



**REVISED AGENDA
PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION
MEETING
(REVISED TO INCLUDE SECRETARY
COMMUNICATION)**

Monday, September 30, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst St. Berkeley Ca, 94704

Mayor Arreguin:
Andrea Cassidy

Rashi Kersarwani:
Allegra Guarino

Terry Taplin:
Veta Jacquelin

Ben Bartlett:
George Lippman

Igor Tregub
Deborah Fink

Sophie Hahn
Nimrod Pitskar Elias

Susan Wengraf:
Robin Mencher

Cecilia Lunaparra:
Luke Taylor

Mark Humbert

BUSD:
Grace Morizawa- Chair
Jeannette McNeil
Sandy Parks
Dwayne Phillips
Sheela Jivan

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Announcements
4. Comments from the Public (*subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary*)
5. Review and approval of meeting minutes
6. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report
7. Secretary's Report (including status of passed items from previous meetings)

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

8. Discussion and Action Regarding Resolution for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza, and an End to U.S. Military Aid to Israel, and Support for Palestinian Self-Determination.
9. Israel-Gaza Community Listening Forum.
10. Peace and Justice Commission Work Plan.

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

11. No communications received.

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

- A. August 2024 Draft Minutes
- B. Land Acknowledgement
- C. Gaza Ceasefire Resolution 9.3.24
- D. Gaza Ceasefire Resolution 9.30.24
- E. Peace and Justice Secretary
Memo

 Meeting Access: To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist, at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD), at least three (3) business days before the meeting date.

Communications Disclaimer

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.*

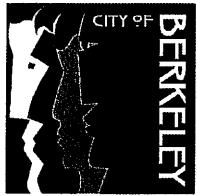
SB 343 Disclaimer

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Old City Hall located at 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Commission Contact Information

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor

Berkeley, CA 94704
Ovance-dozier@cityofberkeley.info (email)



Peace and Justice
Commission

Peace and Justice Commission
August 7, 2024

Draft MINUTES

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm with Grace Morizawa (Chair) presiding. Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary.

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Morizawa, Lippman, Mencher, McNeil, Taylor, Jacquelin, Elias, Jivan

Absent:

Excused:

Leave of Absence:

2. **Announcements**

None

3. **Comments from the Public**

Public Attendance: 3

Public Comments: 3

4. **Review and approval of meeting minutes**

Peace and Justice Commission approved minutes from 7/01/24.

M/S/C: Lippman, Jacquelin

Ayes: Morizawa, Lippman, Mencher, McNeil, Taylor, Jacquelin, Elias

Noes:

Abstain: Jivan

Absent:

Excused:

5. **Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report (No Action Taken):**

6. **Secretary's Report (No Action Taken)**

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. Resolution Opposing the Criminalization of Poverty

Finalized resolution with amendments will be sent to secretary and moved forward to the city council.

M/S/C: Lippman, Taylor

Ayes: Morizawa, Lippman, Mencher, McNeil, Taylor, Jacquelin, Elias, Jivan

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

8. Peace and Justice Commission Work Plan

Moved to a future meeting to be finalized.

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

9. Rescheduling September 9th Regular Meeting.

New meeting date will be set for Tuesday September 3rd.

M/S/C: Taylor, Mencher

Ayes: Morizawa, Lippman, Mencher, McNeil, Taylor, Elias, Jivan

Noes:

Abstain: Jacquelin

Absent:

Excused:

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

10. No communications received prior to meeting.

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

M/S/C: Lippman, Morizawa

Ayes: Morizawa, Lippman, Mencher, McNeil, Taylor, Jacquelin, Elias, Jivan

Noes:

Abstain:
Absent:
Excused:

Respectfully Submitted,

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission

Land Acknowledgement Statement

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.

1 Resolution for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza, and an End to U.S.
2 Military Aid to Israel, and Support for Palestinian Self-Determination
3

4 WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters
5 relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley
6 Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070);¹ and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Commission's mandate finds that "the wealth that could be spent to
9 help the poor, heal the sick, house the homeless, educate the children, and care for the
10 elderly is now spent on ever more costly weapons of mass destruction;" and
11

12 WHEREAS, after careful consideration the Berkeley City Council finds it proper to offer
13 its views on the massive escalation of violence and scope of destruction in Gaza; and
14

15 WHEREAS, there are many reasons for the Council to speak out about the Israel-Gaza
16 war, including:
17

18 BERKELEY IS A PEACE CITY. Berkeley has a unique history of fighting for
19 peace and universal human rights for at least 65 years; many of these issues
20 were taken on by the Council on the advice of the Peace and Justice
21 Commission. These movements include, among others, "Ban the Bomb" in the
22 early 1960s, the anti-Vietnam/Indochina war movement, "Stop the Draft,"
23 opposition to the Contra War in Nicaragua, the Grenada invasion, sister cities,
24 the Gulf War, post-9/11 Forever Wars, and the Impeach Bush, No Military
25 Recruiting at BHS, Conscientious Objectors Day campaigns, and, most recently,
26 a resolution calling for the cessation of Russia's aggression in Ukraine.
27

