations, arms control, human rights, and international law.

This is not necessarily the case, however. [Polls](#) have shown that Democratic support for Israel's war on Gaza was the number one issue among the nineteen million voters who backed Biden in 2020 but did not vote for Kamala Harris in 2024.

Indeed a case could be made, given the closeness of the presidential election and some key Congressional races, Democratic support for Israel's wars on its neighbors cost them the White House and both houses of Congress.

A growing number of Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters do see opposing ethnic cleansing, undeclared wars, massacres of civilians, and other crimes as a fundamental principle that's worth defending. Even if that means standing up to the party's leadership.