

Resolution Expressing Support of a Ceasefire in Gaza and Enduring Peace in the Southern Levant

Presented by: Councilman Abdul-Razak Osmanu

Whereas, the Town of Hamden recognizes and stands in solidarity with our diverse, interfaith communities across town, reaffirming our commitment to their safety, security, and well-being; and

Whereas, beginning with the 2021-2023 Legislative Council, land acknowledgements have been adopted by the Legislative Council upon the opening of meetings; and

Whereas, over 2 million Palestinians in Gaza have been displaced, with many more in dire need of humanitarian assistance; and¹

Whereas, Israel is now engaged in efforts that fall under the definitions of ethnic cleansing previously put forth by organizations such as the European Union and United Nations by explicitly requiring two million Palestinians to leave Gaza immediately or risk being bombed in their homes by the Israeli army; and

Whereas, Gaza is known as “the world’s largest open-air prison” due to ongoing, unbearable living conditions imposed by Israel, including a full air, land and sea blockade, enclosure of its borders by concrete walls and barbed wire fences, and the strict prohibition of Palestinians from leaving and entering the territory freely; and

Whereas, 1,200 Israelis were killed by Palestinian armed groups on October 7th and nearly 30,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel in this escalation of violence²; and

Whereas, we mourn the loss of all civilian lives lost from October 7th to the present likewise the countless lives lost throughout the 76 years of displacement, occupation, oppression and blockade endured in Palestine, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem territories deemed “Occupied Palestinian Territory” under international law by the United Nations; and

Whereas, there currently are 134 remaining Israeli captives and 9,000 Palestinian prisoners, many of which are minors and activists and 3,500 of whom are held without trial; and³

Whereas, this blockade on Gaza has caused a 46% unemployment rate as of the 4th Quarter of 2023⁴, while the vast majority of the population relies on humanitarian aid and food donations as a means of subsistence in light of conditions such as the World Bank’s estimate that

¹[https://www.nrc.no/news/2023/december/gaza-displacement/#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20reports%20that,return%20to%20\(Shelter%20Cluster\).](https://www.nrc.no/news/2023/december/gaza-displacement/#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20reports%20that,return%20to%20(Shelter%20Cluster).)

²<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-118>

³<https://www.addameer.org/statistics>

⁴<https://tradingeconomics.com/palestine/unemployment-rate#:~:text=a%20year%20earlier.-,The%20jobless%20rate%20was%2045.1%25%20in%20the%20Gaza%20Strip%20and, and%201.143%20million%20e>

[mployed%20persons.](#)

approximately 85 percent of workers in Gaza have been out of work since October 7, and that the Palestinian economy will lose USD 1.5 billion in nominal GDP for 2023 alone⁵; and

Whereas, the International Court of Justice found that it is plausible that Israel's conduct amounts to genocide, and a U.S. federal district court also found that the evidence "indicates that the current treatment of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military may plausibly constitute a genocide in violation of international law"⁶⁷; and

Whereas, on October 26th⁸, and reaffirmed on December 12th⁹ the United Nations General Assembly, in a near-unanimous vote, called for an immediate and sustained humanitarian ceasefire joining international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, Amnesty International and the International Rescue Committee; and

Whereas, the United States, alongside several world powers have suspended their funding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, an act that effectively serves as the collective punishment of over 2.2 million Palestinians deprived of basic necessities such as food, water & electricity; and

Whereas, the first 2 months of the Palestinian-Israeli alone have been found to have contributed carbon emissions at such levels greater than the carbon footprint of 20 of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations¹⁰

Whereas, the State Treasury of Connecticut has approximately \$95 million of public employee pension money invested in hundreds of Israeli companies and in State of Israel Bonds¹¹

Whereas, the Connecticut Federal Delegation and Federal Government hold immense diplomatic power to save human lives, notwithstanding the moral obligation to pursue such as representatives of the Town of Hamden; and

Whereas, the Hamden Legislative Council expressly condemns the bomb threats directed towards the Mishkan Israel Synagogue on October 5th and stands with our Jewish Community in the face of antisemitism and bigotry at large; and

Whereas, the Hamden Legislative Council condemns the recent rise in anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, and other racist sentiments in our town and across the nation, including but not limited to: the murder of six-year-old Wadea Al-Fayoume in Plainfield, Illinois; the shooting of three Palestinian students, one a Connecticut resident, Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ahmed in Burlington, Vermont; and the doxxing of elected

⁵<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/7600aee6c75eff4cf9b71ea1fe4016db-0280012023/original/NoteWB-G-dec11-CLEAN.pdf>

⁶<https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

⁷https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2024/01/91_1-31-24_Order-granting-MTD_w.pdf

⁸ <https://press.un.org/en/2023/ga12548.doc.htm>

⁹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144717>

¹⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/09/emissions-gaza-israel-hamas-war-climate-change>

¹¹ <https://ctmirror.org/2024/01/31/ct-investments-israel-hamas-war/>

officials, professors and students in the our region, alongside journalists, and others speaking truth to power; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Hamden Legislative Council:

1. Supports U.S. Congress House Resolution 786 and joins over 40 U.S. city councils in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages, including Palestinians arbitrarily detained by Israel, the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza, the restoration of electricity, water, food, and medical supplies to Gaza, an end to the siege and blockade of Gaza, and respect for international law by all parties; and
2. Affirms its commitment to combat anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab racism, anti-semitism, and Islamophobia in all its forms and to ensure the dignity and safety of all its residents; and
3. Takes seriously the entreaty of “Never Again,” and that the historical memory of the Holocaust means fighting ethnic cleansing and apartheid everywhere; and 4. Affirm, as the legislative body of the Town of Hamden, clear opposition towards investments in the arena of war, be it it's direct and indirect vestiges; and 5. Implore the Town of Hamden, ahead of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Budget to report on bonds held by the town, as to give clarity to the investments of the town and ensure alignment between investments and values of the town
6. Calls for the reinstatement of funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and humanitarian causes that prove vital to the maintenance of human life; and 7. Commit to the sending of a copy of this resolution to the offices of: Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett; Connecticut State Representatives, Robyn Porter, Michael D’Agostino, Joshua Elliot, Mary Weland, and Elizabeth Linehan; Connecticut State Senators Jorge Cabrera and Martin Looney; Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont; U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro; U.S. Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal; U.S. President Joe Biden; U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris; U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken; and U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, urging them to take immediate action to use their position and influence to call for a ceasefire to urgently end the violence and facilitate the entry and disbursement of humanitarian assistance.