28 THE PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE. Many residents
29 of Berkeley have personal connections to family and friends in Israel and/or
30 Palestine, or have lived in those countries themselves, and are deeply affected
31 and traumatized by the last ten months of atrocities; these connections make it
32 painful to talk about the conflict, while at the same time making it imperative to do
33 so.
34

35 OUR MORAL FIBER. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, speaking about Apartheid in
36 South Africa said, "In a situation of injustice and oppression, there can be no
37 neutrality. You have to take sides. You have to ask yourself, 'Am I on the side of
38 justice or am I on the side of injustice?'"² Our moral obligation, as a city, is to
39 speak out against the industry of militarism that precipitates thousands of deaths
40 of innocents while eroding our ability to educate, house, and uplift our local
41 communities.
42

43 THE THREAT OF A WIDENING WAR. In the occupied West Bank, the period
44 since October 7, 2023, has seen over 600 Palestinians killed in Israeli military
45 attacks or by settlers while the number of Palestinians held in Israeli detention,
46 often without charge or due process, has skyrocketed.³ Political assassinations

beyond Israel's borders threaten to devolve into regional war which, given the U.S. commitment to defend Israel, could turn into an international war. An increasing U.S. military presence, including the arrival of a guided missile submarine and aircraft carrier strike group, contributes to the expanding risk of a broader war that would further erode global peace and security.⁴

A SISTERHOOD OF CITIES. The City of Berkeley has long maintained a connection with cities suffering in war zones; the Peace and Justice Commission's mandate says, "The intentional destruction of cities in war is the rule and not the exception;" and while the destruction is physical in Gaza City, Rafah and many other cities throughout Gaza, it wounds cities like ours as well, both morally and financially. Speaking on the war in Vietnam, Dr. King said, "The security we profess to seek in foreign adventures we will lose in our decaying cities. The bombs we drop in Vietnam explode at home; they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America."⁵

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COSTS OF WAR. The wages of war are counted not only in the lives lost and the economic cost; war is also demeaning to our culture, corrupting to our politics, increases sexual violence, poisons race relations, destroys the natural environment and harms the mental health of millions; the last year has inflamed the scourges of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia experienced by members of the Berkeley community, which are likely to worsen as the conflict continues; other negative effects include an exponential growth in mass surveillance, an increased deployment of militarized force and belligerence in civil society;⁶ and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley mourns the thousands of people killed before, on, and after October 7, 2023, including almost 45,000 people killed by military action – 2% of the total population – and as many as 186,000⁷ additionally killed due to famine and disease in Gaza, and 1,200 in Israel, the majority of all these being civilians; the destruction of all universities and 80% of health and education facilities in Gaza; an 85% unemployment rate; the displacement of 85% of the entire population including 700,000 children; continuous airstrikes on refugee camps, hospitals, schools, mosques, and cultural sites; the entire population facing acute food scarcity and imminent famine;⁸ and there is no certainty that the war is coming to a close; and

WHEREAS, the United States has sent more than \$300 billion in military aid to Israel to date, currently \$3.8 billion annually, and approved additional packages of \$14 billion in February and \$20 billion in August 2024, with virtually no conditions, oversight, or accountability, and has increased the transfer of lethal aid during the current war;⁹ and

WHEREAS, the \$1.6 million annually in income taxes paid by Berkeley residents that funds Israel's military could otherwise be spent on housing, education, healthcare, and infrastructure for our community;¹⁰ and

92 WHEREAS, the soaring toll of death and destruction in Gaza and the spread of conflict
93 to other fronts around the region sears the conscience of people in Berkeley and around
94 the world, and the United Nations Security Council on June 10, 2024 mandated an
95 immediate, full and complete ceasefire and the release of hostages and prisoners on
96 both sides,¹¹ to no avail; and

97
98 WHEREAS, on July 19, 2024, acting on a request of the U.N. General Assembly for a
99 legal advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) determined that Israel's
100 occupation since 1967, and the subsequent creation of Israeli settlements and
101 exploitation of natural resources are illegal under international law;¹² the Court also
102 ruled that Israel should pay reparations to the Palestinian people for the damage
103 caused by the occupation, allow all Palestinians displaced during the occupation to
104 return to their original place of residence – in keeping with the Right of Return outlined
105 in prior UN General Assembly resolutions¹³ – and determined that Israeli occupation
106 policies violate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial
107 Discrimination (ICERD);¹⁴ and

108
109 WHEREAS, The Elders, a non-profit global group of respected senior leaders founded
110 by Nelson Mandela, went beyond the Security Council resolution in a July statement to
111 “call on political leaders who have influence to use their leverage to end Israel's
112 atrocities in Gaza by suspending arms sales, to secure the immediate release of
113 hostages held by Hamas, and to compel the parties to commit to a permanent
114 ceasefire; and specifically, “All states providing arms to Israel - directly or indirectly -
115 must suspend arms transfers in response to systematic violations of international
116 humanitarian law in Gaza and across the occupied Palestinian territories;”¹⁵ and

