

My name is Jihad Edwan, a resident of Montgomery County, and I wholeheartedly endorse House Joint Resolution 2, which advocates for an immediate, permanent ceasefire in occupied Palestine. This resolution is crucial for addressing the urgent humanitarian crisis resulting from the ongoing Israeli attacks on Gaza.

The war in the Gaza Strip has resulted in destruction on a scale comparable to the most devastating urban warfare in modern history. By mid-December, Israel had dropped 29,000 bombs, munitions, and shells on the strip, leading to catastrophic damage. Nearly 70% of Gaza's 439,000 homes and about half of its buildings have been damaged or destroyed. This stark reality underscores the pressing need for peace and humanitarian aid.

Furthermore, the resolution's condemnation of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry is commendable. It is essential to recognize that such forms of hatred only serve to divide communities and hinder efforts towards achieving peace and justice.

As a Montgomery County resident, I believe in the right of all people to live in peace and security, free from threats and violence. I stand in solidarity with the call for a permanent ceasefire and the release of more than 16,000 Palestinians from Israeli jails. The delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people is also imperative.

I urge Maryland's Congressional Delegation to heed the call of the General Assembly of Maryland and take decisive action to support this resolution. By working together, we can strive for a future where peace and justice prevail for all in occupied Palestine.

Jihad Edwan