

From: [Dingoa](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Written testimony in favor of passing the Ceasefire Resolution today in the Salem City Council meeting (5/28)
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:15:58 AM

Alexander Taschioglou
Regarding Ward Linda Nishioka, and the Salem City Council
May 28, 2024

Hello there. My name is Alexander Taschioglou and I am a Willamette University student in Ward 2. I am testifying about the urgent need to pass the Ceasefire Resolution, regarding what is happening in Palestine, on the Council's agenda, today (May 28th).

I desperately urge you to pass this resolution, calling this current situation what it is - a genocide - and calling for an end to Israeli military aid. Because this is not an Israel-Hamas war, this is truly a genocide, against Palestine, at the hands of Israel. To not see this, with all of the raw information circulating on the internet about what's happening on the ground, dehumanizing rhetoric about Palestinians, statistics, etc., I feel a person has to be either lying to themselves, ignoring news, or holding a belief that makes them feel an ethnic cleansing of Palestinians is okay. Demands for change and critiques of Israel's behavior are not anti-Semitic, as people sometimes try to claim, as this is an easy way to victimize the perpetrators, villainize people calling things out, skirt accountability, and/or halt change.

What citizens in even the smallest towns in the USA do matters. Smaller powers can do their part. Salem residents supply roughly two million dollars in Israeli military aid, in the form of federal taxes. I urge you to pass the Ceasefire resolution and help in this push for Salem to not be another city perpetuating genocide.

Thank you for your time in reading this testimony. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alexander Taschioglou

From: [carly pickens](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Chris Hoy](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting 3/28
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:41:03 AM

This email is to serve as written testimony for the meeting tonight. My testimony is in regard to the resolution being on the agenda.

I am writing today in support of the resolution proposed by the HRC. I was witness to the many hours of testimony that went into the writing of this resolution. Although I do think that some of the language panders to the oppressors, to the Zionists, I support their statement much more than the second option that has been put forth by Keith Stahley. I think that option is watered down and cowardly. To still be questioning whether or not what is happening in Palestine is genocide is truly disgusting. But unsurprisingly, as I feel many are afraid to make this statement because of their own cowardice.

If anyone on the city council was paying any attention to those HRC meetings they would be privy to the fact that although there were a few community members that stated they feel "fear" at the thought of a CEASEFIRE IN GAZA, there was an overwhelming majority that supported the ceasefire. When pandering to the few people who spoke out about their fear, we ignore the fact that there are Palestinians IN SALEM who also feel this fear. The difference is, they actually have a reason to be feeling fear. Did the Zionists actually give any reason that they feel fear? Did they give any reason that ENDING A GENOCIDE would make them feel unsafe in Salem? No, no they didn't. Some may have cited the October 7th attack by Hamas, which yes was horrible. But how does this translate to feeling fear that the city of Salem take a stand against what has transpired in Palestine under the guise of "self defense"? Especially considering that the city of Salem directly contributes to the deaths of Palestinian's by way of tax dollars being sent to Israel. Not to mention the 70+ years of occupation the Palestinian's have endured, which includes many many more bombings and attacks and deaths than what happened on October 7th. And again, had been happening for over 70 years prior to October 7th. Our tax dollars for years have been contributing to the deaths of Palestinian's. So it actually makes sense that we denounce the genocide and start pushing for that money to be kept here locally. Which we are clearly very much in need of. (I am writing this from the library in which was proposed to be shut down because of the lack of funds.)

It might seem to make sense to denounce Hamas too within this ceasefire resolution, but Salem has nothing to do with funding Hamas. Except for the fact that Hamas would not have to exist if it weren't for the occupation of Palestine, which we do contribute to financially. So it truly does not make sense that this language is necessary other than to give the Zionists a little crumb so they don't feel "afraid". Hamas does not exist in a vaccume; if Israel has a right to self defense, then so does Palestine. But when Palestinian resistance does anything to defend themselves, they are called terrorist and antisemitic. When Israel defends themselves, it's called self defense. And what I call that, is racism. When anyone with anything other than white skin acts out of defense it's called terrorism. This is not the first time and I'm sure it won't be the last.