117
118 WHEREAS, The Elders' statement calls out U.S. practices in particular, stating, “As
119 Israel's closest ally and its largest provider of arms, the United States of America must
120 lead the way,” and

121
122 WHEREAS, on January 26, 2024, in the case brought to the International Court of
123 Justice (ICJ) by South Africa and joined by seven other countries, the Court found it
124 plausible that Israel was violating rights guaranteed under the Genocide Convention,
125 including “the right of the Palestinians in Gaza to be protected from acts of genocide,”
126 issuing provisional measures that Israel has refused to enact; and the ICJ issued
127 stronger follow-up orders on March 28 and May 24, 2024.¹⁶

128
129 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it is
130 not too late to halt and reverse the cycle of war, destruction, and dispossession that
131 have plagued Palestine for more than a century.

132
133 The Council recalls its statement in founding the Peace and Justice Commission in
134 1986 that “it is the responsibility of one and all to labor hard for peace and justice in
135 forums of appropriate scale.”

137 The uncontrolled war in Israel and Palestine is destructive to peace, security, and the
138 living conditions of all people living in Palestine and Israel. Continuation of the war is not
139 in the interests of Jewish people in Israel and the Jewish diaspora any more than it is of
140 the Palestinians.

141
142 The Council states that as U.S. citizens and residents, the most effective way we can
143 contribute to peace with justice in Israel and Palestine is to press our own government
144 to end the sale of weapons and tools that enable devastation.

145
146 As with a raging wildfire, the withdrawal of such fuel can only promote the reduction of
147 violence, and in so doing create the conditions for peace with justice.

148
149 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley:

150
151 1) Urges the Biden administration to immediately end all weapons shipments and
152 military aid to Israel.

153
154 2) Urges the Biden administration to call for the unrestricted opening of crossings into
155 Gaza in order to allow sufficient humanitarian assistance into the territory and to allow
156 the tens of thousands of grievously injured to access necessary medical treatment
157 without further delay.

158
159 3) Urges the Biden administration to demand the immediate end of Israel's illegal
160 occupation of Palestinian territories – the West Bank and East Jerusalem – and an end
161 to the 16-year-long siege and blockade of Gaza in compliance with international law,
162 and full withdrawal from Gaza.

163
164 4) Calls for the immediate release of the approximately nine thousand Palestinians
165 including young minors held in administrative detention, as well as all Palestinian
166 political prisoners and all Israeli hostages held in Gaza.

167
168 5) Urges the Biden administration to formally recognize the State of Palestine, support
169 its full membership into the United Nations, and affirm the Palestinian right to self-
170 determination through self-governance and the Right of Return.

171
172 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley endorses Congressional
173 Resolution 786 (Bush and Tlaib), calling for an immediate permanent ceasefire.¹⁷

174
175 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley vows to combat all forms of
176 hate, including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism,
177 xenophobia, and ethnonationalism.

178
179 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to President
180 Joseph R. Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Vice President Kamala Harris,
181 Representative Barbara Lee, Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Laphonza R. Butler,
182 Representative Cori Bush, and Representative Rashida Tlaib.

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- ¹ <https://berkeley.municipal.codes/BMC/3.68>
- ² "Desmond Tutu at Stanford University, January 21, 1986," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3GnrwSZkLU> (Min. 42:05)
- ³ "Statistics on Palestinians in Israeli Custody," June 24, 2024, https://www.btselem.org/statistics/detainees_and_prisoners
- ⁴ "'On verge of an explosion': Policeman's killing part of spiralling West Bank violence," BBC, August 12, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd735zvg1q9o> and "In the West Bank, Palestinians Struggle to Adjust to a New Reality," Feb.2, 2024, The New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/02/world/middleeast/west-bank-palestine-israel.html>
- ⁵ Martin Luther King Jr.'s moral stance against the Vietnam War offers lessons on how to fight for peace in the Middle East , " Hajar Yazdiha, *USC Dornsife*, 1-12-2024, <https://dornsife.usc.edu/news/stories/martin-luther-king-vietnam-war/#>
- ⁶ "Costs of War," Watson Institute, Brown University, September 2023, <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/social>
- ⁷ "Counting the dead in Gaza: difficult but essential ," Rasha Khatib, July 20 2024, The Lancet, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext)
- ⁸ "GAZA STRIP: Famine is imminent as 1.1 million people half of Gaza experience catastrophic food insecurity," Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/alerts-archive/issue-97/en/>
- ⁹ "U.S. Aid to Israel in Four Charts," Jonathan Masters, May 31 2024, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/article/us-aid-israel-four-charts>
- ¹⁰ "U.S. Military Funding to Israel Map," U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, <https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/us-military-funding-to-israel-map/>
- ¹¹ UNSC Resolution 2728. See Robert Barron, US Institute of Peace, 3-26-2024, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/what-does-un-cease-fire-resolution-mean-israel-gaza-war>
- ¹² <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>
- ¹³ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-210170/>
- ¹⁴ "Top UN court says Israeli occupation of West Bank and East Jerusalem is illegal," CNN, 7-19-2024, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/19/middleeast/israel-west-bank-jerusalem-occupation-icj-opinion-intl/index.html>
- ¹⁵ "The Elders call for suspension of arms transfers to Israel to end Gaza atrocities," 4-4-2024, <https://theelders.org/news/elders-call-suspension-arms-transfers-israel-end-gaza-atrocities>
- ¹⁶ ICJ Order of 26 January 2024," <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203447> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/world-court-orders-israel-take-measures-ensure-food-gets-into-gaza-2024-03-28/>
- ¹⁷ "ICJ Order of 24 May 2024," <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/204091#>.
- ¹⁷ <https://bush.house.gov/media/press-releases/calls-for-ceasefire-grow-in-month-following-introduction-of-ceasefire-now-resolution>

