

***Middle East Study Group / Contra Costa  
Promoting Peace with Justice in the Middle East***

[www.middleeaststudygroup.org](http://www.middleeaststudygroup.org)

c/o 450 North Civic Drive #304, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Dec 20, 2011

Congressman John Garamendi  
228 Cannon HOB,  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi,

On Sept 14, seventeen of our members and supporters sent you a letter questioning the ethics of your summer working trip to Israel paid for by an affiliate of the powerful AIPAC lobby. We requested a meeting with you or your staff to detail our concerns and to provide facts and information which you would not receive on such a biased trip/delegation.

Your office replied on Sept 26 and we appreciate the quick response. Unfortunately it was a form letter and did not respond to the concerns we raised.

We initially decided not to reply to your office's form letter. However on second thought, it is probably better that we acknowledge your mailing and convey how disappointed we are.

It is a sad commentary on the state of affairs, the extent of corruption and the domination by a powerful lobby. It is a good example why the Occupation Movement is happening.

We respectfully suggest that supporting continued ethnic cleansing and occupation in Israel Palestine, and promoting conflict with Iran, are not in the interests of the 99% you are supposed to be representing.

Yours,

Rick Sterling  
for the Middle East Study Group / Contra Costa