What I want to really make clear is that the only reason this ceasefire is needed is because of the ongoing genocide and occupation in Palestine. Day after day the number of deaths rises. THIS is the reason we need a ceasefire resolution. The mental gymnastics that is required to still be claiming this self-defense, to still be denying and not explicitly naming genocide has to be tiring. But it is clear to the rest of us who have eyes, a brain and a heart, this is GENOCIDE. The goal of the IOF has been clearly stated over and over. They plan to exterminate the Palestinian's and are ALREADY selling their land. Can you imagine if someone did this to you? Wiped out your entire family, your neighbors, your neighborhood and then sold the land that belong to your family and neighbors so they can build homes for themselves. Truly..what would you call that?

If this is not genocide and colonialism, I truly do not know what would be considered genocide. In the last few days we have literally seen videos coming out of Gaza from the "safe zones" of a headless baby. Yes, you read that right. The claim that the IOF made about Hamas about beheaded babies (that was debunked) is now true of the IOF and proven by video. To claim that this is not a larger plan outside of what happened on October 7th is to be in denial. To ignore the last 70+ years of occupation, is denial. To call being in support of ending a genocide antisemitic, is to be in denial and just plain ignorant. Conflating Judaism with Zionism, is to be willfully ignorant. The information is out there, you just have to open your eyes and ears. Actually listen and comprehend the information that is presented to you. Do not act out of fear of a few community members being unhappy. Doing what is right will often make those who want oppression to continue unhappy. We must move past these feelings and act on this NOW. Not in a week, not in a month, not in two months. We need a CEASEFIRE NOW!

Thank you for your time. I truly hope that you all make the right decision, because there is a right and wrong decision with this. This is not a both sides situation. There is a clear right and wrong, and I hope to see the right decision made at this meeting tonight.

Carly Pickens

From: [Don Negri](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Gaza Resolution Comments
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 2:52:29 PM

To: Salem City Council

From: Don Negri, 1675 Fir Street S, Salem Oregon 97302

Re: Agenda Item 5.b: Special Orders of Business, Resolution Related to the Crisis in Gaza

Although the HRC resolution has points of merit, I do not support the HRC Resolution as it is currently written. The resolution ignores the historical context of the hostilities.

1. The resolution calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state without acknowledging that Hamas, the governing leadership in Gaza, is committed to the obliteration of Israel. The Hamas covenant expressly calls for this. A peaceful resolution to the conflict must call for the recognition of the free and legitimate of statehood for both peoples.
2. The resolution indicates that more than two million of Salem taxpayer's dollars have been used to fund Israel's atrocities. While the US is a dominant military provider to Israel, and US military support is unquestionably used to conduct the war with Hamas and thereby contributes to civilian casualties, the direct link of Salem taxpayer dollars to Gaza atrocities specifically, is overstated. Some US dollars fund Israeli defense. I find the language in the resolution exaggerated.
3. The resolution calls for cutting off US military aid to Israel. Israel has a regional military purpose that serves US interests separate from the conflict with Palestinians. The resolution should have recognized the broader context.

I support the superior City Manager Resolution which better promotes peace and unity.

Don Negri
Professor of Economics Emeritus
Willamette University
dnegri@willamette.edu

From: [Daisy Orozco](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [Chris Hoy](#); nnordyke@cityofsalem.net; [Julie Hoy](#)
Subject: Council Meeting written testimony
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:59:07 AM
Attachments: [Written Statement for City Council.pdf](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is my written testimony for tonight's council meeting regarding resolution HRC. I appreciate you taking the time to view this for tonight's council meeting.

Best,

Daisy O.

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Councilors,

I hope you all enjoyed your three-day weekend with your friends and family along with the nice weather. As we were enjoying our three-day weekend, the people of Palestine can not say the same. While we enjoyed the nice weather and a long weekend the people in Palestine were once again bombed, and children were beheaded by the Israeli Occupation. Since October 7th, 2023, I and I'm sure many of you have celebrated birthdays of friends and family, spent the holidays with our loved ones, and probably witnessed many milestones of our loved ones. Palestinians have not had that same privilege as we have. Since October 7th, 2023, Palestinians have been experiencing a GENOCIDE.

In the past 7 months we have been witnessing this GENOCIDE with our own eyes and have been asking elected officials like yourselves for a permanent ceasefire. Seven months, for SEVEN MONTHS the people of Palestine have suffered lack of humanitarian aid, displacement, and forced to flee their homes. Palestinians have been told move to "safe zones" only to find out they are not safe zones. While our lives continue, the Palestinians do not have that same privilege as we do.