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beyond Israel's borders, including mass explosion attacks in Lebanon on September 17th and 18th, threaten to devolve into regional war which, given the U.S. commitment to defend Israel, could turn into an international war.⁴ An increasing U.S. military presence, including the arrival of a guided missile submarine and aircraft carrier strike group, contributes to the expanding risk of a broader war that would further erode global peace and security.⁵

A SISTERHOOD OF CITIES. The City of Berkeley has long maintained a connection with cities suffering in war zones; the Peace and Justice Commission's mandate says, "The intentional destruction of cities in war is the rule and not the exception;" and while the destruction is physical in Gaza City, Rafah and many other cities throughout Gaza, it wounds cities like ours as well, both morally and financially. Speaking on the war in Vietnam, Dr. King said, "The security we profess to seek in foreign adventures we will lose in our decaying cities. The bombs we drop in Vietnam explode at home; they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America."⁶

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WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley mourns the thousands of people killed before, on, and after October 7, 2023, including almost 45,000 people killed by military action – 2% of the total population – and as many as 186,000⁸ additionally killed due to famine and disease in Gaza, and 1,200 in Israel, the majority of all these being civilians; the destruction of all universities and 80% of health and education facilities in Gaza; an 85% unemployment rate; the displacement of 85% of the entire population including 700,000 children; continuous airstrikes on refugee camps, hospitals, schools, mosques, and cultural sites; the entire population facing acute food scarcity and imminent famine;⁹ and there is no certainty that the war is coming to a close; and

WHEREAS, the United States has sent more than \$300 billion in military aid to Israel to date, currently \$3.8 billion annually, and approved additional packages of \$14 billion in February and \$20 billion in August 2024, with virtually no conditions, oversight, or accountability, and has increased the transfer of lethal aid during the current war;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS, the \$1.6 million annually in income taxes paid by Berkeley residents that funds Israel's military could otherwise be spent on housing, education, healthcare, and infrastructure for our community;¹¹ and

WHEREAS, the soaring toll of death and destruction in Gaza and the spread of conflict to other fronts around the region sears the conscience of people in Berkeley and around the world, and the United Nations Security Council on June 10, 2024 mandated an immediate, full and complete ceasefire and the release of hostages and prisoners on both sides,¹² to no avail; and

WHEREAS, on September 18th, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted the legal advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued on July 19, 2024,¹³ which acting on a request of the U.N. General Assembly for a legal advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) determined that Israel's occupation since 1967, and the subsequent creation of Israeli settlements and exploitation of natural resources, are illegal under international law;¹⁴ the Court also ruled that Israel should pay reparations to the Palestinian people for the damage caused by the occupation, allow all Palestinians displaced during the occupation to return to their original place of residence – in keeping with the Right of Return outlined in prior UN General Assembly resolutions¹⁵ – and determined that Israeli occupation policies violate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD);¹⁶ and

WHEREAS, The Elders, a non-profit global group of respected senior leaders founded by Nelson Mandela, went beyond the Security Council resolution in a July statement to “call on political leaders who have influence to use their leverage to end Israel's atrocities in Gaza by suspending arms sales, to secure the immediate release of hostages held by Hamas, and to compel the parties to commit to a permanent ceasefire; and specifically, “All states providing arms to Israel - directly or indirectly - must suspend arms transfers in response to systematic violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza and across the occupied Palestinian territories;”¹⁷ and

WHEREAS, The Elders' statement calls out U.S. practices in particular, stating, “As Israel's closest ally and its largest provider of arms, the United States of America must lead the way;” and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2024, in the case brought to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by South Africa and joined by seven other countries, the Court found it plausible that Israel was violating rights guaranteed under the Genocide Convention, including “the right of the Palestinians in Gaza to be protected from acts of genocide,” issuing provisional measures that Israel has refused to enact; and the ICJ issued stronger follow-up orders on March 28 and May 24, 2024.¹⁸

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it is not too late to halt and reverse the cycle of war, destruction, and dispossession that have plagued Palestine for more than a century.

