

CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF _____, _____

WHEREAS all human life is precious, and the City of _____ supports the safety, dignity, freedom, and equality of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, or religion; and

WHEREAS on October 7, 2023 Israel suffered the deaths of 1200 citizens and others in its southern communities near the Gaza Strip, along with the kidnapping of 240 soldiers and civilians by Hamasⁱ;

WHEREAS collective punishment of people for actions taken by others, even if they are members of the group, is a violation of international lawⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS the Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated places on earth, with 15,600 people per square mileⁱⁱⁱ before October 7th, and whereas Gaza has been under a crippling blockade^{iv} for 17 years with most residents unable to leave;

WHEREAS, between October 7, 2023 and January 24th, 2024, more than twenty-six thousand Palestinians in Gaza – of whom at least ten thousand are children – have been killed^v; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, an additional 7,000 Gazans are missing under rubble and presumed dead, and 63,000 are gravely wounded^{vi}, bringing the number of Gazans dead, missing or wounded since October 7 to almost 100,000^{vii};

WHEREAS Israel has dropped bombs on the Gaza Strip with the combined destructive force of several nuclear weapons, and whereas hundreds of unguided 2,000-pound bombs have been dropped on refugee camps and other civilian areas^{viii};

WHEREAS Israel's massive bombing campaign has destroyed 70% of buildings and roads in Gaza^{ix}, leaving 1.7 million Palestinians homeless^x, many without shelter;

WHEREAS thousands of Gazans have been killed after obeying Israeli instructions to flee to "safe zones," which are still being attacked^{xi};

WHEREAS hospitals, schools, refugee camps, mosques, churches and UN facilities – including shelters – have been bombed, even when crowded with patients and others seeking refuge;

WHEREAS Israel has cut off food, water and electricity to the Gaza Strip, and has hindered humanitarian aid, especially in the north of the enclave where starvation is acute;

WHEREAS on January 24 the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) reported and the World Food Program confirmed^{xii} that 570,000 Gazans face catastrophic levels of starvation;

WHEREAS January 27 was International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and in remembering this solemn occasion the City of _____ takes seriously the call from Holocaust survivors and many other Jews that "Never again," referring to the mass killing of human beings, means "Never again for anyone;"^{xiii}

WHEREAS Israel is holding 8,600 "security" inmates, primarily Palestinians, in its prisons, and 3,200 of those are Palestinians held in "administrative detention" indefinitely without charge or trial;^{xiv} and

WHEREAS US support for Israel's massive assault on Gaza has eroded respect for our country around the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ City Council joins people of all faiths, major humanitarian organizations, and other U.S. city councils in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages including Palestinians arbitrarily detained by Israel, the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza, the restoration of electricity, water, food, and medical supplies to Gaza, an end to the siege and blockade of Gaza, and respect for international law by all parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the _____ City Council affirms its commitment to combat antisemitism, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab racism, and Islamophobia in all their forms, and to ensure the dignity and safety of all its residents; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Representative _____, Senator _____, Senator _____, U.S. President Joe Biden, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

ⁱ Times of Israel, “Israel Revises Death Toll...”, November 11, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-revises-death-toll-from-oct-7-hamas-assault-dropping-it-from-1400-to-1200/>

ⁱⁱ International Humanitarian Law Database, International Committee of the Red Cross: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule103>

ⁱⁱⁱ ANERA, “How Big is Gaza?”, <https://www.anera.org/how-big-is-gaza/>

^{iv} United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) press release, October 25, 2023. <https://unctad.org/press-material/prior-current-crisis-decades-long-blockade-hollowed-gazas-economy-leaving-80>

^v CBS News, “Gaza's death toll surpasses 25,000, Health Ministry says, as ongoing Hamas war divides Israelis”, Jan. 21, 2024, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gaza-death-toll-25000-palestinians-israel-hamas-war-ongoing-divide/>

^{vi} UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) Flash Update #99, January 22, 2024. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-99-enarhe>

^{vii} OCHA Reliefweb <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/100th-day-gaza-genocide-100000-palestinians-killed-missing-or-wounded-enar>

^{viii} CNN, “Not Seen Since Vietnam: Israel Dropped Hundreds of 2000-pound Bombs on Gaza, Analysis Shows”, <https://www.cnn.com/gaza-israel-big-bombs/index.html#:~:text=fields%20in%20area,-Weapons%20and%20warfare%20experts%20blame%20the%20extensive%20use%20of%20heavy,been%20killed%20since%20October%207.&text=Most%20of%20the%20dead%20are,children%2C%20according%20to%20those%20figures.>

^{ix} Wall Street Journal, Dec. 30, 2023, “The Ruined Landscape of Gaza After Nearly Three Months of Bombing,” <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/gaza-destruction-bombing-israel-aa528542>

^x UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) Flash Update #97, January 19, 2024. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-97-enarhe>

^{xi} PBS, “As Israel’s Bombing Hits Declared Safe Zones, Palestinians in Gaza Find Danger Everywhere,” <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/as-israels-bombing-hits-declared-safe-zones-palestinians-trapped-in-gaza-find-danger-everywhere>

^{xii} UNRWA on X, January 24, 2024: <https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/1749708634743841023>, World Food Programme Country Update: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/palestine>, Associated Press, The UN says more than 1 in 4 people in Gaza are starving because of war <https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-news-12-21-2023-7d9718b32bf0d308c44c7c9e3c4e0deb>

^{xiii} Ha’aretz, “Holocaust Survivors Condemn Israel for ‘Gaza Massacre,’ Call for Boycott”, August 23, 2014 <https://www.haaretz.com/2014-08-23/ty-article/holocaust-survivors-condemn-israel-for-gaza-massacre/0000017f-e738-dea7-adff-f7fb2fbc0000>, and Democracy Now, “Never Again: Holocaust Survivor Marione Ingram on Israel’s Assault on Gaza & Her Decades of Activism” https://www.democracynow.org/2023/11/8/part_2_holocaust_survivor_marione_ingram

^{xiii} Hamoked (Israeli human rights organization), “8,600 “Security Inmates are held in prisons inside Israel,” <https://hamoked.org/prisoners-charts.php>; NPR, “Thousands of Palestinians are held without charge under Israeli detention policy.”, December 1, 2023. <https://www.npr.org/2023/12/01/1216643555/thousands-of-palestinians-are-held-without-charge-under-israeli-detention-policy>

