

As a citizen of Maryland, I implore my legislators to pass HJ0002 in support of an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Palestine and Israel including immediate aid to the Palestinian people of Gaza. The Israeli genocide of the Palestinian people is well-documented (see the case of South Africa submitted to the ICJ) I must enumerate the toll of this onslaught- over 30,000 humans murdered, tens of thousands killed and uncounted under the rubble, 60,000 with disabling injuries, almost 2 million displaced and being purposefully starved as Israel denies aid, medicine, fuel, food and water, almost a million children denied an education with tens of thousands becoming orphans as family members are killed, the destruction of hospitals, schools, universities, bakeries, archives, museums, water treatment plants, agricultural lands, communication infrastructure, and the use of illegal chemical weapons like white phosphorus leaving thousands with burns, and the targeting of journalists, medics, healthcare workers, professors and doctors and poets- all in the name of self-defense. As an occupying power, Israel has the duty to care for civilians. A permanent ceasefire must happen for any possibility of diplomatic resolution to the Israeli war on the Palestinian people. As the Palestinian resistance (which has a right to resist under international law) has stated from the beginning, Israeli hostages will be exchanged for Palestinian hostages, of which there are more than 10,000 being held in Israeli detention. After 5 months, Israel is no closer to the release of their hostages and are enabled in their genocide of Palestinians by the US providing arms, intel and diplomatic/media cover. Shame. The time to act for humanity is now. Begin by passing the moral call for a permanent ceasefire and immediate aid to Palestinians who are surviving unimaginable terror and savage pain every day, now going on more than 145 days.

Sincerely,

An extremely concerned citizen,

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