

DEAR SENATOR:

The future of Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem is in jeopardy. Other non-governmental Christian organizations in Israel are facing the same threat of losing their tax-exempt status.

Prime Minister Sharon pressured the White House to close U.S. Muslim relief organizations in December 2001. Muslim charity funds were frozen and their offices raided.

At a time when Palestinians are facing severe hardships, Israel is making it impossible for Christian or Muslim charitable organizations to accomplish their missions.

By contrast, American Jewish tax-free donations have long helped close the funding gap in Israel's social services, caused by that nation's heavy spending on military and defense. From 2001-2002, Israel Now's campaign raised \$400 million, tax-free, to purchase armored vehicles, bullet-proof glass for houses in illegal settlements and support services for Israel Defense Forces soldiers.

Please put an end to tax-exempt status for Jewish agencies collecting billions of dollars each year for Israel if the Jewish State will not end its persecution of non-Jewish humanitarian agencies.

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

TO:

SENATOR \_\_\_\_\_

(name of your Senator)

**U.S. SENATE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510**

PLACE  
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STAMP  
HERE

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DEAR REPRESENTATIVE:

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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

TO:

REPRESENTATIVE \_\_\_\_\_

(name of your Representative)

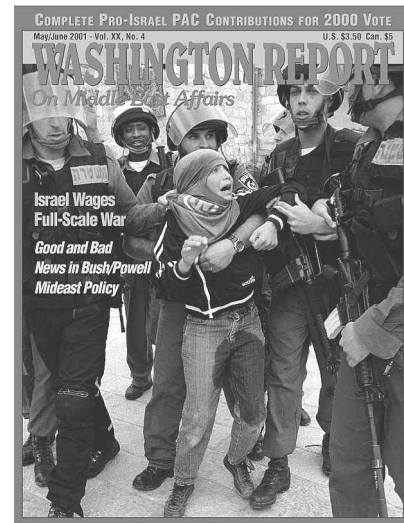
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

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**You may wish  
to send these  
cards to the  
two Senators  
and one  
Representative  
in whose  
constituencies  
you vote.**

**If you can make  
copies you may wish  
to send one to:**

**President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500**



**You may wish to send these cards as addressed on the reverse side. If you can make copies, you may also wish to send them to President Bush, other members of Congress, talk show hosts and editors of the publications you read. Or you can download these post-cards into an e-mail message to recipients of your choice from our Web site at [www.wrmea.com](http://www.wrmea.com)**

The future of Augusta Victoria Hospital, one of the best medical facilities available for Palestinians, is in jeopardy. The Israeli District Court has ruled that the Lutheran World Federation, the non-profit humanitarian agency which runs the hospital, must pay \$350,000 in yearly taxes, as well as \$1 million in back taxes—despite its long-standing tax-exempt status.

The Augusta Victoria compound was erected on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem more than a century ago, and converted to a hospital during the 1948 war to serve the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees. Jordan granted the hospital its tax-exempt status when East Jerusalem and the West Bank came under its authority. Following the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel signed an agreement to continue this status.

Today the hospital specializes in cancer treatment, and is the only kidney dialysis center serving Palestinians from the West Bank. Its regular mobile clinics provide health care for nearly 40,000 Palestinians whose movements are restricted to the West Bank. Without U.S. intervention it may have to close its doors.

Other humanitarian organizations potentially affected by the hospital's court case include Catholic Relief Services, the Mennonite Central Committee, the International Christian Committee, and the Swedish Organization for Individual Relief.



*Augusta Victoria Hospital on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives is threatened with the loss of its historic tax-exempt status.*

PRODUCED BY THE WASHINGTON REPORT, PO BOX 53062, WASHINGTON, DC 20009

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