US-Made Bombs Were Used in Israel's Tent Massacre in Rafah

"How many more charred corpses does he have to see before the president considers a change in policy?" a CBS News reporter asked a White House official following the massacre.

The "official," National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby, said he was "offended" by the question. But other members of the Biden administration have viewed the situation differently. At least nine have publicly resigned so far, "due to the White House's collaboration with Israel in its bombing and starvation campaign against Palestinians in Gaza," writes Chris Walker in <u>Truthout</u>. Below are excerpts from his article, published on May 30, 2024. (The entire article is available at https://truthout.org/articles/more-biden-officials-resign-over-us-participation-in-israels-genocide-in-gaza/)

The [two most recent] officials who resigned are Alexander Smith, a contractor with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and a senior adviser within that agency on gender, maternal health, child health and nutrition; and Stacy Gilbert, a State Department official within the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration. The resignations come as Israel's U.S.-backed genocide has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians since October, with thousands more presumed to be buried under the rubble.

Smith, who has worked in his role for four years, was told that he either had to resign or be dismissed from his position after he had prepared a presentation on maternal health and child mortality for Palestinians that was abruptly canceled last week by higher-ups at USAID. "I cannot do my job in an environment in which specific people cannot be acknowledged as fully human, or where gender and human rights principles apply to some, but not to others, depending on their race," Smith said in his resignation letter.

Gilbert's decision to resign was due to her agency's false determination that Israel wasn't purposely manufacturing a famine by blocking food and other desperately-needed aid from entering Gaza, as well as the administration's downplaying of the atrocities committed by Israeli forces...

Nine officials have resigned from the Biden administration since Israel began its bloody siege of Gaza in October. More resignations are likely to come, said Josh Paul, the first official to have publicly resigned from the administration over the White House's participation in the genocide...[He] had served as the director of congressional and public affairs at the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. Paul added that at least two dozen officials have resigned in protest without making a public declaration of their resignations.

Among those who have resigned so far is Lily Greenberg Call, the former special assistant to the Interior Department's chief of staff and the first Jewish person within the administration to quit because of Israel's ethnic cleansing campaign. Said Call in her resignation announcement:

"My whole life has been spent in Jewish community in the U.S. and Israel. People in my community lost loved ones during Hamas's attack on October 7th; beloveds killed, displaced, and taken as hostages. I am terrified by rising antisemitism around the world. And yet I am certain that the answer to this is not to collectively punish millions of innocent Palestinians through displacement, famine, and ethnic cleansing."

Call resigned her position on May 15th. For the full article about Call's resignation, see Sharon Zhang's piece, published on May 16th, at: https://truthout.org/articles/first-jewish-biden-appointee-resigns-on-nakbaday-over-us-role-in-gaza-genocide/) Below is an excerpt:

In interviews about her resignation, Call added that she has been particularly disturbed by Biden's remarks that Israel is the only thing keeping Jewish people safe across the world and that Palestinian fighters have an "ancient desire to wipe out the Jewish people," a remark that many have noted is virulently anti-Palestinian. "He is making Jews the face of the American war machine. And that is so deeply wrong," Call told *The Associated Press...*

"We must understand that Palestinian and Jewish safety are not mutually exclusive, but are in fact intertwined," she wrote.

The New Haven Sunday Vigil for Peace and Justice June 2, 2024

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