

M5S Motion for arms embargo to Israel

Motion presented to the Italian Chamber of Deputies by M5S (Defence Commission) on 22 July 2014

The Chamber:

- given that:

with reference to the main contents of art. 11 of the Italian Constitution, Italy condemns reciprocal armed attacks between Israel and Palestine in any form as solution of political conflicts;

since 1948, Israel has failed to comply with seventy-three UN resolutions, thus aggravating internal relationships with Palestine and tensions with neighbouring countries, which have often resulted in armed conflicts;

since the end of World War II, armed conflicts between Israeli and Palestinians have been characterised by an obvious disparity in weaponry available to the respective populations: Israel is one of the largest and best equipped armies of the world, while the Palestinian population is under an Israeli embargo and does not even have a regular army;

...redacted

a conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has been underway for several decades and on 8 July 2014 resulted, once again, in an escalation of violence with bombing of the Palestinian population confined within the Gaza Strip (Operation Protective Edge);

...redacted

that bombing hospitals is forbidden by the Fourth Geneva Convention which states (article 18): "Civilian hospitals organized to care to the wounded and sick, infirm and maternity cases, may in no circumstances be the object of attack, but shall at all times be respected and protected by the Parties to the conflict";

- given that:

in response to the civil war in Syria which started on 15 March 2011, the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union joined in Brussels mutually agreed on 23 July 2012 as international intervention measure to extend sanctions to Syria, and in particular to consolidate the arms embargo in force until the civil war ends, decision which left each UE member state freedom of choice starting from 28 May 2013;

...redacted

- commits the government:

to interrupt all forms of sales of arms and weaponry systems to the State of Israel for five years starting from the date of approval of this motion. The sales of said arms and weaponry systems to the State of Israel may be resumed should no further military operations and/or violations of civilian rights be committed by Israel against the Palestinian population during this period. If one or more future military operations are started by Israel against the Palestinian population, the arms embargo will be extended for five more years starting from the date of ending of the latest conflict.