

May 16st, 2024

Motion to Express Solidarity with Palestinians and those Affected by the War on Gaza

The language of this motion is taken from the motion passed by St Antony's GCR on March 15, 2024. It is adapted here for a motion to be put before the St. Anne's College Middle Common Room (MCR).

This motion joins not only St Antony's, but also [Somerville](#) and other Oxford University Graduate Common rooms in solidarity with the Palestinian and Israeli people and in condemnation of the ongoing violence in Gaza.

Proposed by: Jonathan Cole

Seconded by: Karan Mukhi

This MCR notes

- That Israel's ongoing military action in Gaza since October has resulted in the killing of more than 31,000 Palestinians - including more than 12,000 children ¹
- That South Africa has brought a case against the Israeli state in the ICJ alleging that these killings violate the Geneva Convention and constitute genocide, that the ICJ's initial ruling was that such a case was 'plausible',² and that UN experts have called on the international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people;^{3,4}
- That the October 7th terrorist attack committed by Hamas resulted in the killing of approximately 1,200 Israelis,⁵ as well as the taking of hostages of whom 134 are still in Gaza;⁶
- That Israel holds at least 2,800 Palestinians in administrative detention without charge or trial in the West Bank, in contravention of international law;⁷
- That Palestinians have experienced a long and violent history of occupation in Gaza and the West Bank by Israel
- That Israel's indiscriminate and planned destruction of civilian infrastructure in Gaza, (including roads, hospitals, sewage systems, agriculture and telecommunications) will lead to many more civilian deaths in the future, even if a ceasefire is eventually agreed;
- Eastern Rafah, a previously designated safe zone, has been under siege by the IDF since 6 May and as of 10 May, more than 80,000 Palestinians have fled to nearby al-Mawasi and Khan Younis. There are only two functioning hospitals in the city and it is being hit with constant air strikes;⁸
- That the scale of destruction and death has prompted international concern for the upholding of human rights and international law and a global urge to call for a ceasefire;⁹
- That the UN has stated that widespread famine is "almost inevitable" in Gaza without immediate intervention;¹⁰ that many people – including vast numbers of children – are already suffering acute malnutrition;¹¹ and that hunger and famine should be understood as both a 'humanitarian emergency' and the effect of Israeli political decision-making rather than a 'natural disaster'.

¹ [Reuters | Dozens killed gaza aid queue overall death toll passes 30000](#)

[More than 12,300 Palestinian children have now been killed \(thelondoneconomic.com\)](#)

² <https://www.npr.org/2024/01/26/1227078791/icj-israel-genocide-gaza-palestinians-south-africa>

³ [Gaza: UN experts call on international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people | OHCHR](#)

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<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/02/israel-defying-icj-ruling-to-prevent-genocide-by-failing-to-allow-adequate-humanitarian-aid-to-reach-gaza/>

⁵ [Hamas's October 7 Attack: Visualizing the Data \(csis.org\)](#)

⁶ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-67053011>

⁷ [World Report 2024: Israel and Palestine | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#)

[Israel jails hundreds of Palestinians without charge in administrative detention - The Washington Post](#)

⁸ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-68983436>

⁹ [Labour calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza \(msn.com\)](#)

[Underscoring Urgency for Ceasefire in Gaza. General Assembly Highlights Need to Protect Civilians. Grant Humanitarian Access. Free Hostages. Condemn Hamas | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases](#)

[Demand an urgent ceasefire in Gaza and Israel - now \(amnesty.org.uk\)](#)

[US increasingly alone in Israel support as 153 countries vote for ceasefire at UN | Israel-Gaza war | The Guardian](#)

¹⁰ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/famine-looms-gaza-how-will-world-know-it-has-arrived-2024-03-05/>

¹¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/mar/06/colleagues-starvation-gaza-no-precedent-famine>

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- That appointed experts to the UN's Human Rights Council have stated that journalists in Gaza appear to have been deliberately targeted by Israeli military action,¹² and that a similar phenomenon has been noted with respect to UNRWA,¹³ and aid workers regarding medical-humanitarian assistance operations, infrastructure, and personnel.

This MCR further notes

- That the killing and hostage-taking of Israelis on October 7th and the ongoing genocide and historical persecution of Palestinians have been traumatising for those directly and indirectly affected, including those Palestinians, Israelis, Muslims, Jews, Arabs, and others within our college community.

This MCR therefore believes

- That our members have a moral responsibility in line with our values and convictions and as students with institutional privilege to publicly speak up and stand in solidarity with oppressed peoples seeking justice and liberation across the world, including the Palestinian people who are currently experiencing genocide.

This MCR resolves

- To act upon its convictions of the right of people to self-determination and freedom from oppression and genocide, and join St Antony's GCR and other MCRs in their call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza
- To call for the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian administrative detainees,¹⁴
- To call for an end to the targeting of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, as well as for the unhindered restoration of humanitarian aid in Gaza to prevent further loss of life and for the restoration of power, water, food and telecommunications;
- To underscore the alarming escalation in the situation in Gaza since the 15th January by highlighting that the number of people killed there has doubled since;
- To condemn the ongoing bombardment, displacement, and genocide of Palestinian people by the Israeli state;
- To condemn the building of illegal settlements in the West Bank;
- To condemn and mourn the killing and murder of civilians, both Israeli and Palestinian;
- To urge St. Anne's College to release a statement calling for a permanent ceasefire and condemning the actions of the Israeli government as genocide;
- To call on St. Anne's College to use voting right, voices at shareholder meetings or complete divestment to divest in companies that are either explicitly or implicitly complicit in the genocide in Gaza and the apartheid and occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, to put pressure on Israel to find a permanent ceasefire and long-term Israeli-Palestinian peace solution.
- To emphasise that there is no place for Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism or any form of discrimination, in our college or in our university;
- To urge the University of Oxford, all colleges, and all other GCRs, MCRs, and JCRs to join these calls.

¹² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146132>

¹³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/the-bottom-line/2024/2/18/why-are-israel-and-its-western-allies-targeting-unrwa>

¹⁴ https://www.btselem.org/topic/administrative_detention