The Council recalls its statement in founding the Peace and Justice Commission in 1986 that “it is the responsibility of one and all to labor hard for peace and justice in forums of appropriate scale.”

The uncontrolled war in Israel and Palestine is destructive to peace, security, and the living conditions of all people living in Palestine and Israel. Continuation of ~~the~~ war is not in the interests of any group of people in Israel, the region, or around the world ~~Jewish people in Israel and the Jewish diaspora~~ any more than it is of the Palestinians.

The Council states that as U.S. citizens and residents, the most effective way we can contribute to peace with justice in Israel and Palestine is to press our own government to end the sale of weapons and tools that enable devastation.

As with a raging wildfire, the withdrawal of such fuel can only promote the reduction of violence, and in so doing create the conditions for peace with justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley:

1) Urges the Biden administration to immediately end all weapons shipments and military aid to Israel.

2) Urges the Biden administration to call for the unrestricted opening of crossings into Gaza in order to allow sufficient humanitarian assistance into the territory and to allow the tens of thousands of grievously injured to access necessary medical treatment without further delay.

3) Urges the Biden administration to demand the immediate end of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories – the West Bank and East Jerusalem – and an end to the 16-year-long siege and blockade of Gaza in compliance with international law, and full withdrawal from Gaza.

4) Calls for the immediate release of the approximately nine thousand Palestinians including young minors held in administrative detention, as well as all Palestinian political prisoners and all Israeli hostages held in Gaza.

5) Urges the Biden administration to formally recognize the State of Palestine, support its full membership into the United Nations, and affirm the Palestinian right to self-determination through self-governance and the Right of Return.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley endorses Congressional Resolution 786 (Bush and Tlaib), calling for an immediate permanent ceasefire.¹⁹

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley vows to combat all forms of hate, including Islamophobia, ~~anti-Semitism~~, anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism, xenophobia, and ethnonationalism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to President Joseph R. Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Vice President Kamala Harris,

184 Representative Barbara Lee, Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Laphonza R. Butler,
185 Representative Cori Bush, and Representative Rashida Tlaib.

¹ <https://berkeley.municipal.codes/BMC/3.68>

² “Desmond Tutu at Stanford University, January 21, 1986,”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3GnrwSZkLU> (Min. 42:05)

³ “Statistics on Palestinians in Israeli Custody,” June 24, 2024,
https://www.btselem.org/statistics/detainees_and_prisoners

⁴ <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-hamas-war-news-lebanon-hezbollah-e3ca9c83642056f962fdf76319e3b8de>

⁵ “‘On verge of an explosion’: Policeman’s killing part of spiralling West Bank violence,” BBC, August 12, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd735zvg1q9o> and

“In the West Bank, Palestinians Struggle to Adjust to a New Reality,” Feb.2, 2024, The New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/02/world/middleeast/west-bank-palestine-israel.html>

⁶ Martin Luther King Jr.’s moral stance against the Vietnam War offers lessons on how to fight for peace in the Middle East,” Hajar Yazdiha, *USC Dornsife*, 1-12-2024, <https://dornsife.usc.edu/news/stories/martin-luther-king-vietnam-war/#>

⁷ “Costs of War,” Watson Institute, Brown University, September 2023,
<https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/social>

⁸ “Counting the dead in Gaza: difficult but essential,” Rasha Khatib, July 20 2024, The Lancet,
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext)

⁹ “GAZA STRIP: Famine is imminent as 1.1 million people half of Gaza experience catastrophic food insecurity,” Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/alerts-archive/issue-97/en/>

¹⁰ “U.S. Aid to Israel in Four Charts,” Jonathan Masters, May 31 2024, Council on Foreign Relations,
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¹¹ “U.S. Military Funding to Israel Map,” U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, <https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/us-military-funding-to-israel-map/>

¹² UNSC Resolution 2728. See Robert Barron, US Institute of Peace, 3-26-2024,
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/03/what-does-un-cease-fire-resolution-mean-israel-gaza-war>

¹³ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/266/48/pdf/n2426648.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-210170/>

¹⁶ “Top UN court says Israeli occupation of West Bank and East Jerusalem is illegal,” CNN, 7-19-2024,
<https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/19/middleeast/israel-west-bank-jerusalem-occupation-icj-opinion-intl/index.html>

¹⁷ “The Elders call for suspension of arms transfers to Israel to end Gaza atrocities,” 4-4-2024,
<https://theelders.org/news/elders-call-suspension-arms-transfers-israel-end-gaza-atrocities>

¹⁸ ICJ Order of 26 January 2024,” <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203447>
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“ICJ Order of 24 May 2024,” <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/204091#>.

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Peace and Justice Commission

MEMO

To: Peace and Justice Commission
From: Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Subject: Email Communications from the Public Regarding Ceasefire Resolution

During the time period of August 30, 2024 through current August 26, 2024, I, Okeya Vance-Dozier, the Secretary for the Peace and Justice Commission, received approximately 2,000 emails from various organizations and City of Berkeley community members speaking about the recently proposed resolution drafted by commissioners of the Peace and Justice Commission on the topic of Gaza Ceasefire.