Mayor Hoy and City Councilors, we ask that when passing this resolution, you take into considering these atrocities happening in Palestine for what it truly is a GENOCIDE, please do not undermine the experiences of the Palestinian people, we owe it to the Palestinians to share their stories and FREE PALESTINE. It is my understanding that some people in the community are concerned for safety, and to those concerned about "safety", I say, "the people of Palestine fear for their safety EVERY SINGLE DAY and have been since October 7th, 2023". No matter how concerned you are for your safety, it will never compare to the fear Palestinians face EVERY SINGLE DAY. The least you can do for this resolution is use the recommended language originally used in the resolution. SPEAK UP AGAINST THIS GENOCIDE.

Finally, we hope you do the right thing and use the original recommended language used in the proposed resolution, we also ask to stop using our taxpayer money to fund a GENOCIDE and use it to fund something else like our schools, the library, or the community. Thank you for taking the time to listen and read our individual testimonies. As we are using our voice to write and speak to you today, please use yours as an elected official to DEMAND A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE NOW! Tonight, might have some discussions, and frustrations, as you go home tonight remember you have the privilege to go home to your families. Palestinians will not have the same privilege as we do, they will continue to fight another day.

From the River to the sea PALESTINE WILL BE FREE!

Sincerely,

Daisy Orozco

Resident in Ward 6

From: [Lorraine Seal](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Cease fire resolution by Salem City Council
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 12:47:43 PM

Count me in the numbers of Salem taxpayers/residents who find it "extraordinary" that a resolution on foreign affairs has been issued by the city's Human Rights Commission. The credence for this is said to be that Salem taxpayer monies are used to fund military activities. I think that is not new information. Also the source of the ESTIMATE is the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights. This is hardly a neutral party. As for the reasoning that we would be joining hundreds of local governments etc, etc. That is just following the crowd mentality. Is it not better to assess a situation, observe some facts as we find them and make a decision.

We have just celebrated Memorial Day and the days set aside to honor our military and all the brave defenders of freedom. I think of WW II in this connection. I was born the September before the Pearl Harbor attack. My father was gone the first three years of my life training and serving in Germany. The young men and women were there and in every conflagration since because the government said go, we need you. Many, if not most, did not know the depraved evil of the enemy. Most found out, especially those of my father's generation. The whole world found out about the most horrible disregard for human life. One special group was inflicted more than any other, the Jewish people. Why was this? Many reasons of course but primarily they had no SAFE PLACE, nowhere to run, even "friendly nations" refused them. At the end the "victors decided to return Jewish dominion to PART of their ancestral homeland. It was a piece of desert that no one else wanted until Israel was there. The prior owners took money for it. However all the neighbors didn't like the transaction. Several "land disputes" have occurred and were settled. Gaza was formed with its own government. They elected a terrorist organization to be their political representatives, with predictable results.

On October 7th 2023 a brutal attack on Israel was instituted. There are tapes made by the attackers. People who have seen them are horrified. There is a movement to release the tapes. Many things must occur to protect the sensibilities of victims families.

Before judgment, seek the facts. The chants of protestors/rioters include the call for "October 7th to happen over and over. We hear the chant "from the river to the sea", consider what that really means! Hostages bodies are being found in tunnels. Does anyone really think a terrorist organization will honor a cease fire or report accurate body counts. One other thing, respected military officials agree that the IDF takes more care regarding civilians in a war zone than most all if not all other nations. They also have a process if these unusual and tragic occurrences.

This is a long E-mail and an abbreviated history lesson. Considering what has transpired on campuses and elsewhere there is a good chance of harm and it will probably come to Jewish citizens and their supporters.

Your decision to table the Cease Fire Resolution was a proper one, please stand by it!!!

I hope you have read the whole thing.
Thank you
Lorraine Seal

From: [M](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Monique Brunkal-Moore
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:40:06 AM

I am sorry I know I already sent one but I did read it out loud several times and after reading it added a couple words that needed to be added to make statement sound proper.

