

RESOLUTION: Calling for a return of hostages, a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, and initiation of negotiations for a lasting peace

Whereas, All human life is precious and all humans have the right to exist in an environment free of violence, famine, and fear; and

Whereas, The Hamas terror attack on October 7, 2023, killed some 1200 Israelis^[1], including almost 700 civilians, and 240^[2] were kidnapped (over 100 of whom remain in captivity); and

Whereas, Many of the Israeli hostages taken by Hamas have been killed or presumed to be dead; and

Whereas, In response to the Hamas terror attack, Israeli military attacks have claimed the lives of more than 35,000 Palestinians, and depriving 2.3 million Palestinians of sufficient water, food, electricity, fuel, medical care, transportation, and Internet; and

Whereas, United Nations estimates suggest some 2 million Palestinians, 80% of the overall population, have been displaced from their homes in Gaza due to it being made uninhabitable, and 2.2 million Palestinians are facing extreme food insecurity and imminent famine if a lasting peace is not achieved and sufficient humanitarian aid is not delivered without delay; and

Whereas, Roughly half of the Palestinians killed or wounded during the violence in Gaza are children who face further imminent threats due to long-standing Israeli government restrictions on food, water, fuel, medical supplies, and other humanitarian assistance; and

Whereas, Palestinians deserve access to housing, clean potable water, high-quality food, medical care, freedom of movement, the right to self-determination, and the ability to live free of forced evictions and military threats; and

Whereas, Israelis and Palestinians all deserve the right to sovereignty, freedom, and security; and

Whereas, Hamas must release all remaining hostages and bodies of killed Israelis, and Israel must release all arbitrarily detained Palestinian prisoners; and

Whereas, the dismantling of Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization, must be pursued; and

Whereas, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab bigotry have risen significantly in Colorado and across the United States and the world, with direct impacts on our local communities, including at college campuses, schools, and workplaces where numerous incidents have threatened the well-being of Israeli, Arab, Jewish, and Muslim students and have contributed to oppression that serves to divide our communities and weaken our efforts to achieve collective safety, justice, and a true multi-ethnic and multi-racial democracy in our state and country; and

Whereas, President Joe Biden has called for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and whose administration is forcefully advocating for the continuation of negotiations for a two-state solution that achieves lasting peace in the region; therefore

Be it Resolved, That the State Central Committee of the Colorado Democratic Party (SCC) believes that support for human rights for Israelis and Palestinians are not opposing goals; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the SCC condemns:

1. the terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians by Hamas; and
2. the disproportionate military response by Israel that has led to a horrible loss of life of Palestinian civilians; and
3. the continued construction of settlements and the settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank in violation of international law; and

Be it Further Resolved, That the SCC recognizes the humanitarian crisis facing Palestinians in Gaza; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the SCC supports the work of President Joe Biden and the Department of State in their efforts to:

- Promptly provide and facilitate the entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza
- Achieve an end to all hostilities in the region
- Reach a lasting negotiated ceasefire
- Implement an enduring peace which ensures the full and equal dignity, security, and freedom for Palestinian and Israeli peoples,
- Continue work towards a two-state solution for both Israel and Palestine; and finally

Be it Further Resolved, That the SCC urges President Biden and the United States Congress to use their considerable leverage to bring about a permanent end to hostilities and take concrete steps towards a two-state solution with democratic self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians; and

Be It Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the offices of the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, the U.S. House Minority Leader, U.S. Senate Majority Leader, President Joe Biden, as well as the chair of the Democratic National Committee.

Footnotes

1 <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20231215-israel-social-security-data-reveals-true-picture-of-oct-7-deaths>

2

<https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2024-01-27/us-sees-signs-of-progress-on-deal-to-release-hostages-bring-temporary-pause-to-israel-hamas-war>

Recommended “do pass” by the CDP Resolutions Committee on June 4, 2024 and referred to the SCC.