The emails received were substantially similar to the 3 different versions below:

There were roughly 1,500 emails similarly worded to the email below:

Ms. Vance-Dozier:

We are calling on the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission to drop its extreme resolution attacking Israel and ignoring Hamas. The "Resolution for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza" is hurtful and an example of partisan politics at its worst.

This resolution not only includes false and misleading descriptions of the situation on the ground in Israel and Gaza, but it neither mentions nor condemns Hamas or the atrocities it committed on October 7, 2023. Furthermore, its calls for an embargo (including on defense weapons like Iron Dome) would lead to more deaths and exacerbate the conflict – in direct contrast to the resolution's stated goals. Worse of all, the timing of the vote represents a clear attempt to score political points, and is not about reconciliation or peace.

Instead of dividing communities to advance electoral politics, we call on the commission to follow its original plan for a listening session with all communities impacted by the war. Let's work to ensure Berkeley takes a path of healing, not division.

There were roughly 500 emails similarly worded to the email below:

Honorable City Council Members and Peace and Justice Commission,

We are your constituents, Americans across this great nation, and worldwide citizens, including Palestinian and Israeli peace activists, who are asking you to vote NO on the ceasefire and related resolutions, NO to BDS, and NO to withholding military aid to Israel.

We ask you please to read this letter in its entirety to understand our request.

A careful read of the ceasefire resolutions and other resolutions that unjustly vilify Israel will reveal the writers' intentional and glaring omission – a description of the horrors that Hamas has unleashed against both the Palestinians and Israelis.

These documents' disingenuous implication that the suffering of the Palestinians in Gaza is because of Israel, and that the only remedies are an Israeli ceasefire and withholding financial ties to Israel is blatantly false and serves to keep Hamas in power.

HAMAS IS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

What the resolution's authors obfuscate is that Hamas is designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S.A. and 27 other countries (1).

Hamas' charter is explicit – their war is not just about land (2). Rather, it is about wiping out democracy, Jewish people, Christians, and all 'infidels.' As Senior Hamas Mahmoud Al-Zahar states in this video (12-12-22), which we encourage you to watch:

"The entire 510 million square kilometers of Planet Earth will come under [a system] where there is no injustice, no oppression, no treachery, no Zionism, no treacherous Christianity" (3).

Hamas' violence, however, is not saved just for the 'infidel.' Hamas turns this violence steadily against its own people, the Palestinians.

Below is a description of Palestinian daily life under Hamas' rule, which is vital information for you to make an informed decision.

HAMAS ROBBED GAZA FROM THE PALESTINIANS

Since 2005, Israel has been out of Gaza (4), which could have become a renowned seaside resort – with jobs and a vibrant economy. Sadly, Hamas stole billions of dollars of UNRWA aid from the Palestinians. Instead of using this money towards infrastructure, Hamas and UNRWA used it to create 450 miles of terror tunnels to commit the worst genocide of Jewish people since the Holocaust on October 7 (5).

HAMAS' VIOLENT COUP OF GAZA

In January 2006, Hamas won the majority of the seats in the Palestinian government. In June 2007, Hamas took over Gaza in a bloody coup, by throwing Fatah fighters off roofs of buildings (6, 7) and marching Fatah soldiers half naked and blindfolded in the street - executing them point blank (8,9).

HAMAS WEAPONIZES PALESTINIAN YOUTH

The UNRWA-Hamas partnership has poisoned over 545,000 Palestinian children through its P.A. curriculum that teaches hatred of Jewish People and Israel, and promotes violence, jihad, 'martyrdom culture,' and omits teaching about peace and co-existence. 80 UNRWA teachers and staff across more than 30 schools

teach hateful content in their textbooks (10), and numerous Hamas terrorists have graduated from these schools (11, 12).

Since these children are instructed to be murder weapons for a terrorist group, Hamas and UNRWA are directly responsible for all the murders they commit, and for their untimely deaths as terrorists, suicide bombers, and as shields for Hamas (13, 14).

HAMAS' EXTREME VIOLENCE AGAINST DISSENTERS

Palestinian children and adults are exposed to daily violence by Hamas. It is common for a Palestinian child to walk to school and see a severed head roll by, Gazans hanging dead from electrical wires, Gazans being dragged across town by their feet, or a woman's head being chopped off with an ax while she is doing laundry. What are these people's 'crimes?' They are Gazans who want to live and work peacefully with the Israelis (15, 16).

Sheikh Mohammed Mushtaha, a Gazan mosque preacher, refused to praise Hamas in his sermon to a group of thousands. On 12/30/23 Hamas fighters violently stormed his house and kidnapped him (17).

HAMAS VIOLENCE: MUSIC, LGBTQIA+, AND CHRISTIANS

Hamas murders people for playing music at weddings (18), tortures and murders people who are LGBTQIA+ (19), and mistreats Christians by attacking their churches, threatening their leaders, and kidnapping Christian youth (20, 21).

