

This resolution was defeated by the ALA Council on Sunday, June 28, 2015

Resolution on Libraries and Schools Affected by the Conflict in Gaza and Israel in 2014

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) “deplores the destruction of libraries, library collections, and property, and the disruption of educational process by that act, whether it be done by individuals or groups of individuals, and whether it be done in the name of honest dissent, the desire to control or limit thought or ideas, or for any other purpose” (ALA Policy B 2.8);

Whereas on June 19, 2002, ALA Council passed a “Resolution on the Destruction of Palestinian Libraries, Archives, and other Cultural Institutions” (CD#18.8 of 2001-2002), in which the ALA deplored the destruction of Palestinian libraries and cultural resources in the spring of 2002, and called “upon the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations to prevent further destruction of libraries and cultural resources and to provide material assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of these resources”;

Whereas on January 28, 2009, ALA Council passed a “Resolution on the Connection Between the Recent Gaza Conflict and Libraries” (CD#18.1 of 2008-2009) in which the American Library Association called for the “protection of libraries and archives in Gaza and Israel” and urged “the US Government to support the United States Committee of the Blue Shield in upholding the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict”;

Whereas on July 18, 2014, Israeli military forces bombed the al-Ataa Charitable Society in Beit Hounan, Gaza, destroying the library of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) housed in that building; and on July 28, 2014 Israeli forces again bombed the building of the al-Ataa Charitable Society completely destroying it;

Whereas both IBBY and the Tamer Institute for Community Education have reported additional damage inflicted upon libraries in Gaza by Israeli forces during the conflict in 2014;

Whereas, according to Mr. Mustafa El Sawaf, Assistant Undersecretary of Gaza’s Ministry of Culture, two public libraries were completely destroyed, five public libraries were partially destroyed, and there was full or partial destruction of 175 school libraries and 85 private libraries by Israeli forces in 2014;

Whereas during the 50-day Gaza conflict in 2014, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) had twice daily communications with the Israeli Defense Force telling them exactly where civilians were sheltered in schools that were

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Designated Emergency Shelters and Places of Temporary Refuge, in addition to real time and continuous communications before some attacks;

Whereas during the 2014 Gaza conflict, 83 UNRWA schools were attacked, including 7 schools housing displaced civilians, resulting in at least 42 killed and about 230 injured;

Whereas according to the United Nations Secretary General, during the 2014 Gaza conflict at least 262 public schools were damaged by Israeli airstrikes, 3 were completely destroyed, and at least 23 were severely damaged;

Whereas according to the United Nations Secretary General, during the 2014 Gaza conflict, 274 kindergartens were damaged;

Whereas during the 2014 Gaza conflict, UNRWA found weapons in 3 vacant schools, and it is very likely that weapons were fired from 2 of them before inspectors notified the local authorities and the weapons immediately removed;

Whereas during the 2014 Gaza conflict, 3 Israeli schools were hit by rockets fired from Gaza, resulting in damage to facilities but no fatalities; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA)

1. deplores the destruction and damage of cultural institutions, including schools and libraries, in Gaza and Israel during the recent conflict there;
2. deplores the use of schools for storing or firing weapons;
3. calls again for the protection of libraries and cultural resources in the Middle East, and urges the US Government to support the United States Committee of the Blue Shield in upholding the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict"; and
4. calls upon the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to provide material assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of these libraries and schools.

Mover: Jane Glasby, Councilor-at-Large, 510-206-8614

Seconder: Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor, 217-819-9975

E-FORM

Resolution on Libraries and Schools Affected by the Conflict in Gaza and Israel in 2014

Submitted on Friday, June 19, 2015 - 11:10 Submitted by user:

Submitted values are:

Date: 06/19/2015

Resolution author(s): Jane Glasby and Al Kagan E-mail address: Jane.Glasby@sfpl.org 1. Title of Resolution: Resolution on Libraries and Schools Affected by the Conflict in Gaza and Israel in 2014

2. ALA Units and/or Committees Consulted (if any):

Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Asian-Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) 3.

