

Testimony to the House of Delegates Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
HJ 2 : Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine
Position: Favorable

February 29, 2020

The Honorable Anne Healey, Chair
House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
100 State Circle, H-4 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401
cc: Members, Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Chair Healey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jordy Diaz a resident of District 16. I am a son to Honduran immigrants and am currently a student at Towson University studying Human Rights and History. I am writing today in support of House Joint Resolution HJ 2 which will state to Maryland's Congressional Delegation its support for an immediate, long-term ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine, the return of all hostages, and delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

As of February of this year around 27 thousand Palestinians have been killed and 66 thousand injured as reported by Human Rights Watch. Around 1.7 million Palestinians have been internally displaced making up 75% of the total population of Palestinians in Gaza. What is currently occurring in Gaza currently constitutes ethnic cleansing by my understanding of the term which according to the UN is “rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove persons of given groups from the area.” The deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure such as residential buildings and medical facilities such as hospitals lead me to believe that the Israeli military deliberately aims to forcibly remove Palestinians from Gaza regardless of their participation in the October 7th attacks.

This blatant disregard for the lives of brown people abroad by our federal government does not go unnoticed within the Latinx community. It is extremely concerning how the United States government continues to veto resolutions calling for an end to the killing of millions of civilians in Gaza. We have seen similar justifications used against black and brown people within our borders to justify the murder of our own civilians through police brutality and systematic racism. It is your duty as representatives of all Marylanders to protect the lives of the most vulnerable populations within your constituency. With the election of Donald Trump as the Republican nominee becoming more of a reality with each primary win. It is imperative that you as the representatives of the people do not give him the tools which can be used to target vulnerable populations with human rights abuses such as immigrant communities and black and brown communities. It is time to prove to us that you truly believe that we are all equal regardless of race by calling for a ceasefire and standing with the civilians of Gaza just as you did with the passage of House Joint Resolution HJ8 Solidarity With the Government and People of Ukraine in 2022.

Best,
Jordy Diaz