



PROJECT *on* Middle East Democracy

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State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2009 House Version

On February 25, the House passed a \$410 billion omnibus spending bill ([H.R. 1105](#)) for fiscal year 2009, of which **\$36.6 billion** would be set aside for the State Department, USAID, and foreign military and economic aid. This represents a **12 percent increase over last year's levels**.

Of the \$36.6 billion appropriated for foreign operations, \$1.5 billion would go to **Egypt** (\$200 million in economic aid, \$20 million of which would be designated for democracy, human rights, and governance programs; and \$1.3 billion in military aid) and \$498.5 million to **Jordan** (with \$264 million in economic aid and \$235 million in military aid). **Israel** would receive \$2.4 billion in military aid. As for strictly economic assistance, the **West Bank and Gaza** would receive \$75 million, **Lebanon** would receive \$67.5 million, and **Afghanistan** \$200 million.

Comparison of Economic Support Fund and Foreign Military Financing for 2008 and 2009

	ESF FY 2009	ESF FY 2008	FMF FY 2009	FMF FY 2008
Egypt	\$200 mill	\$412 mill	\$1.3 bill	\$1.3 bill
Jordan	\$264 mill	\$361 mill	\$235 mill	\$289 mill
Israel			\$2.4 bill	\$2.4 bill
West Bank and Gaza	\$75 mill	\$218 mill		
Lebanon	\$67.5 mill	\$44.6 mill		
Afghanistan	\$200 mill	\$540 mill		

**All 2009 numbers match the President's budget requests except for Afghanistan in which \$707 million was requested for 2009*

Other provisions of interest for U.S. democracy promotion efforts include:

- \$115 million for the **National Endowment for Democracy**, of which \$15 million would go to democracy, human rights, and rule of law programs
- \$4 million for the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom**
- \$698 million for the **Broadcasting Board of Governors**, of which an unspecified amount is to be used to make and supervise grants for radio and television broadcasting to the Middle East
- \$116 million to the **Democracy Fund**, of which \$74 million would go to the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and \$37 million to USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance, including support for human rights, media, and the rule of law
- \$19.5 million for the **Elections and Political Process Fund** at USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance
- \$10 million for USAID for institutional and core **support of organizations that promote human rights, independent media, and the rule of law**
- \$700 million for grants to organizations that **support basic education**, of which \$240 million would be for countries that have national education plans as part of the Fast Track Initiative – the international commitment to provide all children with access to quality education
- \$538 million (\$37 million more than in 2008) to fund **educational, cultural, and professional exchange programs** worldwide
- \$875 million to the **Millennium Challenge Corporation**, represents a 40% cut in last years number