

October 16th, 2023

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our urgent concern regarding dire and escalating violence in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory, which continues to result in significant human suffering and loss of civilian life.

We condemn all violence against civilians by Hamas and the Israeli military. In this critical moment, we believe it is imperative that U.S. policymakers take measures to immediately de-escalate the violence to prevent the further loss of civilian life. We urge Congress and the Administration to:

- 1) Publicly call for a ceasefire to prevent the further loss of life;
- 2) Prioritize the protection of all civilians, including by urgently securing the entrance of humanitarian aid into Gaza and working to secure the release of hostages; and
- 3) Urge all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law.

We implore Congress and the Administration to abstain from rhetoric that exacerbates violence and to unequivocally condemn all violations of international law. Over the last several days, the Israeli government has cut all food, fuel, and humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip. On October 12, Israel issued an evacuation order for the entire northern Gaza Strip, telling residents to evacuate south of Wadi Gaza. This amounts to approximately 1.1 million people. The U.N. is calling for this order to be rescinded, warning it will have "devastating humanitarian consequences."

We again urge Congress and the Administration to publicly call for, and help to facilitate, an immediate ceasefire to prevent the tragic loss of more innocent Palestinian and Israeli lives. Thank you for your urgent consideration.

Sincerely,

American Baptist Churches USA  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Muslims for Palestine  
Americans for Justice in Palestine  
Auburn Theological Seminary  
Center for Civilians in Conflict  
Center for Jewish Nonviolence  
Center for Victims of Torture  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy  
Churches for Middle East Peace  
Common Defense  
Council on Islamic-American Relations  
Demand Progress  
Democracy for the Arab World Now  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Fellowship of Reconciliation  
Freedom Forward

Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect  
Historians for Peace and Democracy  
If Not Now  
Institute for Policy Studies New Internationalism Project  
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)  
Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Jewish Voice for Peace Action  
Just Foreign Policy  
Justice Democrats  
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention  
MADRE  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Minnesota Peace Project  
MPower Change Action Fund  
National Council of Churches  
National Iranian American Council  
Neighbors for Peace  
Nonviolent Peaceforce  
Pax Christi USA  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness  
Peace Action  
Project on Middle East Democracy  
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft  
Quixote Center  
ReThinking Foreign Policy  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
RootsAction  
Sojourners  
The Duty Legacy  
The Unitarian Universalist Association  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
The Zomia Center  
United Church of Christ  
United for Peace and Justice  
UNRWA USA  
Women for Weapons Trade Transparency  
Working Families Party  
World BEYOND War  
Yemen Freedom Council  
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation  
Yemeni Alliance Committee