

January 8th, 2024

## **Resolution Calling for a Permanent and Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza**

WHEREAS, the Palestinian people of Gaza are currently facing a campaign of collective punishment by the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, collective punishment is categorized as a war crime and prohibited by treaty under international law according to Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and

WHEREAS, collective punishment is defined within the Convention as “all sanctions and harassment of any sort, administrative, by police action or otherwise” imposed upon persons for actions which they did not commit; and

WHEREAS, this collective punishment of the Palestinian people in Gaza has included: sweeping sanctions on access to electricity, drinking water, food, medical care, and humanitarian aid; the forced displacement of millions of Gaza residents; and the continued bombing of hospitals, refugee camps, schools, and other civilian centers; and

WHEREAS, over 22,000 people have been killed by Israeli military action in Gaza since the October 7th attack carried out by Hamas, which resulted in the deaths of 1,200 people; and

WHEREAS, approximately forty percent of all those killed in Gaza over the past three months were children, including infants; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Food Program, 9 out of 10 Palestinians in Gaza are currently eating less than one meal per day due to the destruction of civil infrastructure by the Israeli military and inhumane restrictions placed by the Israeli government on the distribution of aid to Gaza; and

WHEREAS, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres referred to Gaza as a “graveyard for children” on November 6th, 2023, the same day 18 UN officials – including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the head of the World Health Organization – signed a collective call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza; and

WHEREAS, the director of the New York office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights resigned on October 31st, 2023, citing the unfolding crisis in Gaza as genocide; and  
WHEREAS, countless domestic and international groups representing a diversity of backgrounds and experiences – including Rabbis for Human Rights, Jewish Voice for Peace, Social Workers for Peace and Welfare, Doctors Without Borders, Amnesty International, the World Health Organization, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the International Red Cross, 18 UN