

## Madalyn Letellier

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**From:** Harris Berenholz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2024 10:20 PM  
**To:** All City Council; Katjana Ballantyne; Public Comments  
**Subject:** Vote NO on ceasefire and related resolutions: Protect Palestinians and Israelis from Hamas

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cc:  
Christians United for Israel  
Press  
U.S. Representative  
U.S. Senators

Honorable City Council Members,

We are your constituents, Americans across this great nation, and worldwide citizens, including Palestinian and Israeli peace activists, who are asking you to vote NO on the ceasefire resolution, NO to BDS, and NO to withholding military aid to Israel.

We ask you please to read this letter in its entirety to understand our request.

A careful read of the ceasefire resolutions and other resolutions that unjustly vilify Israel will reveal the writers' intentional and glaring omission – a description of the horrors that Hamas has unleashed against both the Palestinians and Israelis.

These documents' disingenuous implication that the suffering of the Palestinians in Gaza is because of Israel are false as are the claims of genocide by Israel against the Palestinian people. It is HAMAS that perpetuates genocide on the Israelis and it is HAMAS that perpetuates egregious Palestinian casualties. It is blatantly false to claim that the only remedies are an Israeli ceasefire and withholding financial ties to Israel. This serves to keep Hamas in power.

### HAMAS IS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

What the resolution's authors obfuscate is that Hamas is designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S.A. and 27 other countries (1).

Hamas' charter is explicit – their war is not just about land (2). Rather, it is about wiping out democracy, Jewish people, Christians, and all 'infidels.' As Senior Hamas Mahmoud Al-Zahar states in this video (12-12-22), which we encourage you to watch:

"The entire 510 million square kilometers of Planet Earth will come under [a system] where there is no injustice, no oppression, no treachery, no Zionism, no treacherous Christianity" (3).

Hamas' violence, however, is not saved just for the 'infidel.' Hamas turns this violence steadily against its own people, the Palestinians.

Below is a description of Palestinian daily life under Hamas' rule, which is vital information for you to make an informed decision.

#### HAMAS ROBBED GAZA FROM THE PALESTINIANS

Since 2005, Israel has been out of Gaza (4), which could have become a renowned seaside resort – with jobs and a vibrant economy. Sadly, Hamas stole billions of dollars of UNRWA aid from the Palestinians. Instead of using this money towards infrastructure, Hamas and UNRWA used it to create 450 miles of terror tunnels to commit the worst genocide of Jewish people since the Holocaust on October 7 (5).

#### HAMAS' VIOLENT COUP OF GAZA

In January 2006, Hamas won the majority of the seats in the Palestinian government. In June 2007, Hamas took over Gaza in a bloody coup, by throwing Fatah fighters off roofs of buildings (6, 7) and marching Fatah soldiers half naked and blindfolded in the street - executing them point blank (8,9).

#### HAMAS WEAPONIZES PALESTINIAN YOUTH

The UNRWA-Hamas partnership has poisoned over 545,000 Palestinian children through its P.A. curriculum that teaches hatred of Jewish People and Israel, and promotes violence, jihad, 'martyrdom culture,' and omits teaching about peace and co-existence. 80 UNRWA teachers and staff across more than 30 schools teach hateful content in their textbooks (10), and numerous Hamas terrorists have graduated from these schools (11, 12).

Since these children are instructed to be murder weapons for a terrorist group, Hamas and UNRWA are directly responsible for all the murders they commit, and for their untimely deaths as terrorists, suicide bombers, and as shields for Hamas (13, 14).

#### HAMAS' EXTREME VIOLENCE AGAINST DISSENTERS

Palestinian children and adults are exposed to daily violence by Hamas. It is common for a Palestinian child to walk to school and see a severed head roll by, Gazans hanging dead from electrical wires, Gazans being dragged across town by their feet, or a woman's head being chopped off with an ax while she is doing laundry. What are these people's 'crimes?' They are Gazans who want to live and work peacefully with the Israelis (15, 16).

Sheikh Mohammed Mushtaha, a Gazan mosque preacher, refused to praise Hamas in his sermon to a group of thousands. On 12/30/23 Hamas fighters violently stormed his house and kidnapped him (17).

#### HAMAS VIOLENCE: MUSIC, LGBTQIA+, AND CHRISTIANS

Hamas murders people for playing music at weddings (18), tortures and murders people who are LGBTQIA+ (19), and mistreats Christians by attacking their churches, threatening their leaders, and kidnapping Christian youth (20, 21).

#### HAMAS PURPOSELY INCREASES PALESTINIAN DEATHS

Hamas leaders have admitted that not only do they strategically use Palestinian civilians as shields, but they also know that Israel does NOT want to harm Palestinian civilians (22).