There is a genocide going on in Palestine. Palestinians have been exiled from their lands all throughout history and are continuing to have to flee their homeland. Different governments throughout history have tried to control these lands and the Palestinian people have suffered at the hands of other governments for many years, it is devastating. Jewish immigration was imposed on by British military power many years ago, which caused so much tension in Palestine and is still affecting its people to this day. So whether you believe in the Quran, the Torah, or the Bible, people from everywhere take pride in these holy lands. It is heartbreaking to see that some of the most holiest places for all of these religions are being desecrated and tore apart from the people who call this place sacred. Is it ever right to massacre innocent civilians? The mainstream media continues to misinform people on what is really going on. The mainstream media is brainwashing this nation and the government is funding a false narrative. There are ulterior motives for this occupation and people need to open their eyes. We can't blame people that truly don't know but we strive to educate people on the real problems. We really want people to know how many innocent civilians are being slaughtered. I urge people to educate themselves further than mainstream media, as it is and always will be bias, we must know this. We have the opportunity due to the internet nowadays to further educate ourselves. Please I beg people if your curious and want a good legitimate resource to start you may look at the [un.org](#) "The Palestine question". They have very good information going back many hundreds of years showing the ongoing struggles of the Palestinian people throughout history. Palestinians have been exiled from their land for many years. It is truly heartbreaking to see this take place in our world, it will affect us all and it will continue unless we put a stop to this. The Palestinian people should be able to exercise their right of self-determination, national independence and sovereignty in Palestine. Long live Palestine and the Palestinian people who need a land to call home before it's too late. We should be striving to set an example for international peace, not more bloodshed. Also, our country is currently blocking aid and not funding any support but instead sending billions of dollars to Israel to continue this bloodshed. We urge you to write, rally and engage with your local governments to plead for a stop to this endless massacre. These are innocent people and we need for aid to be approved for Palestinians.

From: [M.Frost](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Gaza ceasefire resolution
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:13:58 AM

I would like to know what will happen to the "2 million in tax support" that would be saved if this resolution is adopted.

Perhaps I missed it, but it would be appreciated to know the answer to this question.

M. Frost
Salem

From: peggemcquire@aol.com
To: [SALEM Manager](#); [citycouncil](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Gretchen Bennett](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 5.b for tonight's meeting-Crisis in the Middle East
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 2:04:40 PM

Mayor Hoy, Councilors, et al:

As a member of the Jewish Community of Salem, and as a Lebanese Jew, I am deeply concerned about::

- the intent of this resolution
- the impact on the Jewish Community of Salem
- the trauma experienced by Jewish community members at the HRC hearings on the topic of the resolution
- the lack of genuine interest in meaningful engagement with the Jewish Community by the City Council and staff

If we are to assume the best of intentions by the City Council and staff, when directing the HRC to develop a recommendation for the City Council to pass as a formal statement reflecting the community of Salem, then as a Jew, I can overlook some of the missteps taken to get where we are today. However, the totality of the circumstances sends a clear message of antisemitism, regardless of how many times you decry antisemitism and hate.

- During Passover, a period when many Jews are not engaged in social media but are focused on religious contemplation and celebration, you directed the HRC to begin taking public testimony on this topic.
- The HRC extended the period of public comment to allow observant Jews to participate and offer input. However, at that public event, a Palestinian flag was displayed at the front of the venue, and when members of the Jewish community requested the removal of the flag, we were told by City staff that it was not allowed to be removed. Remote participants were frequently off screen, while their screens displayed the Palestinian flag and pro-Palestinian statements, to the viewers. This apparent HRC-sanctioned activity was not only traumatizing to Jewish community members, but it also created an atmosphere that appeared intentionally designed to chill comments from anyone with a perspective that did not support that of the overwhelmingly Ward 1 individuals who only gave first names and wore masks and other face coverings. How do you know that you were actually hearing from Salem residents?
- During Jewish History Month, you are adopting a resolution that does not appear to support Israel's right to exist, does not reflect acknowledgment of Israel and its environs as the indigenous homeland of the Jewish people, and indicates Israel is fighting against Palestinians not Hamas, a theocratic and violent terrorist organization. The resolution does not recognize Israel as one of the few democracies in the Middle East nor does it acknowledge the homophobic, anti-Semitic, and misogynistic agenda of Hamas, the de-facto and illegally seized government of Gaza.

In my professional life, I routinely make City Council and Commission presentations

throughout the state. The experience I had at the HRC ranks among the least civil and unbiased I have had at any other public meeting during my decades-long career in civil rights and anti-poverty work. I will not be at the City Council meeting tonight, as I do not wish to relive the same experience I had at the HRC meeting.

I urge you to discard your plan to adopt a resolution unless and until you have done more work to truly understand all of the issues involved and to craft a resolution that actually reflects the input of the Jewish community.

