

We, [Yale Jews for Ceasefire](#), mourn the lives lost in Israel and Palestine since October 7th. May their memories be a blessing. This ongoing tragedy has reverberated through our own families and communities.

We are devastated by the collapse of the temporary truce on December 1 and the continuation of violence in Gaza. The temporary ceasefire and partial hostage return between November 24th and December 1st was a short respite that only underscored the need for a sustained ceasefire and the return of all hostages. We condemn the indiscriminate bombing of Gaza and call for a ceasefire, now.

We mourn the more than [16,000](#) people who have been killed in Gaza since October 7th, including over [6,600](#) children. We grieve for the [1.9 million](#) Palestinians who have been displaced from their homes, over 85% of the population of Gaza. We mourn the approximately [1,200](#) people killed in the Hamas attacks on October 7th. We hold in our hearts the [138](#) hostages currently suffering in Gaza, and call for their immediate release as part of ceasefire arrangements. We hold in our hearts all the civilians in Gaza who [lack access to basic necessities](#) such as food, water, shelter, and medical care, and those who are [still missing under the rubble](#).

Peace requires an end to violence in all forms. This must include the structural violence of the [sixteen-year blockade](#) of Gaza and the longer history of Israeli [occupation](#) and [apartheid](#). Calls for peace are hollow and ineffectual unless they reckon with the violent conditions which have disguised themselves as the status quo.

We believe that Jewish and Palestinian liberation are deeply intertwined. Beyond a ceasefire, we envision a future in which all Israelis and Palestinians between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea can live freely and safely.

We are concerned that our university is helping to finance the killing of civilians through its investments in companies associated with the Israeli military. We call on the Yale Investments Office to end its [direct and indirect investments](#) in [companies](#) that [arm](#) the Israeli military, such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin, on the basis of the [“grave social injury”](#) they perpetrate. **We call on Yale to divest from all companies involved in military weapons manufacturing.**

We call on Representative Rosa DeLauro to sign the [Ceasefire Now Resolution](#). This resolution urges the United States to call for de-escalation and a ceasefire and to facilitate access to humanitarian aid in Gaza. We are disturbed by the recent passage of [House Bill 894](#), which dangerously equates anti-Zionism and criticism of Israel with antisemitism. We stand in solidarity with Jewish groups calling for ceasefire across campuses nationwide.

As university students, we denounce the rise of Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism [on Yale's campus](#) and the insufficient response of the administration. We are witnessing the suppression of pro-Palestinian speech across the United States, and we are troubled by the censorship of chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace on campuses including [Brandeis](#) and [Columbia](#). **We demand protection for all forms of student organizing and all voices on Yale's campus and nationwide.**

We want to emphasize that these demands arise not in spite of our Judaism but out of it. We are disturbed by the [rise in antisemitism](#) globally since October 7th. But Jews are not made safer by Israel's current campaign in Gaza, nor by an increasingly undemocratic government committed to a project of perpetual [expansion and escalation](#) in the West Bank. Most of our family histories are entwined with state-sanctioned anti-Jewish violence and expulsion. Our history of persecution and the Jewish imperative to pursue justice compel us to stand unequivocally against the displacement and mass killing of Palestinians, as well as against the entrenched Israeli apartheid systems which undermine Palestinian freedom, self-determination and flourishing.

The Talmud ([Sanhedrin 37a](#)) teaches that to destroy a single soul is to destroy an entire world; to sustain a single soul is to sustain an entire world. We call for the protection of human life as the preservation of entire worlds.