

A PLEA FOR A CEASEFIRE: AN OPEN LETTER ON PALESTINE

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We whose names are listed below represent a broad diversity of worldviews from across the globe, express here our tremendous sorrow and grief, and **our condemnation of the atrocious acts that have killed so many and caused such suffering in Palestine and Israel.**

We demand that the international community, our local and global leaders, take swift and resolute action to negotiate an **immediate ceasefire and put a decisive halt to the siege of Gaza.**

Furthermore, it is imperative to ensure the **swift restoration of basic services** and the reestablishment of critical supply chains in Gaza, thereby putting an abrupt and definitive end to the ongoing hostilities. This call is not to be underestimated, and the urgency of this matter cannot be overstated.

We believe the root cause of violence is violence, manifesting in various, devastating ways. **We commit ourselves to take action**, no matter how modest or substantial, in our lives and in our communities to lift up all who are suffering across this decades-long intergenerational issue. The conflict has left the rights of self-determination of the Palestinian people unresolved, fostering trauma, indifference, dehumanization, and tragic loss of life across Palestine and Israel. We hope that this letter also serves to **promote the values of open discourse and inspire our community to speak up against injustice and wrong-doing.**

Communities across the spectrum of Palestinian, Israeli, Muslim, Jews and various other groups - both regionally and globally - are seeking peace and stability in their daily lives. **We are deeply troubled to witness a surge in Islamophobic and anti-Semitic rhetoric and the corresponding increase in hate crimes.** Moreover, we believe the continually shifting narrative in mainstream media compounds these concerns.

In light of these distressing developments, it is of paramount importance that we acknowledge the need to **pursue resolutions that uphold the universal right to self determination for all oppressed populations.** This approach, we believe, is not only desirable but essential in curbing, if not eradicating, violence and hatred on a global scale. The aspirations for peace and justice are not exclusive to any single group, but resonate with humanity as a whole, making it an imperative responsibility for all.

The only way forward is for negotiations to take place on equal footing between Israel and Palestine, brokered by a wider set of international players than the countries and

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institutions which have thus far participated, including increasing trust-building initiatives to further **develop, support, heal and provide justice to all families directly and indirectly affected by the occupation of Palestine, in Palestine, Israel, and globally.**

We the undersigned recognize that this letter is not offering longer-term solutions. We believe the only people who have the right to articulate that path with strength and clarity are those who are most directly affected. Together, we stand as a global community committed to a world where all individuals can live free from the burden of conflict, in a spirit of peace, understanding, and mutual respect.

In solidarity,

1. Osman Siddiqi, Harvard Kennedy School, 2015
2. Wanjiku Kariuki, Harvard College, 2016
3. Hanan El-Kathiri, Harvard Law School, 2020
4. Mukhtar Abdi Ogle, Harvard Kennedy School, 2013
5. Wangari Muikia, Harvard Kennedy School, 2008
6. Tahany Maalla, Harvard Kennedy School, 2022
7. Arthur Namu, Harvard Kennedy School, 1984
8. Lilly Bekele-Piper, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2007
9. Edward Paranta, Harvard Law School
10. Amandla Ooko-Ombaka, Harvard Kennedy/Harvard Business School, 2016
11. Rachel Levenson, Harvard Kennedy School, 2018
12. Moka Lantum, Harvard T. Chan School of Public Health, 2013
13. Martin Mbaya, Harvard Kennedy School, 2008
14. Tina Byenkya, American University, 2008
15. Abba Kidenda, Hillsdale College, 2012
16. Gurkiran Nyotta, London School of Economics, 2013
17. Wael Omar, Cairo University
18. Teresa Mbagaya, N/A
19. Ijeoma Kola, Harvard University, 2012
20. Lyra Aoko, Lyra Aoko Media
21. Ratan Jafferjee, Cardiff University, 2013
22. Krishna Ramesh, Yale University, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, 2017
23. Roshni Walia, Yale School Of Management, 2023
24. Benjamin Malick, George Mason University
25. Rebecca Rebecca, Northwestern, 2011
26. Jumana Khanbhai, N/A
27. Julia Conrad, Harvard Kennedy School, 2023

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28. Yacob Berhane, Howard University, 2013
29. Ravi Shah, N/A
30. Noura Alnuaimi, Khalifa University, 2021
31. Naama Tayebji , United States International University - Africa
32. Arsala Qureshi, New York University
33. Kavore Kariuki, Harvard Kennedy School
34. Arcadius Mbagaya, 2010
35. Ranjeeta Walia, N/A
36. Tom Osborn, Harvard College, 2020
37. Diana Nekoye, 2010
38. Zeid Basyouni, Harvard Kennedy School, 2016
39. Salash Nabaala, Harvard College, 2018
40. April Zhu, Guernica Magazine
41. Liliana Olarte, Harvard Kennedy School, 2015
42. Kailey Williams , George Washington University
43. Alice Tenjiwe Kabwe, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2011
44. Catherine Rodgers , N/A
45. Tanya Alvis, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
46. Sharmi Surianarain, Harvard College Class, 2001
47. Lissett Babaian, Harvard 2011
48. Aurelien Pradier, University of Oxford, 2019
49. Miya Cain, Harvard Kennedy School, 2015
50. Jesse Torrence, Harvard Kennedy School, 2008
51. Jennifer Hatch, Harvard Kennedy School, 2015
52. Christine Namara, Ugand Christian University
53. Maria Qazi, Harvard Kennedt School, 2015
54. Tahjib Shamsuddin, Cardiff Metropolitan University
55. Mark Mukangu , BOSCOM International
56. Wangui Maranga, University of Nairobi, 1998
57. Michael Muhia Ngae, University of Nairobi, Parklands Law School
58. Natasha Elkathiri , University of Nairobi, 2014
59. Sumeya Hassan, N/A
60. Selman Kaldiroglu, N/A
61. Mustanira Fofeek Said, Kenyatta University, 2016
62. Jaaziyah Satar, N/A
63. Khadija Farah, Southern Methodist University, 2011
64. Leonard Njeru, University of Nairobi, 2004
65. Shereen Din, N/A
66. Najim Dost, Harvard Kennedy School, 2008
67. Dana Del Vecchio, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2018

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68. Carol Odhiambo, Self
69. Surili Sheth, Harvard Kennedy School, 2015
70. Juanita Bodmer, Harvard Kennedy School, 2015
71. Veronica Minaya, Harvard Kennedy School, 2018
72. Dylan Ndengu, N/A
73. Lola Aleru, N/A
74. Meriem Ait Ali Slimane, Harvard Kennedy School, 2008
75. Afifa Ali, 2011
76. James Kahiu, N/A
77. Asil Yassine, University of California, Ph.D., 2024
78. Sabina Siddiqi, Mount Holyoke, 2003, Tufts, 2007
79. Naomi Gatoru, United States International University - Africa
80. Amina Udi, N/A
81. Abubakar Ali Salim, New York University, 2019, London School of Economics
82. Murugi Murai, Temple university, 1997
83. Abood Rahman, N/A
84. Jonathan Munyi, N/A
85. Wanjiku Mungai, Harvard College, 201
86. Trevor Kimani, Self
87. Amena Siddiqi, Self
88. Maya Sikand, Brown University, 2013
89. Isaac Nyangolo, Harvard College, '07
90. Syed Adeel Rizvi, Brunel University, 2013*
91. Sehr Salman, SOAS, University of London
92. Nephthar Maritim, Harvard College '15; Northeastern University '16; Self
93. Prerna Makkar, Harvard Kennedy School, 2008

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