HAMAS PURPOSELY INCREASES PALESTINIAN DEATHS

Hamas leaders have admitted that not only do they strategically use Palestinian civilians as shields, but they also know that Israel does NOT want to harm Palestinian civilians (22).

Hamas intentionally blocks safe passage corridors created by Israel, threatens to murder civilians who wish to evacuate (23), and hides munitions in hospitals, schools, homes, and mosques to INCREASE civilian casualties in order to impede Israeli military operations, demoralize Israel, and delegitimize Israel in the eyes of the world (24, 25). Hamas also loots aid trucks and murders Palestinians trying to get to the aid (26, 27, 28).

Loss of human life is tragic and according to logic and international law, these deaths, and the deaths of the terrorists themselves, fall squarely on the shoulders of Hamas (29).

ISRAEL PROTECTS PALESTINIAN CIVILIAN LIVES

Moreover, numerous war experts (30-32), including John Spencer, Chief of Urban Warfare Studies at WestPoint, laud the Israel Defense Force (IDF) for being the most moral army in the world. He said, "Israel has implemented more measures to avoid civilian casualties than any other military in the history of war" (33). From the IDF's use of precision weapons to avoid collateral damage, to (leaflets) (34), texts, and calls to Gazan civilians ahead of airstrikes, to evacuating urban areas before attacking Hamas outposts, "No military in the world has ever done this" (35).

In fact on May 15, 2024, over 80 U.S. military generals, with expertise in the Middle East, have attested to the FACT that Israel follows international rules of war while Hamas ABUSES these rules to endanger civilian life (36).

Unprecedented in the entire world, Israel endangers its own soldiers to protect civilians (37).

FOOD AND AID

The world must speak out about what Hamas is doing to starve the Palestinian population. Despite the fact that the onus of this starvation falls squarely on Hamas, Israel sends in food and aid trucks because they care about civilian lives! Hamas loots these trucks and murders Palestinians trying to get to the aid (38 – 41).

HAMAS LIES

Hamas uses lies and disinformation as a strategic P.R. weapon. Hamas lied in 2002, 2009, 2012, and 2014 regarding numbers of civilian casualties (42, 43). In fact, months after the 2009 war, the Hamas leader, Fathi Hamad, admitted that Hamas lied about the number of civilian casualties and that Israel's numbers were correct (44).

In this conflict, when a Palestinian rocket exploded the Al-Ahli hospital, Hamas quickly blamed the Israelis and the media perpetuated these lies. After an investigation and video footage, the truth was discovered (45).

Recent statistical analysis of the Hamas Ministry of Health numbers of casualties uncover that they are statistically impossible. See the analysis here (46, 47).

Armies that fight a defensive war against terrorists in urban warfare have a civilian to terrorist casualty ratio of 4 to 60:1; meaning 4 to 60 civilians are accidentally killed for every terrorist that is eliminated. Israel's ratio is 1:1, meaning they have reduced civilian casualties four to sixtyfold by comparison (48). According to international law (Article 51) and ethics, all of these civilian casualties fall on Hamas' shoulders.

HAMAS VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL

Despite the fact that Israel has offered peace agreements with the Palestinians on at least five occasions (49), Hamas has fired over 30,000 rockets at Israeli civilians since 2001 (50, 51).

On October 7 Hamas, UNRWA employees, and Palestinians high on illegal narcotics (52) brutally raped, burned, beheaded, maimed, and murdered 1,200 Israeli civilians, and took more than 240 hostages, including Americans, and Foreign Nationals in an act of pure genocide (53). Hamas is still holding these innocent hostages (54).

IN SUMMARY:

These resolutions are created by Hamas-funded terrorist network support groups and lobbyists (e.g., CAIR, AMP, SJP, etc.) and are meant to hide what Hamas does to keep them in power (55-57). Please, do not fall for it.

Leaving Hamas in power perpetuates brutality against the Palestinians and heinous terrorist attacks on Israel. When you say 'cease fire now,' you might think you are protecting innocent people. What you are doing, however, is allowing Hamas' brutal leaders to retrench and re-strengthen. In essence, you are hurting the people you say you are concerned about.

How can you help Palestinians and Israelis? Do NOT call for an Israeli ceasefire or a financial and military boycott of Israel. Rather, call for Hamas's unconditional surrender and return of all the hostages. Only that will stop the terror attacks against Israel and Hamas' brutality against the Gazan civilians themselves.

Finally, the role of the Peace and Justice Commission is to advise local educational institutions. To this aim, truthful and balanced school resources are provided below.