Hamas intentionally blocks safe passage corridors created by Israel, threatens to murder civilians who wish to evacuate (23), and hides munitions in hospitals, schools, homes, and mosques to INCREASE civilian casualties in order to impede Israeli military operations, demoralize Israel, and delegitimize Israel in the eyes of the world (24, 25). Hamas also loots aid trucks and murders Palestinians trying to get to the aid (26, 27, 28).

Loss of human life is tragic and according to logic and international law, these deaths, and the deaths of the terrorists themselves, fall squarely on the shoulders of Hamas (29).

#### ISRAEL PROTECTS PALESTINIAN CIVILIAN LIVES

Moreover, numerous war experts (30-32), including John Spencer, Chief of Urban Warfare Studies at WestPoint, laud the Israel Defense Force (IDF) for being the most moral army in the world. He said, "Israel has implemented more measures to avoid civilian casualties than any other military in the history of war" (33). From the IDF's use of precision weapons to avoid collateral damage, to (leaflets) (34), texts, and calls to Gazan civilians ahead of airstrikes, to evacuating urban areas before attacking Hamas outposts, "No military in the world has ever done this" (35).

In fact on May 15, 2024, over 80 U.S. military generals, with expertise in the Middle East, have attested to the FACT that Israel follows international rules of war while Hamas ABUSES these rules to endanger civilian life (36).

Unprecedented in the entire world, Israel endangers its own soldiers to protect civilians (37).

#### FOOD AND AID

The world must speak out about what Hamas is doing to starve the Palestinian population. Despite the fact that the onus of this starvation falls squarely on Hamas, Israel sends in food and aid trucks because they care about civilian lives! Hamas loots these trucks and murders Palestinians trying to get to the aid (38 – 41).

#### HAMAS LIES

Hamas uses lies and disinformation as a strategic P.R. weapon. Hamas lied in 2002, 2009, 2012, and 2014 regarding numbers of civilian casualties (42, 43). In fact, months after the 2009 war, the Hamas leader, Fathi Hamad, admitted that Hamas lied about the number of civilian casualties and that Israel's numbers were correct (44).

In this conflict, when a Palestinian rocket exploded the Al-Ahli hospital, Hamas quickly blamed the Israelis and the media perpetuated these lies. After an investigation and video footage, the truth was discovered (45).

Recent statistical analysis of the Hamas Ministry of Health numbers of casualties uncover that they are statistically impossible. See the analysis here (46, 47).

Armies that fight a defensive war against terrorists in urban warfare have a civilian to terrorist casualty ratio of 4 to 60:1; meaning 4 to 60 civilians are accidentally killed for every terrorist that is eliminated. Israel's ratio is 1:1, meaning they have reduced civilian casualties four to sixtyfold by comparison (48). According to international law (Article 51) and ethics, all of these civilian casualties fall on Hamas' shoulders.

#### HAMAS VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL

Despite the fact that Israel has offered peace agreements with the Palestinians on at least five occasions (49), Hamas has fired over 30,000 rockets at Israeli civilians since 2001 (50, 51).

On October 7 Hamas, UNRWA employees, and Palestinians high on illegal narcotics (52) brutally raped, burned, beheaded, maimed, and murdered 1,200 Israeli civilians, and took more than 240 hostages, including Americans, and Foreign Nationals in an act of pure genocide (53). Hamas is still holding these innocent hostages (54).

#### IN SUMMARY:

The resolutions being proposed are rationalized by FALSE accusations against Israel. This letter shows that there is NO genocide by Israel against the Palestinians.

Moreover, these resolutions are created by Hamas-funded terrorist network support groups and lobbyists (e.g., CAIR, AMP, SJP, etc.) and are meant to hide what Hamas does to keep them in power (55-57). Please, do not fall for it.

Leaving Hamas in power perpetuates brutality against the Palestinians and heinous terrorist attacks on Israel. When you say 'cease fire now,' you might think you are protecting innocent people. What you are doing, however, is allowing Hamas' brutal leaders to retrench and re-strengthen. In essence, you are hurting the people you say you are concerned about.

How can you help Palestinians and Israelis? Do NOT call for an Israeli ceasefire or a financial and military aid boycott of Israel. Rather, call for Hamas' unconditional surrender and return of all the hostages. Only that will stop the terror attacks against Israel and Hamas' brutality against the Gazan civilians themselves.

Sincerely,

Rabbi H BerenholzCFA

"...What does truth require? It requires us to face the facts as they are, not to involve ourselves in self-deception [and] slogans." ~ President John F. Kennedy

References:

<https://ejh.email/NoCFLetter1References>

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