Pegge McGuire, 20+ year resident of Ward 4

From: [Rick Stein](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City Council Review of Gaza Resolution/Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 12:28:50 PM
Attachments: [ltr - City of Salem HR comm. Res. 05-27-24.docx](#)

Dear City Recorder:

Please find attached my letter for submittal to the City Council as public comment for its review of the proposed Resolution for a Gaza Ceasefire.

Thank you.

Richard C. Stein

May 29, 2025

Comment for Public Record

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Councilors:

You have before you tonight a Resolution from the Human Rights Commission of Salem that should be voted down. Many of the statements are ones that all serious people can agree on. We all hope for the day when both sides lay down their swords and turn them into plowshares. The language of the Resolution goes too far, however, accusing Israel of "atrocities" and in the cover letter quoted in *Salem Reporter* accuses Israel of "genocide" in its operations against Hamas in Gaza. In so doing, it turns truth on its head.

Genocide is defined as, "The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political, or cultural group." Genocide is Nazi Germany, Rwanda, Cambodia. Millions were hunted down and systematically destroyed because of their racial, political, or cultural identity. That is not what Israel is doing in Gaza, but ironically is the express goal of Hamas as stated in its in its own charter. When Hamas says that it wants to free Israel "from the river to the sea" it means no less than the total destruction of Israel. Israel only struck back when Hamas put its words into action and brutally attacked without warning on October 7. Over 1,200 Israeli civilians were brutally tortured, raped, mutilated and murdered, with no exceptions for women or children. Hamas is still holding hostages captured during this raid, including Americans. Hamas then runs and hides behind Palestinian civilians as human shields shouting "genocide" in an attempt to save themselves and curry world sympathy for what it brought upon itself and sadly the citizens of Gaza.

Hamas is a scourge to the Palestinian people. When Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005 and granted the Palestinians self-government, Hamas took over and proceeded to divert billions of dollars in aid to develop Gaza and instead built the extensive tunnel system under Gaza for its terrorists. It built command facilities under hospitals, schools, and similar areas to shield them. Hamas has attempted to close the only gate to Egypt where food supplies come in for the Palestinian populace. To the extent that supplies get through, Hamas steals them to feed its own terrorists, leaving the civilian population hungry. Even the pier recently built by the United States as a way to increase food supplies to the Gaza population has come under constant fire from Hamas forces, killing three U.S. service people so far. Consequently, little to no food has been delivered. Just this morning the U.S. announced it was suspending operations at the pier.

Gaza is a combat operation, conducted professionally in a very difficult urban environment, that is focused solely on eliminating Hamas, whose professed and demonstrated goal is Jewish genocide. War is a terrible thing for civilians, it always has been, and always will be. When the alternative is Hitler or Hamas, however, there is no alternative. "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Edmund Burke. Or worse yet, to support evil out of ignorance or timidity. I respectfully ask that you vote down this Resolution.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Stein

From: [Chris Hoy](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: FW: Today's Resolution on Gaza
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:04:38 AM
Importance: High

From: Rabbi Avrohom Y. Perlstein <rabbi@chabadsalem.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:03 AM
To: Virginia Stapleton <VStapleton@cityofsalem.net>; Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>; Trevor Phillips <TPhillips@cityofsalem.net>; Deanna Gwyn <DGwyn@cityofsalem.net>; Jose Gonzalez <JGonzalez@cityofsalem.net>; Julie Hoy <JHoy@cityofsalem.net>; Vanessa Nordyke <VNordyke@cityofsalem.net>; Micki Varney <MVarney@cityofsalem.net>; Chris Hoy <CHoy@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Today's Resolution on Gaza
Importance: High

Dear Salem City Council,

Today, the city council will vote on whether to pass a resolution on Gaza.

I, Rabbi Avrohom Perlstein, have voiced my opinion and the opinion of the majority of Jews. Yet the HRC and the Mayor have not listened to our voices. My points so far have been addressing the unfortunate 337% rise in antisemitism since October 7th. For that you can read the following article.

<https://rabbisacks.org/videos/the-mutation-of-antisemitism/>
<https://www.newsweek.com/jonathan-sacks-anti-semitism-anti-zionism-bds-israel-labour-442978>

But before you decide to vote on this resolution, I'd like to address the falsehoods of it.

The resolution addresses the Israeli government and its war with Hamas as if they are fighting the Palestinian people. It also makes the claim that Israel is deliberately targeting civilians.