References:

<https://ejh.email/NoCFLetter1References>

School Resources:

- 1) Educator network and teacher training: <https://www.standwithus.com/k-12-educator-network>
- 2) Facing History and Ourselves Curriculum: <https://www.facinghistory.org/>
- 3) Hope in the Holy Land, a movie: <https://hopeintheholylnd.com/>
- 4) Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth, by Noa Tishby.
- 5) Podcast by Einat Wilf on Call Me Back: Exploring Israel's Statehood and the Palestinian Refugee Issue
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQDbqOUgSB0>
- 6) Traveling Israel: Educational Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/@TravelingIsraelinfo>
- 7) UNRWA: an obstacle to peace? – Published in Fathom <https://www.wilf.org/English/2013/09/13/unrwa-obstacle-peace-published-fathom/>
- 8) What is the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Really About and How Will it End?
<https://www.wilf.org/English/2018/04/10/what-is-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-really-about-and-how-will-it-end/>

There were roughly 500 emails similarly worded to the email below:

California Veterans Group
Christians United for Israel
Press
U.S. Representative
U.S. Senators

Honorable City Council Members and Peace and Justice Commission,

We are your constituents, Americans across this great nation, and worldwide citizens who are asking you to vote NO on the ceasefire or other related resolutions, NO to BDS, and NO to withholding military aid to Israel.

Please read this document in its entirety.

The defined role of your council and commission is to value and protect your city and not engage in international affairs.

Have you wondered why this is the only issue that ignites such passion when numerous other global crises demand attention? Are you addressing the following humanitarian disasters with the same urgency?

(1) Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar (2017-Present): Myanmar Buddhist military massacred, raped and displaced over 700,000 Rohingya Muslims. [1].

(2) Uyghur Detention Camps in China (Ongoing): China has put 1 million Muslim Uyghurs in mass detention camps where they are subject to forced labor and sterilization [2].

(3) Yemeni Civil War (Ongoing): Muslim civil war. More than four million displaced. Attacks on civilians, hunger, disease. [3].

(4) Syrian Civil War (Ongoing): Muslim civil war. Widespread atrocities, chemical attacks on civilians; shooting protesters. 470,000 dead, 1 million injured; 13.1 million need humanitarian aid [4].

(5) Sudanese enslavement (Ongoing): Arab Muslims have slaughtered 2.5 million black Sudanese Christians and enslaved 200,000. Jihadists have kidnapped many black Christian girls [5].

(6) Gender apartheid: Hundreds of millions of women in Muslim countries are second class citizens subject to beatings, sexual violence, honor killings, and genital mutilation [6].

These crises describe the offensive targeting of innocents perpetrated by Buddhists, the Chinese, and Muslims. In response to these crises, it would be absurd to justify harassment, segregation, and violence towards Buddhist, Chinese, or Muslim Americans on U.S. campuses, K-12 schools, social media, restaurants, subways, and streets.

Unlike the abovementioned crises, the Israel-Hamas conflict is a DEFENSIVE war that Hamas thrust on the democratic country of Israel on October 7th – targeting and murdering 1,200 civilians and taking hundreds of hostages (American, Israeli, and Foreign Nationals) after firing over 30,000 rockets into Israel for decades [7].

Notably, this was after Israel moved out of Gaza in 2005 – as one of its numerous gestures of peace that have been rejected and met with increased violence [8].

The innocent lives lost in this war is tragic. However, under International Law and ethics, Israel has a duty and right to protect its civilians from these attacks by defeating Hamas and rescuing the hostages [9].

Hamas ADMITS to burrowing itself within the civilian Palestinian population to increase civilian deaths in order to create world protests and delegitimize Israel [10].

However, according to International Law and ethics the responsibility for ALL lives lost falls squarely on Hamas' shoulders. Does this council and commission realize that when America fights against terrorists, they accidentally kill 4 to 60 civilians per terrorist eliminated? Israel's ratio is 1:1. Israel's commitment to fighting ethically outshines every military in the world [11].

These ceasefire and related resolutions, BDS campaigns, and fervor to interfere with military aid to Israel are part of a global agenda – to delegitimize and destroy the one Jewish State and justify harassment, segregation, and violence towards Jews on U.S. campuses, subway cars, restaurants, and the world [12-15].

Just listen to the chants: "From the river to the sea;" "We don't want a two-state;" "Long live October 7th;" "October 7th again;" "Long live the intifada!"

In fact, Article 7 of the Hamas Charter states: “The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out, ‘O Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him’” [16].

This hate has no boundaries. If you think they stop at targeting Jews, listen carefully to the rest of their chants like, “Death to America!” [17]

THE GREAT MISCONCEPTION

It is a misconception that the Nazis were solely responsible for the murder of six million Jews. The Nazis had collaborators – willing executioners – people communities, towns, cities, and across all of Europe who believed the propaganda and justified slaughtering their neighbors. [18-19].

Like them, you are being given a grave responsibility to choose noisy hate and lies or clear truth and morality.

If you want this war to end, do NOT call for an Israeli ceasefire and related resolutions, BDS, or interfere with military aid to Israel. This will allow Hamas to retrench and re-strengthen. Rather, call for Hamas to surrender and release all the hostages.

By keeping yourself, your council, and your commission on the right side of history, your Creator and humanity will judge you as a hero.

Sincerely,

“Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it” – George Santayana.

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Respectfully submitted,

Okeya Vance-Dozier,
Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission