

## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY: SUPPORT FOR HJ 9**

**To:** House Rules & Executive Nominations Committee

**From:** Elizabeth Lizama

**Date:** March 5, 2026

**Subject:** **FAVORABLE** Report for HJ 9 – Condemning Violence and Violations of Law

Chair Healy and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Lizama, and I am a resident of District 16, Bethesda. I am writing to urge a favorable report on HJ 9.

My support for this resolution is rooted in my professional background with the United Nations and my direct work with refugees from the very populations mentioned in this bill: Gaza, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I worked with refugees from these regions until President Trump gutted the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program last year. I have seen the human consequences of these crises, and am outraged that this administration has slammed the door shut on thousands of vulnerable individuals seeking safety from ongoing conflicts.

Throughout my UN career, I have seen that international humanitarian law only functions when there is a chorus of voices demanding accountability. Maryland must be part of that chorus. We must urge the federal government to:

1. Use its full diplomatic and economic influence to prevent further atrocities.
2. Ensure U.S. foreign assistance is strictly consistent with international law.
3. Work toward durable, just and peaceful resolutions.

When we undermine humanitarian assistance programs or remain silent during genocidal violence, we fail the very values our state and country claim to uphold. Passing HJ 9 is a necessary step in reclaiming our moral standing and supporting the diverse communities that call Maryland home.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HJ 9.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lizama