



November 2023

## **Biden must use his leverage... and demand a ceasefire.**

President Biden has warned Israeli leaders to not let their rage dictate their actions.

Those leaders have, however, done just that in their indefensible response to Hamas's horrific October 7, 2023 attack. Israeli leadership has launched a program of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, withholding food, water, and fuel and putting sanitation in jeopardy and medical supplies and care out of reach; bombing roads and refugee camps, destroying routes from the north to south where Israel insists Palestinians evacuate. These are war crimes.

Food, water, and fuel must be restored immediately. Biden can and should explain *to the Israeli people* that the U.S. seeks an immediate ceasefire and end to the occupation of Gaza. This would make space for inclusive multilateral hostage negotiations and for world leaders to find and insist upon an equitable solution to the violence in Israel and Palestine.

This genocide in Palestine will only further animosity and insecurity for both sides. The U.S. must not continue to be complicit in a genocide. We must not continue to supply weapons and finance these war crimes against humanity. We say we are a country that abides by the rule of international law. Let's hold that moral ground.

Unfortunately, trust in the U.S. role as a broker of peace has already been compromised by decades of support for Israel's occupation. We must not, however, back Israel once again in their stated plan to remove Palestinians from Gaza.

Israel is one of the richest countries in the world. We must not in any way allow U.S. aid to prop up the Israeli economy and military. Any further U.S. tax dollars *must be spent on rebuilding Palestinian infrastructure, housing, and community resources.*

Notwithstanding the utter humanitarian disaster into which the conflict has devolved, it is in the U.S. self interest in stabilization of the entire region to see a negotiated solution to the deep seated Israel/Palestine political problem that lies at the root of the conflict.

For all of the above stated reasons, President Biden must use his leverage to stop the bombing, ensure full restoration of humanitarian aid, and support the hard work of ending the occupation.

Respectfully,

The Chicago Area Peace Action Board