This is today's blood libel of the Jewish state/Jewish people. It is simply not true. The IDF has never deliberately targeted any civilians. The ongoing war is targeting Hamas, who has built a terrorist stronghold within a civilian

population to cause as much harm as possible to their own population. It is recorded for all to see how the IDF has gone to great lengths to protect civilian casualties while faced with unprecedented challenges in fighting Hamas.

The resolution seems to believe that Israel is hindering humanitarian aid from entering Gaza. This too is completely false. Israel is sending in more trucks now into Gaza than it did prior to October 7th. Hamas is stealing trucks each day and they are killing their own people while doing so. Just do a little bit of research, <https://govextra.gov.il/cogat/humanitarian-efforts/home/>.

This said, the equating of the “Palestinian” people, which should be worded as Hamas, and the Israeli government is a false moral equivalent. That they are both committing terrorist acts is a grotesque comparison and wording. The Israeli government is a democracy which holds itself accountable for crimes committed. The PLO, Hamas, and all other current governing bodies of the Palestinian people celebrate each time an Israeli is killed. Still today, over 70% of the Palestinian people living in the West Bank and Gaza support the genocidal attack by Hamas on civilian life on October 7th. The majority of Israelis do not support any attack on civilian life.

The 2 billion of taxpayers’ dollars that American citizens give towards our allies in the Middle East is a drop in the bucket of what anyone in Washington is going to address. Besides, arguing that we need to address the funds given to Israel and not address the funds that go to Hamas is also uneducated and not based in reality. UNWRA, which has been proven to be a front for Hamas, receives billions in taxpayers’ dollars each year, and for the past 20 years much of that money has gone directly to harm Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

So, again, if this truly was about human suffering, why is the city turning a blind eye to what Hamas and the Palestinian people do and only call out Israel, or what Israel is receiving?

I am aware that those who crafted this resolution claim to have done their research and that they simply want to address the human suffering in Gaza. This is not the way to do it and I question the notion that this is simply about human suffering. For when a resolution is based on non-truths then it

becomes fodder for false narratives pushed by Hamas and their supporters. This does not help or address any human suffering.

This resolution was not crafted with sensitivity of facts nor with the understanding of what is actually happening on the ground in Israel or Gaza.

The City of Salem has no business chiming in on Geo-Political conflicts that it can do nothing about. If the city feels it needs to declare its concern for human suffering, please feel free to do so, but include all human suffering. Don't single out one state, which is tied to a specific minority demographic, that has suffered at the hands of every country it has lived in over the past 2200 years, and is currently experiencing a rise of hate directed towards them to the tune of 337%. It should be self-evident that the city is against human suffering, which decent human being isn't? A statement is not needed for that.

There is a reason cities and towns are meant to address local issues and not have a say in world affairs. This resolution is proof for why this is the case. It does nothing, helps no one, and will only drive a further wedge between people in our city, not by our own doing, but by the city's doing. Please concentrate on local affairs and issues and make our city a wholesome place to live for all.

Israel is currently fighting a war on multiple fronts. They are being bombarded daily with rockets in the north, from southern Lebanon. They are fighting off rockets from Yemen. There are consistent attacks from Syria. Just yesterday they were hit with over 70 rockets from Gaza. Last month, in a joint defensive operation, they fought off over 350 rockets and drones from Iran. All the while they still have 124 civilians held in the hands of Hamas terrorists in Gaza. The world should be working in unison to end the Iranian threat that is at the center of all of these world conflicts. If you really want to address something worthwhile, maybe start there.

Those in the know see this resolution for what it is, and we are taking note. If it passes, it will be a stain on every city council person who votes in favor of it. It will bring shame and disrespect to our city.

I urge you to vote no. Please don't pander to lies and hatred.

With a heavy heart,
Rabbi Avrohom Y. Perlstein
Chabad Center for Jewish Life – Salem
503.383.9569

P.S. You will not see a large portion of the Jewish community represented at today's meeting. Because we know it is futile; we've voiced our opinions before and have so far been ignored. We are not interested in the hostility this resolution is promoting or the hostility displayed by other citizens of Salem in attendance. It is hurtful and discouraging. Don't take our absence as silence, you've created an environment that we don't feel welcome in.

