



Date: September 15, 2026

To: United Airlines Chief Executive Officer Scott Kirby, United Airlines President Brett Hart, the United Airlines Board of Directors, and the Office of Ethics and Compliance:

Dear United Airlines Leadership,

On behalf of 14 American civil rights, humanitarian, and advocacy organizations, **we write to demand that United Airlines immediately terminate its transportation of weapons to Israel via passenger flights amid Israel's genocidal war on Gaza, and its wars on the occupied West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran.**

United Airlines' [transportation of military material](#) to Israel aboard commercial passenger flights is profoundly disturbing. Passengers boarding a United flight reasonably expect the aircraft carrying them and their families to be used for civilian travel, not as part of a military supply chain. Yet recent reporting found that United has transported thousands of shipments of military equipment to Israel, including cargo destined for Israeli weapons manufacturer [Elbit Systems, Israel's Ministry of Defense, military air bases, and other defense contractors](#).

The military equipment transported aboard United aircraft enters a supply chain supporting a government that has been committing serious violations of international law in Gaza, across occupied Palestinian territories, and across the region in countries like [Lebanon](#), [Syria](#), and [Iran](#).

United must not use commercial passenger aircraft to help sustain a military infrastructure that has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people.

An independent commission within the United Nations has found evidence that Israel is [committing genocide](#) in Gaza while [deliberately targeting Palestinian children](#). In under three years, Israel has killed over [73,000 civilians](#), including over 20,000 women and children, with thousands of civilians still trapped under the rubble. At the same time, Israeli forces and settlers have [killed 1,110 Palestinians](#), including at least 243 children in the occupied West Bank. Additionally, since 2003, Israeli forces or settlers have killed at least [14 American citizens](#) in the occupied West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon.

United Airlines' continued weapons shipments to Israel also occur amid the backdrop of major legal inquiries into Israel. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is considering [South Africa's separate case](#) stating that Israel has violated the Genocide Convention in Gaza. Furthermore, in November 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) [issued arrest warrants](#) for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, respectively, for facilitating [crimes against humanity](#) and [using starvation as a method of warfare](#).

Furthermore, it is important that, as United's leadership, you bear in mind the terms of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, in particular Article 35:



Cargo Restrictions

- a) No munitions of war or implements of war may be carried in or above the territory of a State in aircraft engaged in international aviation, except by permission of such State. Each State shall determine by regulations what constitutes munitions of war or implements of war for the purposes of this Article, giving due consideration, for the purposes of uniformity, to such recommendations as the International Civil Aviation Organization may from time to time make.
- b) Each contracting State reserves the right, for reasons of public order and safety, to regulate or prohibit the carriage in or above its territory of articles other than those enumerated in paragraph a): provided that no distinction is made in this respect between its national aircraft engaged in international navigation and the aircraft of the other States so engaged; and provided further that no restriction shall be imposed which may interfere with the carriage and use on aircraft of apparatus necessary for the operation or navigation of the aircraft or the safety of the personnel or passengers.

Given that your aircraft transporting munitions and/or implements of war from the United States to Israel fly through the national airspace of numerous third nations, we urge you to seriously consider the inherent risk to United's continued use of those third parties' airspace posed by your decision.

United Airlines must choose whether it will uphold its stated commitment to safety and corporate responsibility, or continue allowing its commercial passenger aircraft to serve as part of the military supply chain fueling Israel's devastating, genocidal military campaigns. United must not transport war materiel, and it should end this practice immediately. We will be closely watching how you choose to move forward, and, should United continue to aid and abet war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of U.S. and international humanitarian law, we will have no choice but to pursue further action against United.

Sincerely,

**American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)
Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action)
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
A New Policy
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
CODEPINK
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)
Islamic Circle of North America
Libyan American Alliance
Muslim American Society (MAS)
Muslims for Progress
United Methodists in Action for Palestine
US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)
Young Muslims**