

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SeaMAC bus ad that was censored in Seattle is running on buses in Portland

[Seattle Mideast Awareness Campaign \(SeaMAC\)](#) is running an ad on Portland's TriMet buses with the slogan ISRAEL'S WAR CRIMES: YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK. *Photo available on request.* The ads will run for four weeks and are also funded by Portland groups Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights and Jewish Voice for Peace - Portland.

"SeaMAC had moved on to the message of Equal Rights for Palestinians, but this recent escalation of Israel's war crimes against Palestinians made our original message urgent once more," said Edward Mast, volunteer board member with SeaMAC.

The ad calls attention to Israel's ongoing violations of human rights and international law, including Israel's recent assault on the captive population of Gaza, during which Israel bombed schools, hospitals, UN-designated shelters, Gaza's only power plant, and Gaza's water purification system. More than 2000 Palestinians, mostly civilians and including over 500 children, were killed during the fifty days of Israel's assault.

The slogan of the current ad is almost the same that was approved and printed to run on King County Metro buses in 2010 but was then censored by King County. That original Seattle ad, which used the word "Israeli" instead of "Israel's", was created to call attention in particular to war crimes committed against the captive population of Gaza during Israel's Operation Cast Lead in 2008-2009. These violations were documented by the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Red Cross.

ACLU is representing SeaMAC in a lawsuit against King County for that 2010 rejection. The parties are currently awaiting an opinion from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in that matter, which has been pending for over two years.

The current bus ad in Portland also uses SeaMAC's alternate website URL, which is [StopFundingApartheid.org](#). Both the main slogan and the URL draw attention to ongoing U.S. government support for Israel's violations of human rights. The U.S. still gives over \$3 billion annually to Israel in military aid, as well as political, diplomatic and military support.

The use of the term "apartheid" about Israel refers not only to the West Bank, where Israeli Jewish settlers and Palestinian residents are both under the jurisdiction of the Israeli government but live under two separate and unequal sets of laws; but also to the stark inequalities inside Israel itself, where 1.5 million Palestinian citizens are subject to [over 50 laws that discriminate](#) against them and in favor of Israeli Jews.

[The Seattle Mideast Awareness Campaign](#) is incorporated as a non-profit corporation in Washington State and as a 501 (c)(3) organization under Federal tax code.

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