From: [Sarah El Ebiary](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Fwd: Written Submission for Approval of HRC Ceasefire Resolution
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 11:47:18 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah El Ebiary** <sarajelebiary@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, May 28, 2024, 11:44 AM
Subject: Written Submission for Approval of HRC Ceasefire Resolution
To: <salemforpalestine@proton.me>, <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>, <choy@cityofsalem.net>, <mvarney@cityofsalem.net>

Thank you to the members of the Salem / Salaam City Council for allowing us to submit our request for approval of the Human Rights Commission version of its Ceasefire Resolution, that specifically calls out the tragedy there for what it is: a Genocide.

My name is Sarah El Ebiary, I am an attorney and the President of the Oregon Muslim Bar Association. I live in West Salem, was born and raised in Oregon and am the only member of my entire extended family born in the United States. My family immigrated to Oregon from Egypt, and I am very proud to be an American. I love this country dearly for our equal rights, freedoms, and democracy. My father was a surgeon in the US Air Force and after serving our country, he retired back to Oregon where he worked at the State Hospital and here at Salem Hospital while I was in high school and college until he passed away after my junior year at OSU.

I remember he always used to tell me not to get too stressed out about what was happening over there, because there's really not much we can do about it from here, and we must continue to go on with our lives.... in peace.

Well, as the stubborn daughter I was born to be, as usual I disagree in that we should be able to think or speak out when our hands cannot change things ourselves. I believe in representation and advocacy, so I am here today to share some stories with you all.

I can't live in peace seeing images and videos of real Palestinian children being starved, beheaded, and slaughtered by Israeli bombs paid for by our tax dollars, including over \$2.3 million of Salem taxpayers' dollars that are estimated to annually have been used to fund Israel's atrocities on Gaza.

What did or didn't happen on October 7th is never justification for the genocide unfolding there. It is not OK to displace thousands of civilians to a densely packed so-called safe zone and then bomb it indiscriminately, after the ICJ ordered Israel to stop the attacks, unless it was deliberately planned that way. It is not OK to annihilate all of these men, women, and children and then just call it a mistake common of the war.

IDF admits to shooting their own citizens and provides video evidence from their own helicopter, tank, and body cam footage. This was reported in HAARETZ.

What's not being reported are the lies of headless Israeli children while the truth of beheaded Palestinian children is online for all to see. May the beheaded babies of Rafah haunt you Genocide deniers forever.

What's also not being reported are that the massacres are occurring to clear out the area towards building access to the natural gas and oil reserves under Gaza with an alternative trade channel to the Suez Canal. Unfortunately, there's over a million Palestinians living in the way of the west's plans for economic dominance over Russia and China.

These wars have been going on for longer than we can remember. My uncles fought in the 6 day war and remain very nationalistic.

I have family currently living over there in Palestine, 47 people all huddled in one apartment together, and I check daily for their social media posts. Thankful to see updates that 1, they're not dead yet and 2, they still have internet or electricity.

I asked them how I can help or if they needed anything, and I was told, No we're OK. It's just another war. Pray for us.

We love you. It happens all the time.

It's just another war...

My mom's cousins who have lived in PALESTINE for decades would tell us the most infuriating stories that I grew up hearing, about how one day in the 80s my cousin Tarek went to a grocery store and came back to find his entire house bulldozed to the ground. Thankfully, they only lost their material possessions but retained the land and began to rebuild immediately. Rachel Corie wasn't as lucky.

We sometimes got together in Egypt whenever the border crossing would be scheduled to open briefly, so one of their family members could travel for medical procedures as not only were they not allowed to use the hospitals in Israel, they were not even allowed to step foot over the border of apartheid Israel, which is not and never was a country with the equal rights, freedoms, and democracy we take for granted here in the United States.

I was just a child but I remember the posters in my young cousin's bedroom in Egypt. The only words in English reading:

PLO, Israel NO!

He grew up to be a pediatrician in Gaza and refuses to leave now. He would rather die a martyr helping children and families than to evacuate as a burden on a foreign country's resources.

My other cousin Omeyma, a very beautiful and a regionally famous local news anchor and eventually had to end her journalism career when their television station was bombed by the occupation forces. The ultimate goal was censorship so that it no longer exists and so that the narrative of regular citizens can be suppressed and controlled. A true democracy protects Freedom of speech and Freedom of the Press. Israel, NO.

My cousin always wanted a family and was unable to have children of her own due to the toxic environment there. She loves me like a daughter and eventually went on to become a teacher with a room full of children of her own. She now lives in Europe with her convert Belgian husband and they're fundraising to get the rest of her family and inlaws out safely.

