

U.S. Gives Israel Largest Aid Package Ever



Washington, August 2 (RHC)-- With more unemployed people than at any time in U.S. history, U.S. President Barack Obama is scheduled to sign the most lavish foreign aid package in the country's history – \$3.1 billion in military assistance to Israel. And many political observers ask if the U.S. can truly afford such a gift package to Israel.

According to reports, the United States already transfers \$3.1 billion in taxpayer money to Israel every year, far more than any other country, but the deal that will be signed into law next week will guarantee foreign aid to the country until the year 2027, a decade after Obama has left office.

In Monday's edition of *The Intercept*, the journalist Glenn Greenwald notes that Israeli living standards already surpass those in the U.S. in some critical areas.

While Israeli citizens enjoy universal health care, 33 million citizens in the United States don't have coverage, Greenwald notes. Israelis also have a higher life expectancy, 82.27 years, compared to 79.68 years in the United States. And Israel's infant mortality rate – one of the best indicators of human development – is one of the lowest in the world, at 3.55 deaths for every 1,000 live births. Conversely, in the United States, 5.87 babies die before their first birthday.

A 2012 Congressional Resources Service report, as reported by The Intercept, found that “U.S. military aid [to Israel] has helped transform Israel’s armed forces into one of the most technologically sophisticated militaries in the world.” Despite that aid, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reportedly demanded as much as \$5 billion USD in aid a year.

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