Endorsements by ALA Units and/or Committees (if any): Pending 4. Fiscal implications: Specify the resources needed to carry out the resolution's directive(s): none 5. List all parties to whom resolution should be sent:

U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, all members of the U.S. Congress, U.S.

President, U.S. Secretary of State, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Secretary-General, Unesco Secretary-General, library press 6.

Impact on ALA Policies and Positions: Explain how the resolution supports ALA's Strategic Plan, its mission, and/or its core values.:

Core Organizational Values: Extending and expanding library services in America and around the world and Social responsibility and the public good.

Key Action Areas: Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession, Equitable Access to Information and Library Services, and Intellectual Freedom.

6a) ALA general policy or viewpoint: If the resolution sets forth a general policy or an ALA viewpoint, describe.: Supports ALA Policy B 2.8, disruption of libraries.

6b) Change in existing policy: If this resolution necessitates a change in existing policy, state the policy number and the change.: none

6c) New policy: If this resolution establishes new policy, describe.: none

6d) Policy conflicts: If this resolution conflicts with existing policy, state provisions for resolving the conflict.: none 7. Initiating Committee or Unit (if any): International Responsibilities Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table 8. Pertinent Background Information, e.g. bibliography, citations, supportive quotes, URLs, etc.:

ALA Policies

ALA Policy B2.8

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual/updatedpolicymanual/section2/53intellfreedom#B.2.8>

CD#18.8 of 2001-2002

<http://www.ala.org/offices/iro/awardsactivities/resolutiondestruction>

CD#18.1 of 2008-2009

<http://www.ala.org/offices/iro/awardsactivities/resolutiongazaconflict>

Information on Destruction of Cultural Resources in Gaza in 2014

Alray Palestinian Media Agency. "Israel attack depleted books in Gaza,"

Sept. 17, 2014. <http://alray.ps/en/index.php?act=post&id=5401>

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). "2014 Appeal to rebuild the IBBY Libraries in Gaza." October 2014,

<http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1398>

International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). "The Situation of the two Libraries in Gaza after the Israeli Aggression & Progress Report."

October 2014. Report provided to SRRT, January 2015.

Jalbout, Maysa, Sarah Dryden-Peterson and Kevin Watkins. "The Destruction of Gaza's Schools and the Future of Palestinian Children." Washington, DC:

Brookings Institution, August 4, 2014.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/education-plus-development/posts/2014/08/04-gaza-school-palestinian-children-jalbout-dryden-peterson-watkins>

Sengupta, Somini. "Gaza Foes Are Kept Off of a Grim List: U.N. Report on Entities that Kill Children Omits Israel and Hamas." New York Times, June 9, 2015, p. A9.

Tamer Institute. Report on damage to libraries in Gaza in 2014 provided to SRRT, January 2015.

Terrence McCoy. "How Israeli attacks have decimated Gaza's schools."

Washington Post, August 6, 2014.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/08/06/how-israeli-attacks-have-decimated-gazas-schools/>

UNESCO [Ramallah Office]. "Rapid Assessment of Higher Education Institutions in Gaza: Data Analysis Report."

<http://www.eenet.org.uk/resources/docs/UNESCO%20HEI%20Assessment%20Gaza%20Report%20FINAL-January%202015.pdf>

United Nations General Assembly [and] Security Council. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children. A/69/926-S/2015/409, paragraphs 98-102.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.documentcloud.org/documents/2094760/u-n-general-assembly-report-on-children-and.pdf>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Emergency Situation Report (as of 4 September 2014, 08:00 hrs.),"

http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_sitrep_04_09_2014.pdf

United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, "Security Council Told of Indiscriminate, Brutal Killings Children Face in Conflict", September 8, 2014,

<https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/security-council-children-conflict/>

United Nations Secretary-General. Summary by the Secretary-General of the Report of the United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry into Certain Incidents that Occurred in the Gaza Strip between 8 July 2014 and 26 August 2014.

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2068300-gaza-board-of-inquiry-report-and-cover-letter.html>

9. Mover's Name: Jane Glasby

9a) Mover's Local Telephone Number: 510-206-8614

10 Seconder's Name: Al Kagan

10a) Seconder's Local Telephone Number: 217-819-9975