

Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza

WHEREAS we value peace and the inherent worth of all human life;

WHEREAS we condemn any attacks, terror and violence on innocent civilians;

WHEREAS the bombing, blockading and forced displacement by the Israeli government and Israeli military has unleashed a humanitarian catastrophe on 2.3 million Gazan Palestinians, depriving the people of food, water, electricity, fuel, medical care and shelter, which constitutes the war crime of collective punishment[1];

WHEREAS the war and the bombing of Gaza have killed thousands of innocent civilians, including children and women, and the continued war will kill, injure, and displace thousands more innocent civilians;

WHEREAS the Israeli assault is leading to genocide in Gaza, according to the Center for Constitutional Rights and over 800 legal scholars from around the world[2];

WHEREAS the Municipal Public Library of Gaza City, the Children's Library of Gaza City, and the Diana Tamari Sabbagh Library at the Rashad El Shawa Cultural Center in Rimal have been completely destroyed, and the other 12 public libraries, the Islamic University library, and the two branches of the Edward Said Library have likely also been damaged or destroyed;

WHEREAS the freedom of expression of people voicing opposition to the Israeli assault on Gaza is being widely suppressed and many are being punished[3];

WHEREAS this conflict is occurring in the context of the decades-long history of dispossession, occupation and apartheid imposed on Palestinian people[4];

WHEREAS antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes are on the rise in the U.S.[5];

WHEREAS we reject criticism of Israel and Zionism that lapses into antisemitism;

WHEREAS we can criticize Israel and Zionism without resorting to antisemitism, and must be vigilant not to ally with those who do; now, therefore be it,

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. Call for an immediate ceasefire and the exchange of all hostages and prisoners held by Hamas and Israel.
2. Suspend military aid to the government of Israel until the occupation is ended and the long-term security, well-being and dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians are achieved.
3. Demand the end of Israeli policies depriving Palestinians of food, water, electricity, fuel, medical care, and shelter.
4. Condemn the violence and the attack on innocent children, women, and civilians and commit to working toward a peaceful solution that recognizes equally the rights of the peoples in that region to live in peace and harmony.

Mover: Mandy Nasr, ALA Councilor at Large
Second: Dr. Majed Khaled, ALA Chapter Councilor

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[1] "UN experts say Israel's strikes on Gaza amount to 'collective punishment'", *Reuters*, 12 October 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/un-experts-say-israels-strikes-gaza-amount-collective-punishment-2023-10-12/>

[2] Center for Constitutional Rights, "Israel's Unfolding Crime of Genocide of the Palestinian People & U.S. Failure to Prevent and Complicity in Genocide", 18 October 2023, <https://ccrjustice.org/israel-s-unfolding-crime-genocide-palestinian-people-us-failure-prevent-and-complicity-genocide/>; "Public Statement: Scholars Warn of Potential Genocide in Gaza", 17 October 2023, <https://twailr.com/public-statement-scholars-warn-of-potential-genocide-in-gaza/>; *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948 and entered into force 1951*, https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.1_Convention%20on%20the%20Prevention%20and%20Punishment%20of%20the%20Crime%20of%20Genocide.pdf

[3] Alex Kane, "A 'McCarthyite Backlash' Against Pro-Palestine Speech", *Jewish Currents*, 20 October 2023, <https://jewishcurrents.org/a-mccarthyite-backlash-against-pro-palestine-speech/>

[4] United Nations, "Security Council Resolution 242: The Situation in the Middle East", accessed 30 October 2023, <https://peacemaker.un.org/middle-east-resolution242/>; "Amnesty International: Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians", accessed 30 October 2023, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>

[5] Perry Stein and Devlin Barrett, "U.S. officials address rise in threats, hate crimes against Jews, Muslims", *Washington Post*, 30 October 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2023/10/30/fbi-threats-jewish-muslim-antisemitic/>