She told us each person's travel fee to evacuate from Palestine is over \$8,000 US Dollars, which is an insanely high bribe to ensure that human smugglers are not going to rip them off and run off with their cash. All banking there is forbidden, there's no PayPal, and these GoFundMe's are often hard to trust.

What people fail to Realize here in the US is that there are many different types of people still stuck in Gaza, not just Muslims or Palestinians but also Christians, Atheists, indigenous natives, Americans, Europeans, Asians, Africans, and everyone living there just wanting to go to school, work and support their families so they can continue to go on with our lives.... in peace.

These are "normal" people. They're not terrorists. They don't want this. They may seem sometimes numb to the endless wars as it happens all the time. But this time is not just another war... it is a Genocide.

Over half of the population there did not vote for HAMAS.

My family does not support HAMAS.

Christians did not vote for HAMAS, and they too should be named in this Resolution before we lose what's left of the indigenous descendants of Jesus Christ Himself.

The people in the West Bank do not even live with HAMAS, which is just in Gaza.

So why is everyone there suffering under the regimes of these oppressors?

One of which is supposed to be the most democratic ally of the United States, inflicting collective punishment paid for by our tax dollars?

Why are we seeing the slaughter and destruction of women and children and babies and hospitals and universities and bakeries and ambulances and refugee tents and war crime after war crime without US media acknowledgement or legal accountability, or news retractions of fake victims claiming rape, beheaded babies, put in ovens, and other LIES that have been debunked despite the outcries of the ICC, ICJ, UN, and International Community?

We are actually funding the starvation and deaths of all their own hostages that no one on their side is even trying to release.

We are watching live on Social Media the ethnic cleansing, famine, ecocide, mass graves, and displacement of an entire population, yet again...

So either we ignore all that suffering because there's not much we can do about it, other than voting, boycotting, learning about US tax structure, calling out AIPAC sponsored politicians like Ron Wyden, Maxine Dexter, and for allowing foreign interference to dictate our government or running for office ourselves, changing legislation and foreign policy...

Or

the least we can offer here today from Salem, Oregon is a call for an immediate ceasefire

resolution.

So if there's really not much we can do about stopping the war from here, let's at least make this call as in the namesake of our city SALEM/Salaam, so that we can try to continue to go on with our lives.... in peace.

Thank you,
Sarah El Ebiary, Esq.

From: [Taylor Lane](#)
To: [Chris Hoy](#); [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#)
Subject: Public Comment 5/28
Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:54:38 AM

Hello,

As a constituent, who actively participated in the Human Rights Ceasefire resolution process. I am deeply disturbed by the blatant disregard for the time and effort your residents put into this resolution.

The language in the resolution is strong because the circumstances call for it. We are living in an unprecedented moment that will someday be written about in history books. You have the opportunity, right now, to decide what side of history you are on. But this decision does not just impact you, it impacts the people that you as city councilors represent.

Feelings, do not surpass the value of human lives. As I write this, Palestinians are being slaughtered en mass by US supplied weaponry and ammunition. Everyday we wake up to news of a new slaughter. Do you know how many innocent Palestinians have died since we started this process? You should look it up...

We have jumped through all of your hoops, which have been extremely drawn out, to come up with a resolution that the constituents of Salem can be proud of.

How are our Palestinian families and neighbors supposed to continue living in a city that won't even acknowledge that a genocide of their people is taking place? You are too busy worrying about your reputation to see the true human impact this genocide has taken. You have continually taxed the Palestinian community during an already exhausting and detrimental time, to make them justify the value of this resolution being passed. They have sat, alongside many non-Palestinian allies, and listened week after week to the constant fear mongering and belittling of the slaughter of their families and communities.

What would you do if it was your family being blown to pieces, your neighborhood being flattened, and your community experiencing famine? The only answer is taking action.

You have had your opportunity to sit back and wait for the gears of bureaucracy to churn, now is the time for YOU to take action. As a resident of Ward 5, a taxpayer, and a voter, I demand that you pass the recommended resolution from the Human Rights Commission.

Time is not a luxury we have anymore. The resolution that the city council drafted does not represent the will of the people. Please pass the resolution drafted by the Human Rights Commission. This is the resolution that the community crafted, at your request.

We will be watching this evening to see who truly stands on the side of liberty and justice for all.

Kindly,

Taylor Lane

