

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH GREEN
 President

ROBIN WEIMAN
 1st Vice President

AMALIA HONICK

BENJAMIN ROSENBERG

RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ

RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN

MELANIE SHAPIRO

RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
 Past President

HOWARD LIBIT
 Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation
 American Jewish Committee
 Americans for Peace Now
 Baltimore Chapter
 American Israel Public Affairs Committee
 American Red Magen David for Israel
 American Zionist Movement
 Amit Women
 Association of Reform Zionists of America
 Baltimore Board of Rabbis
 Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
 Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
 Baltimore Men's ORT
 Baltimore Zionist District
 Beth Am Congregation
 Beth El Congregation
 Beth Israel Congregation
 Beth Shalom Congregation of
 Howard County
 Beth Tfiloh Congregation
 B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
 B'nai Israel Congregation
 B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
 Bolton Street Synagogue
 Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
 Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
 Chizuk Amuno Congregation
 Congregation Beit Tikvah
 Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
 Federation of Jewish Women's
 Organizations of Maryland
 Hadassah
 Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
 J Street
 Jewish Federation of Howard County
 Jewish Labor Committee
 Jewish War Veterans
 Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
 Jewish Women International
 Jews For Judaism
 Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
 Hebrew Congregation
 National Council of Jewish Women
 Ner Tamid Congregation
 Rabbinical Council of America
 Religious Zionists of America
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Emunah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Resolution HJ002 - Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine

Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

March 4, 2024

OPPOSE

Background: House Resolution 002 (HJ002) would have the General Assembly of Maryland convey to Maryland's Congressional Delegation its support for an immediate, long-term ceasefire in Israel and Gaza, the return of all hostages, and delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, all of its agencies, as well as the organized Jewish Community of Greater Baltimore. We are adamantly opposed to this ill-informed resolution, riddled with dangerous inaccuracies meant to divide communities instead of unite them. The BJC understands the idea of supporting a Ceasefire to prevent further loss of life, and let us be clear: We abhor the loss of innocent life, whether Jewish or Arab, Israeli, or Palestinian. War is horrible. Like most Americans, we want the war to end. But also like most Americans, we want a ceasefire **only once the hostages are released and Hamas is removed from power.**

This Ceasefire resolution does not align with American values. It absolves Hamas, an organization recognized by our government as a terrorist organization, of responsibility, and attempts to strip Israel of the basic right to self-defense that every nation has. This resolution promotes antisemitic vitriol; divides the community; and will only exacerbate the rhetoric that has already led to the astronomical rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia. Since October 7th, antisemitic incidents have increased almost 400%.

To understand the background of this Ceasefire resolution, we would like to let you know about the organization that brought it to Annapolis. This resolution was written and shopped to legislators by CAIR Maryland, a known antisemitic organization, whose national and state leadership have used false narratives. They have been relentless and unapologetic in their antisemitism and flat-out dangerous lies about the war in Israel and Gaza. On the national level, CAIR's leader said he "was happy to see" the terrorist attacks which

OFFICERS

ELIZABETH GREEN
 President

ROBIN WEIMAN
 1st Vice President

AMALIA HONICK
 BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
 RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
 RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
 MELANIE SHAPIRO
 RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
 Past President

HOWARD LIBIT
 Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation
 American Jewish Committee
 Americans for Peace Now
 Baltimore Chapter
 American Israel Public Affairs Committee
 American Red Magen David for Israel
 American Zionist Movement
 Amit Women
 Association of Reform Zionists of America
 Baltimore Board of Rabbis
 Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
 Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
 Baltimore Men's ORT
 Baltimore Zionist District
 Beth Am Congregation
 Beth El Congregation
 Beth Israel Congregation
 Beth Shalom Congregation of
 Howard County
 Beth Tfiloh Congregation
 B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
 B'nai Israel Congregation
 B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
 Bolton Street Synagogue
 Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
 Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
 Chizuk Amuno Congregation
 Congregation Beit Tikvah
 Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
 Federation of Jewish Women's
 Organizations of Maryland
 Hadassah
 Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
 J Street
 Jewish Federation of Howard County
 Jewish Labor Committee
 Jewish War Veterans
 Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
 Jewish Women International
 Jews For Judaism
 Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah
 Hebrew Congregation
 National Council of Jewish Women
 Ner Tamid Congregation
 Rabbinical Council of America
 Religious Zionists of America
 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Emenah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

brutally murdered 1,200 innocent Israeli civilians.¹ He also used dangerous age-old antisemitic tropes to state that Jews control politicians.²

In Maryland, the day after the horrific attacks, and days before Israel launched a counterattack, CAIR Maryland's leader was in front of the White House cheering on the atrocities, and a photo was proudly posted on CAIR National's X page.³ Since then the leader of CAIR Maryland has posted hundreds of times on their verified Facebook page promoting unabashedly antisemitic rhetoric and dangerously false information about the actions of Israel. They have stated that babies were not actually killed on October 7th, that Israel is harvesting organs from Palestinians, and that Jews control politicians. These are all antisemitic tropes -- Holocaust denial (denial of Jewish deaths), blood libel, and Jewish control of government.⁴

The specifics in this the resolution are alarming for the falsities and one-sided nature. First, it does not require the return of all hostages as a condition of the ceasefire, only suggesting they be returned at some point. Second, it only mentions the actions of the Israeli government (with non-verified, inaccurate data) without mentioning Hamas or the horrific attacks on Israeli civilians that included rape, murder and more. Third, it falsely states that Israel targets civilians, when Israel does more than any country to protect civilian lives, whereas Hamas purposely uses Palestinian civilians (and the hostages) as human shields.⁵ It also states that Israel occupies Palestine, but Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 and has not occupied the area since, whereas the terrorist organization Hamas came to power in 2007, bringing devastation to the Palestinian people. The resolution also purposely and continuously mentions antisemitism, islamophobia and anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry, but leaves out anti-Israeli hate. These are just a few of the one-sided and false narratives riddled throughout the resolution.

