

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE PALESTINIAN LIVES LOST DURING THE
ATTACKS AGAINST HUMANITY**

WHEREAS, In 1918, at the end of World War I, the British took control of Palestine and was issued by the League of Nations a British Mandate to establish a Jewish national homeland in Palestine in 1923¹; and

WHEREAS, In May 1948, Britain withdrew from Palestine, and Israel declared itself an independent state on Palestinian soil²; and

WHEREAS, From then on, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War started and ended in July 1949 with Israel controlling more than two-thirds of the former British Mandate³; and

WHEREAS, In April 1967, the Six-Day War began and resulted in another significant land gain for Israel as they had control of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights⁴; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, the First Intifada broke out as Palestinian anger rose from the Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank⁵; and

WHEREAS, The Oslo Peace Accords, which would lay the groundwork for a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from parts of the West Bank and an agreement of peace failed⁶; and

WHEREAS, In September 2000, the Second Intifada broke out for five years of violence resulting in the Israeli army partial withdrawal from Gaza in August 2005⁷; and

WHEREAS, Hamas has ruled Gaza since 2006 and have left the region in a blockade by Israeli and Egyptian governments, which in turn left the economy in tatters⁸; and

¹ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/palestine>

² <https://www.britannica.com/place/Palestine>

³ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/palestine>

⁴ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/palestine>

⁵ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/palestine>

⁶ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/palestine>

⁷ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/palestine>

⁸ <https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-44124396>

WHEREAS, Residents in Gaza have been in a land, sea, and air blockade that has shrunk the territory's GDP by up to fifty percent since 2007, according to the World Bank⁹; and

WHEREAS, human rights groups note that Gaza residents are forced to live with scarce food resources, medicine, and electricity¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, the Israeli government prohibits over five million refugees the right to return to their lands unless they can demonstrate Jewish ancestry¹¹;

WHEREAS, in mid-April 2021, during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, tensions and clashes began to arise once again as Israeli government police put up barriers at the Damascus Gate on the north side of Jerusalem's walled Old City, where Muslims gather for evening prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Palestinians protested the policy with dozens injured in clashes with police and nationalist Israelis as some Palestinians threw firecrackers and stones while police responded with stun grenades and water cannons; and

WHEREAS, The East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, where a long-running legal case has left Palestinian families facing evictions on land claimed by Israeli settlers; and

WHEREAS Palestinian families have lived in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood for decades, but the settler groups claim legitimacy that they owned this land before 1948; and

WHEREAS, The treatment of the homeowners by the Israeli settlers have drawn international outrage as they have been seen to evict families through unnecessary force and violence forcibly; and

WHEREAS, These evictions are a systematic effort to change the demographics of East Jerusalem continually and have displaced many Palestinians, which has severely limited the growth of Palestinian neighborhoods¹²; and

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<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/israel-and-palestine-story-of-modern-colonialism>

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-57141238/page/2>

¹¹

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/israel-and-palestine-story-of-modern-colonialism>

¹²

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/12/israel-discriminatory-land-policies-hem-palestinians>

WHEREAS, Displacement of Palestinian families led to overcrowding and unauthorized construction of thousands of Palestinian homes that face demolition due to Israel expansion, government orders, and infrastructure instability¹³; and

WHEREAS, the Israeli government has demolished 685 Palestinian homes in Jerusalem between 2004 and 2016, which has left 2,513 people homeless¹⁴; and

WHEREAS, The Israeli military reported that Palestinian militants had fired 3,150 rockets, 90% of those were intercepted by the Israeli Iron Dome missile defense system, and 460 rockets were misfired in the strip; and

WHEREAS, The Israeli government responded by bombardments in Gaza, home to 2 million Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, On May 13th, 2021, Israeli government tanks began joining the attacks in Gaza as Hamas rockets continued to strike; and

WHEREAS, On May 16th, 2021, one of the heaviest nights of airstrikes on Gaza, the Israeli government carried out airstrikes against residential buildings in Gaza City that destroyed two residential buildings killing 30 people, 11 of them being children in their sleep¹⁵; and

WHEREAS, After significant international pressure, the Israeli government called for a cease-fire after dozens of heavy fire air raids in Gaza for eleven days; and

WHEREAS, As of May 20th, the United Nations have reported that 232 Palestinians killed, including 62 children, and over 1,700 have been injured and counting as bodies are still being identified and discovered under rubble, and 12 Israelis were killed due to Hamas rockets¹⁶; and

¹³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/12/israel-discriminatory-land-policies-hem-palestinians>

¹⁴ <https://www.visualizingpalestine.org>

¹⁵ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/israelopt-pattern-of-israeli-attacks-on-residential-homes-in-gaza-must-be-investigated-as-war-crimes/>

¹⁶ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1092372>

WHEREAS, The aftermath of the bombardments and airstrikes have destroyed 152 residential properties in Gaza since May 11th, 2021, according to the Gaza-based human rights organization Al Mezan Center for Human Rights¹⁷; and

