

## RESOLUTION

### RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CORVALLIS AFFIRMING SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

**WHEREAS**, the City of Corvallis stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people including those in The West Bank, the more than 5.6 million displaced Palestinian refugees worldwide, and those in Gaza who are currently facing a campaign of collective punishment, ethnic cleansing, and genocide by the state of Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, collective punishment is considered a war crime under international law,<sup>1</sup> and refers to a form of sanction imposed on persons or a group of persons in response to a crime committed by one of them or a member of the group; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Israel is engaging in collective punishment against the Palestinian people in Gaza in response to Hamas attacks on Israel;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, this collective punishment of the Palestinian people includes targeted bombing and ground combat of civilian residences, hospitals, schools, religious buildings, and roadways, as well as shutting off all access to electricity, drinking water, food, fuel, and humanitarian aid; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations says approximately 2 million people in Gaza may soon run out of drinking water, food, and all medical care;<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, ethnic cleansing refers to the creation of an ethnically homogenous geographic area through the elimination of unwanted ethnic groups by deportation, forcible displacement, or genocide<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Israel is now engaged in an ethnic cleansing campaign by explicitly requiring two million Palestinians to leave Gaza immediately and by killing more than 14,000<sup>5</sup> Palestinians since October 7<sup>th</sup>, with more than 4,500 being children, by the Israeli army; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated places on Earth, has been repeatedly referred to by human rights groups as "the world's largest open-air prison" due to ongoing, unbearable living conditions imposed by the state of Israel, including a full air, land and sea blockade,

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<sup>1</sup> See, Protocol II, article 4(2)(b); see also, ICRC, *International Humanitarian Law*, rule 103

<sup>2</sup> See, "Israel/occupied Palestinian territory: UN experts deplore attacks on civilians, call for truce and urge international community to address root causes of violence," *United Nations Human Rights: Office of the High Commissioner*, Oct. 12, 2023

<sup>3</sup> See, "A Matter of Life and Death: Water Runs out for 2 Million People in Gaza," *United Nations Relief and Works Agency*, Oct. 14, 2023

<sup>4</sup> See, "UN expert warns of new instance of mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, calls for immediate ceasefire," *United Nations Human Rights: Office of the High Commissioner*, Oct. 14, 2023

<sup>5</sup> See, "Gaza Death Toll Surges to nearly 15,000 as Israel's Gory Genocide Intensifies," *Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor*, Nov. 13, 2023

enclosure of its borders by concrete walls and barbed wire fences, and the strict prohibition of Palestinians from leaving and entering the territory freely;<sup>6</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, this blockade on Gaza has caused a 42% unemployment rate, while 84% of the population relies on humanitarian aid, 41% of Palestinians have too little food, 60% of Palestinian children are anemic, and the Gazan population cannot count on more than 2-4 hours of continuous electrical power a day;<sup>7</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, prior to this current water shortage, only 1% of Gaza population has access to safe drinking water, leaving Gaza's population-half of whom are children- increasingly vulnerable to waterborne diseases, infections, and dehydration; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Israel would not be able to maintain an apartheid regime without enormous military aid provided by the United States every year - \$3.8 billion nationally, which amounts to \$41,288,433 from Oregon, and \$876,315 from Corvallis - thereby also depriving Americans of money for their own urgent needs;<sup>8</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the United States government also provides weapons grants and imports to the state of Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, United States government agencies and police forces participate in a training exchange program in Israel, leading to an increase in police brutality in the states;<sup>9</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, we mourn the loss of all Palestinian and Israeli lives from October 7th to the present and also throughout the decades of displacement, occupation, oppression and blockade endured in Palestine since 1947;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Corvallis takes seriously the entreaty of "Never Again," and that the historical memory of the Holocaust means fighting ethnic cleansing and apartheid everywhere and for everyone; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Corvallis vows to combat antisemitism, islamophobia, and ethno-nationalism in all its forms; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Corvallis calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the safe passage of substantial humanitarian aid to Gaza; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Corvallis calls for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages taken by Hamas, and the immediate release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Corvallis opposes all existing and any

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<sup>6</sup> See, "Damning Evidence of War Crimes as Israeli Attacks Wipe Out Entire Families in Gaza," *Amnesty International*, Oct. 20, 2023

<sup>7</sup> See "Report on UNCTAD's Assistance to the Palestinian People," *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*, Oct. 25, 2023.

<sup>8</sup> See, "U.S. Military Funding to Israel Map," *US Campaign for Palestinian Rights*,

<sup>9</sup> See, "With Whom are Many U.S. Police Departments Training? With a Chronic Human Rights Violator – Israel," *Amnesty International*, Aug. 25, 2016.

future military aid to Israel; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Corvallis calls for an end to Israeli apartheid and the occupation and blockade of Palestinian land by Israeli military forces; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Corvallis advocates for the self-determination, liberation, and equity of all Palestinian people; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Corvallis advocates for the dignity and safety of residents in every community, regardless of what crimes its leadership may commit, and that peaceful diplomacy is the only way to achieve this safety and dignity.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing resolution was adopted, and the Mayor thereupon declared said resolution to be adopted.



Scan to sign and support the resolution

