

October 27, 2023

The Honorable Representative Katie Porter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Orange County Office  
2151 Michelson Drive, Suite 195  
Irvine, CA 92612

Dear Rep. Porter,

We write to you to ask you to humanize the lives of over two million Palestinians under attack in Gaza. The whole world is witnessing the genocide against them unfold live on TV, spurred on by dehumanizing rhetoric that equates all Palestinians and all Muslims with terrorists.

As we write this letter, Israeli airstrikes have killed more than 7,000 innocent Palestinian civilians, nearly 70% of whom are women and children. In just one week, Israel dropped more than 6,000 bombs on the people of Gaza. That's more bombs than the US dropped on Afghanistan in one year at the height of its war. Human rights groups all over the world have described these bombing campaigns as collective punishment and war crimes, and yet they are continuously endorsed and funded, *carte blanche*, by the US.

The loss of life is unbearable. The US government cannot allow the Israeli military to continue dropping bombs and chemical weapons, like [white phosphorous](#), on a defenseless population that cannot escape and has also been cut off from all access to food, water and electricity. We ask that you address the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza and join a growing voice of constituents to resolve a ceasefire in the region.

We urgently ask you to sign onto the Ceasefire Now Resolution introduced today by Representatives Cori Bush, Rashida Tlaib, André Carson, Delia Ramirez, and Summer Lee. This Resolution is meant to call for an immediate ceasefire, and to secure humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. Representatives Jamaal Bowman, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, Chuy Garcia, Jonathan Jackson, and Nydia Velazquez are also original cosponsors.

The crisis in Palestine is escalating rapidly. While preparing for a ground invasion, Israel is continuing bombing raids across the entire Gaza Strip. This week, Israeli bombs killed more than 1,030 children. The new siege is preventing all water, electricity, medicine, fuel and food from getting into Gaza.

We appeal to you – with the greatest urgency – to do the following:

- Take immediate steps towards a ceasefire and cosponsor the Ceasefire Now Resolution;
- Publicly condemn the loss of Palestinian civilian lives due to ongoing Israeli airstrikes;
- Ensure that humanitarian aid is immediately allowed into Gaza and work quickly towards restoring the delivery of food, water, electricity, fuel, medicine and other essential and life-saving necessities;
- Prevent even more US military aid from being sent to Israel, including the transfer of weapons that are currently being used on civilians in Gaza;
- Work to address the root cause of the violence - Israeli apartheid and military occupation.

The United States cannot continue to be complicit in this horrific violence and oppression. These are crimes against humanity. We urge you to take action now to stop Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza before it's too late.

Sincerely,

Arab American Civic Council  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Arab American Caucus, CDP  
Palestinian American Coalition - San Francisco  
Al-Awda, Palestinian Right of Return Coalition  
Alliance for South Asians Taking Action (ASATA)  
ANSWER Coalition  
Armenian-American Action Network  
CAIR-LA  
California Progressive Alliance  
Chispa  
Democratic Socialists of America OC  
Harbor Institute for Immigrant and Economic Justice  
IfNotNow - Los Angeles Chapter  
Islamic Shura Council of Southern California  
Jewish Voice for Peace Action, Greater Los Angeles  
Jewish Voice for Peace, UCLA  
J-Town Action and Solidarity  
Los Amigos of Orange County  
OC Action

OC Justice Fund  
OC Justice Initiative  
Orange County Rapid Response Network  
Our Revolution Orange County  
Palestine Foundation  
Peace and Justice Law Center  
People's Budget OC  
San Diego Leonard Peltier Defense Committee  
South Asian Network  
Union of Palestinian American Women  
VietRise  
Yalla Indivisible