Let's not bring that to our State. Instead, the General Assembly should rise above the divisive discourse of supporting a one-sided Ceasefire resolution and reaffirm the values we should hold near and dear.

For these reasons we urge an unfavorable report on HJ002

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/08/us/politics/white-house-cair-nihad-awad.html>

² <https://jewishinsider.com/2023/12/nihad-awad-council-american-islamic-relations-israel-gaza-terror-attacks/>

³ <https://twitter.com/CAIRNational/status/1711158966992941475>

⁴ See attached screenshots below.

⁵ <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/the-hamas-terrorist-organization/how-is-the-idf-minimizing-harm-to-civilians-in-gaza/#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20its%20efforts,impending%20airstrike%20in%20his%20vicinity.>

OFFICERS

- ELIZABETH GREEN
President
- ROBIN WEIMAN
1st Vice President
- AMALIA HONICK
- BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
- RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
- RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
- MELANIE SHAPIRO
- RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
Past President
- HOWARD LIBIT
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Adat Chaim Congregation
- American Jewish Committee
- Americans for Peace Now
 - Baltimore Chapter
- American Israel Public Affairs Committee
- American Red Magen David for Israel
- American Zionist Movement
- Amit Women
- Association of Reform Zionists of America
- Baltimore Board of Rabbis
- Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
- Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
- Baltimore Men's ORT
- Baltimore Zionist District
- Beth Am Congregation
- Beth El Congregation
- Beth Israel Congregation
- Beth Shalom Congregation of Howard County
- Beth Tfiloh Congregation
- B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
- B'nai Israel Congregation
- B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
- Bolton Street Synagogue
- Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
- Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
- Chizuk Amuno Congregation
- Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
- Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland
- Hadassah
- Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
- J Street
- Jewish Federation of Howard County
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Jewish War Veterans
- Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
- Jewish Women International
- Jews For Judaism
- Moses Montefiore Anshe Emenah Hebrew Congregation
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ner Tamid Congregation
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Religious Zionists of America
- Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
- Shomrei Emenah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America Baltimore District



OFFICERS

- ELIZABETH GREEN
President
- ROBIN WEIMAN
1st Vice President
- AMALIA HONICK
- BENJAMIN ROSENBERG
- RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
- RABBI JONATHAN SEIDEMANN
- MELANIE SHAPIRO
- RABBI ANDREW BUSCH
Past President
- HOWARD LIBIT
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Adat Chaim Congregation
- American Jewish Committee
- Americans for Peace Now
 - Baltimore Chapter
- American Israel Public Affairs Committee
- American Red Magen David for Israel
- American Zionist Movement
- Amit Women
- Association of Reform Zionists of America
- Baltimore Board of Rabbis
- Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
- Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
- Baltimore Men's ORT
- Baltimore Zionist District
- Beth Am Congregation
- Beth El Congregation
- Beth Israel Congregation
- Beth Shalom Congregation of
 - Howard County
- Beth Tfiloh Congregation
- B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
- B'nai Israel Congregation
- B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
- Bolton Street Synagogue
- Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
- Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
- Chizuk Amuno Congregation
- Congregation Beit Tikvah
- Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
- Federation of Jewish Women's
 - Organizations of Maryland
- Hadassah
- Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
- J Street
- Jewish Federation of Howard County
- Jewish Labor Committee
- Jewish War Veterans
- Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
- Jewish Women International
- Jews For Judaism
- Moses Montefiore Anshe Emenah
 - Hebrew Congregation
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ner Tamid Congregation
- Rabbinical Council of America
- Religious Zionists of America
- Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
- Shomrei Emenah Congregation
- Suburban Orthodox Congregation
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Isaiah
- Zionist Organization of America
 - Baltimore District

 **Zainab Chaudry**  15h · 

Gaza media office: vital organs stolen from 80 bodies of Palestinians returned to Karam Abu Salem border crossing

—
 "After examining the bodies, it is clear that the features of those killed had changed greatly, in a clear indication that the Israeli occupation had stolen vital organs from them," the statement went on to say.

The media office said this is not the first time that Israel has "mutilated" Palestinian bodies, and has called for an independent international investigation committee into the kidnapping of Palestinian bodies and theft of their vital organs.

'Israel has previously exhumed graves in Jabalia and stole some of the bodies, in addition to the fact that it still has dozens of bodies from the Gaza Strip in its possession,' the office said."

 **Zainab Chaudry**  41m · 

it's no surprise that organizations like the ADL who prioritize the interests of the most right wing, fascist administration in the history of Israel, want to smear and silence voices raising awareness about Israel's war crimes and the genocide in Gaza by falsely labeling them as anti-Semitic

but it also shouldn't surprise anyone that lawmakers bought and paid for by Israel's lobbying arm in the United States at every level of the government are also trying to distort, twist and silence us

one could ask where is their humanity, but we already know the answer. you can try to silence one voice, ten voices, but you can't silence millions.

criticism of apartheid, genocide, illegal occupation, settler colonial violence, crimes against humanity isn't antisemitic. it's pro-humanity.

  8 1 comment 2 shares

 Like  Share