WHEREAS, According to a UN international humanitarian law, all parties must distinguish between military targets and civilian objects and direct their attacks only at military objectives, and must take all feasible precautions to minimize harm to civilians¹⁸; and

WHEREAS, The Amnesty International Human Rights Organization has documented four deadly attacks by Israeli government airstrikes on residential homes without prior warning, which has warranted discussion by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for an investigation on possible war crimes made by the Israeli government and Hamas¹⁹; and

WHEREAS, According to the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Gaza, Israeli government strikes have destroyed 258 building, comprising 461 commercial and housing units and 770 homes are no longer habitable²⁰; and

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), more than 2,500 people have been made homeless due to the destruction of their homes, and more than 38,000 people have been internally displaced and are seeking shelter in 48 UN Reliefs and Works Agency schools across Gaza²¹; and

WHEREAS, Roads, water, sanitation, and other infrastructure in Gaza have been severely damaged, putting extreme pressure on the territory's already fragile health system; and

¹⁷<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/israelopt-pattern-of-israeli-attacks-on-residential-homes-in-gaza-must-be-investigated-as-war-crimes/>

¹⁸<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/israelopt-pattern-of-israeli-attacks-on-residential-homes-in-gaza-must-be-investigated-as-war-crimes/>

¹⁹<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/israelopt-pattern-of-israeli-attacks-on-residential-homes-in-gaza-must-be-investigated-as-war-crimes/>

²⁰<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1092572>

²¹<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/05/israelopt-pattern-of-israeli-attacks-on-residential-homes-in-gaza-must-be-investigated-as-war-crimes/>

WHEREAS, UN Secretary-General António Guterres with the UN Relief Chief Mark Lowcock intend to send \$22.5 million from the Humanitarian Fund for Palestinian territories as Secretary-General Guterres claims that humanitarian goods is paramount²²; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has started providing emergency aid to more than 50,000 people in northern Gaza²³; and

WHEREAS, Before the recent ceasefire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the attacks towards Gaza would continue longer and at “full-force” which has severely damaged thousands of homes, main roads, and power lines; and

WHEREAS, An eleven-story building in Gaza City housing sixty residential apartments and offices including international news outlets were destroyed and flattened by Israeli airstrike²⁴; and

WHEREAS, The heavy airstrikes have severely damaged power lines and created fuel shortages, leaving many Palestinian families with at most three to four hours of electricity a day²⁵ ;

WHEREAS, Israeli authorities claim that Hamas rockets have also damaged the power lines in Israel, but no evidence of this has been provided²⁶;

WHEREAS, While Israeli civilians can leave destroyed areas, Palestinian survivors are unable to leave Gaza as the Israeli government for twenty-five years has place extensive travel bans that do not permit Palestinians or many human rights organizations to enter or leave Gaza²⁷; and

WHEREAS, According to UN reports of this human rights issue, human rights experts call the clashes a vast ‘asymmetry of power’ as victims are

²² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1092572>

²³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-middle-east-57141238/page/2>

²⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/15/palestinian-death-toll-in-gaza-occupied-west-bank-mounts-live-news>

²⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/gaza-fuel-electricity-crisis/2021/05/17/f1667520-b722-11eb-bc4a-62849cf6cca9_story.html

²⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/gaza-fuel-electricity-crisis/2021/05/17/f1667520-b722-11eb-bc4a-62849cf6cca9_story.html

²⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/04/02/unwilling-or-unable/israeli-restrictions-access-and-gaza-human-rights-workers>

disproportionately Palestinians in Gaza who have become internally displaced or killed²⁸; and

WHEREAS, According to the International Human Rights Watch Organization, the Israeli government for decades has continued to subject Palestinians to military occupation, land dispossession, systemic right abuses, and restricting the movement of people and goods²⁹; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the De Anza Student Government condemn the Israeli Government for unnecessary full-force aggression against the Palestinian civilians in Gaza as they are targeted in large scale attacks by the armed military forces of Israel;

RESOLVED, that the De Anza Student Government support a UN Human Rights Council Special Session to ensure accountability for human rights violations even during ceasefire as hostilities continue;

RESOLVED, that the De Anza Student Government supports Palestinian students and stand in solidarity with them and their families and relatives in Palestine;

RESOLVED, that the De Anza Student Government calls upon De Anza College to provide physical, emotional, and mental health support to carry Palestinian students through these difficult times;

RESOLVED, that the De Anza Student Government calls upon De Anza College to commit to providing factual information and history that concerns the Israeli occupation of Palestine;

RESOLVED, that the De Anza Student Government shall send a copy of this resolution to the Dean of Students, forwarded to the Dean of Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion once the position is filled, and De Anza College President Lloyd Holmes, if this resolution passes.

²⁸ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1092482>

²⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/north-africa/israel/palestine>