

Resolution supporting a long-term ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine, the return of all hostages, and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

WHEREAS all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, is a violation of international humanitarian law.

WHEREAS between October 7th, 2023, and February 19th, 2024, armed violence has claimed the lives of over 29,000 Palestinians and over 1,200 Israelis and injured over 69,000 Palestinians.¹

WHEREAS 41% of Palestinian casualties have been children and 25% have been women.²

WHEREAS as of November 6th more than 500 impact craters over forty feet in diameter have appeared in Gaza.³ As of December 14th, the Israeli military acknowledged having dropped 29,000 bombs on Gaza, which have displaced 1.9 million Gazans (eighty-five percent of the population).⁴

WHEREAS this bombing has left 65,000 homes uninhabitable, and another 290,000 homes damaged.⁵

WHEREAS the loss of life from the constant bombing has overwhelmed the hospitals of Gaza, leaving less than half of Gaza's hospitals functioning, most at only partial capacity.⁶

WHEREAS without a ceasefire it is estimated that close to *half a million* Palestinians may die within a year. This assessment reflects both the physical damage to Gaza's infrastructure and

¹ Shurafa, W., & Magdy, S. (2024, February 19). *More than 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since war's start, Health Ministry says*. PBS. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/more-than-29000-palestinians-have-been-killed-in-gaza-since-wars-start-health-ministry-says>.

² Wilson, R., deAcostaNoya, R., Matthews, A. L., & Newman, A. (2023, November 7). *Civilian death toll: Israeli and Palestinian fatalities continue to rise amid the war with Hamas*. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/07/middleeast/palestinian-israeli-deaths-gaza-dg/index.html>

³ Bertrand, N., & Lillis, K. B. (2023, December 14). *Exclusive: Nearly half of the Israeli munitions dropped on Gaza are imprecise "dumb bombs," US intelligence assessment finds* | CNN politics. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/13/politics/intelligence-assessment-dumb-bombs-israel-gaza/index.html>.

⁴ Guardian News and Media. (2024, January 13). *South Africa's genocide case against Israel is strong – and may win* | Kenneth Roth. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/jan/13/south-africa-israel-genocide-the-hague>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Shurafa, W., & Magdy, S. (2024, February 19). *More than 29,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since war's start, Health Ministry says*. PBS. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/more-than-29000-palestinians-have-been-killed-in-gaza-since-wars-start-health-ministry-says>.

the consequences stemming from Israel's decision to besiege Gaza since the third day of the conflict.⁷

WHEREAS the United States on Feb. 20 cast the sole vote against a United Nations Security Council resolution that would have called for an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip.⁸

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk without an immediate long-term ceasefire, restoration of basic necessities, and delivery of adequate humanitarian aid without delay to the Palestinian people.

WHEREAS the United States Government has immense diplomatic power it can wield to save the lives of Israelis and Palestinians.

WHEREAS the Washington State Democrats passed a resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, urging all parties to prioritize the protection of civilian lives and providing essentials of life, including water, food, medical and healthcare facilities.⁹

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WHATCOM DEMOCRATS:

- Condemns violations of international law, including both the attack on October 7th, 2023, by Hamas, and the Israeli government's military response on the 2.3 million Palestinian people living in Gaza since then.
- Call on President Biden, our Congressional District 2 Representative, Rick Larsen, and our U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, to support an immediate long-term ceasefire, the return of all Israeli hostages and Palestinians held as political prisoners, and the delivery of adequate humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.
- Call on our federal representatives to demand withholding military aid, other than Iron Dome support, to Israel until Israel stops the military assault on Palestine.

Adopted by a vote of 58 to 2 at the 24 February 2024 General Membership Meeting of Whatcom County Democrats.

⁷ Beauchamp, Z. (2024, February 20). *How Israel's war went wrong*. Vox. <https://www.vox.com/24055522/israel-hamas-gaza-war-strategy-netanyahu-strategy-morality>

⁸ Farnaz Fassihi, Cassandra Vinograd, and Thomas Fuller. (2024, February 20). *U.S. Vetoes Security Council Cease-Fire Resolution*. New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/20/world/middleeast/us-vetoes-ceasefire-resolution.html>.

⁹ Washington State Democrats. (2023, December 29). *Resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian Issue, the War in Gaza, Hostages, and Call for a Cessation of Violence*. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1g-fgJz8l88_pcVkwYIS3Z6zjH708Kyf/edit.