

The safety of all civilians in Palestine, including the remaining Israeli hostages, can only be guaranteed by an immediate ceasefire. Countless more civilian lives will be lost if a ceasefire is not reached, not only as the result of continued fighting, but also because humanitarian aid will continue to be impeded from reaching those who need it the most. As Israel's most powerful ally, it is of paramount importance that our institutions at every level demand this ceasefire immediately. There are no circumstances under which it is acceptable for a military to enact violence on civilians, especially to the degree that we have seen in Palestine. As a Maryland resident, I will be deeply ashamed if our General Assembly does not acknowledge this truth and demand an immediate, long-term ceasefire to this conflict. If we claim to hold all human life as sacred then we must live by this value and demand an end to this violence, which has already resulted in the murder of over 12,000 children.