

**2008 POLICY POSITION SURVEY**

**Congressional Research Project with Illinois Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives**

**Sponsored by the Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy**

**Summer, 2008**

\*\*\*\*\*

**1. Fourth Geneva Convention**

**Background:** The U.S. is a signatory to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which relates to the protection of civilians during times of war and occupation. The Convention was written in 1949 as an international response to the Second World War and Nazi Holocaust.

**Question:** Do you support U.S. compliance with the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*

**2. Fourth Geneva Convention**

**Background:** All the nations of the world have signed or acceded to the Fourth Geneva Convention.

**Question:** Will you support Congressional resolutions that condemn violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*

**3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**

**Background:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 in the aftermath of the Second World War and Nazi Holocaust.

**Question:** Do you support compliance with the terms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United States and recipients of U.S. aid?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*

**4. Hamas Violence against Israeli Civilians**

**Background:** Hostage-taking and use of force against non-combatants are proscribed under Article 3 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

**Question:** Do you support a Congressional resolution and letter to the Hamas leadership demanding the end of militant actions against Israeli and Palestinian civilians and the return of Israeli hostage(s)?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

**5. U.S. Foreign Assistance Act; U.S. Arms Export Control Act**

**Background:** These acts prohibit the receipt of U.S. foreign aid and/or armaments by nations engaging in human rights violations.

**Question:** Do you support a requirement that all countries receiving foreign aid from the U.S. be monitored for compliance with the U.S. Foreign Assistance and Arms Control Export Acts?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*

**6. Land Expropriation**

**Background:** Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “(n)o one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.” United Nations General Assembly Resolution 242 and subsequent resolutions affirm the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war.

**Question:** Will you sign a letter to the Israeli government and support a Congressional resolution demanding the immediate and total cessation of expropriation of Palestinian land by Israeli military and civil authorities?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*

**7. Cluster Munitions Convention**

**Background:** The text of this international treaty prohibiting the use of cluster bombs was adopted in Dublin in May, 2008, by over 100 nations. The signing of the treaty will occur in December, 2008.

**Question:** Do you support U.S. signature of the Cluster Munitions Convention and compliance with its provisions?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*

**8. Freedom of Movement in Occupied Palestinian Territories**

**Background:** Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms (1) the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state, and (2) the right to leave any country and return to one’s own country. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has criticized Israel for failing to meet earlier U.S. demands to ease restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement in the West Bank.

**Question:** Do you support a Congressional resolution and letter to the Israeli government demanding Palestinian freedom of movement within the West Bank?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

**9. Free Access to Education**

**Background:** Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the right to education. Free movement for students and educators is requisite for access to education.

**Question:** Do you support a Congressional resolution and letter to the Israeli government demanding free access to education and freedom of movement by students and teachers both within the occupied territories and between those territories and other countries?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*

**10. Access to Essential Supplies, Foodstuffs, Humanitarian Relief, and Medical Care**

**Background:** Articles 10, 55, 59, and 63 of the Fourth Geneva Convention require that the Occupying Power ensure and facilitate the flow of food and other essential supplies to the occupied population.

**Question:** Do you support a Congressional resolution and letter to the Israeli government demanding the lifting of the siege and closure of Gaza’s borders to ensure the flow of essential supplies?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*

**11. Population Transfer and Settlements**

**Background:** Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that “(t)he Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into territories it occupies.” Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has accused Israel of undermining peace talks by expanding its settlements in occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

**Question:** Do you support Congressional resolutions and a letter to the Israeli government repeating prior U.S. demands for a cessation of settlement construction and imposing sanctions for failure to comply?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

**12. Collective Punishment; Destruction of Property**

**Background:** Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “(n)o one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.” Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that “(n)o protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed,” and that “collective penalties” are prohibited. Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that “(a)ny destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons...or to other public authorities...is prohibited.”

**Question:** Will you sign a letter to the Israeli government and support a Congressional resolution demanding the immediate and total cessation of collective punishment, including house and crop demolition?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*

**13. Detention without Charge; Access to Legal Process**

**Background:** Articles 71 and 72 of the Geneva Conventions affirm the right of accused persons to a regular trial before competent courts. Accused persons are guaranteed the right to be informed of the charges against them, to be brought to trial as rapidly as possible, to present evidence in their defense, to call witnesses, and to be assisted by a qualified advocate of their choice.

**Question:** Will you sign a letter to the Israeli government and support a Congressional resolution demanding that Palestinians detained by Israel be treated according to the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*

**14. Assassinations**

**Background:** Article 3 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits “the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court.” Article 32 prohibits “any measure of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons” in the hands of the Occupying Power.

**Question:** Will you sign a letter to the Israeli government and support a Congressional resolution demanding that Israel end immediately the practice of extrajudicial assassination of suspected Palestinian militants and, instead, to use the legal means prescribed by international law?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

**15. Torture and Coercion of Detainees and Collaborators**

**Background:** Common Article 3 (all Geneva Conventions) prohibits any degrading treatment of prisoners regardless of their status. Articles 31 and 32 of the Fourth Geneva Convention ban the use of “physical or moral coercion against protected persons,” including that used to “obtain information from them or from third parties.” This provision includes all “measures of brutality whether applied by civilian or military agents.”

**Question:** Will you sign a letter to the Israeli government and support a Congressional resolution demanding that Israel abstain completely from torture and coercion of Palestinian detainees, including coercion to extract information and to motivate collaboration?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*

**16. Refugee Repatriation and Property Rights**

**Background:** Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that “(e)veryone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.” Article 17 states that “(n)o one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.” Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits “(i)ndividual or mass forcible transfers” and “deportations...from occupied territory,” and states that persons evacuated for security or military reasons “shall be transferred back to their homes as soon as hostilities...have ceased.” United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 “(r)esolves that the [Palestinian] refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property.”

**Question:** Will you sign a letter to the Israeli government and support a Congressional resolution calling for implementation of the rights of Palestinian refugees as prescribed by international law and United Nations resolutions?

**Response:**  Yes  No  Undecided