

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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World Must Keep Focused on Stopping the Gaza Genocide

LA Jews for Peace condemns Saturday's bombardment of Israeli cities by Iran. The attack was in retaliation for the April 1 Israel attack on the Iranian Embassy in Damascus that killed seven Iranian advisors including three top military commanders. The attack was anticipated and largely countered by Israeli, American, Jordanian, French, and U.K. militaries.

LA Jews for Peace also condemns Israel's April 1 attack on the Iranian Embassy that was a major escalation in the long-simmering Israeli-Iranian antagonism and threatens to trigger a regional war. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu instigated this attack to provoke Iran into retaliation—more on this later.

Increased fighting between Israel and Iran must stop. First because it is a distraction from Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza. The world cannot allow the Gaza genocide to be sidelined and forgotten by Israel's escalation of its fight with Iran. The Gaza genocide is a far more serious threat to world peace and international law than an Iran-Israel military exchange.

Most importantly, increased fighting between Israel and Iran must stop because it has the potential to grow into a major regional war involving Israel's Western allies and Iran's Middle Eastern allies. This crisis highlights Israel's decade-long effort to lure the U.S. into war with Iran.

The world, including the United States, must keep its attention on stopping the ongoing genocide in Gaza that has already directly killed over 33,000 Palestinians (listed by name), plus indirectly killed 7-10 thousand buried under rubble of crushed buildings and from starvation, disease, and exposure. Of those killed, most are civilians; 70% are women and minors.

The United States has supplied many of the weapons Israel uses in Gaza, and diplomatically protects Israel from accountability in the U.N. and International Court of Justice. That makes the U.S. complicit in Israel's crimes. **LA Jews for Peace** commends the Biden Administration for allowing adoption of U.N. Security Resolution 2728 that demands a Gaza ceasefire. Because Israel is not complying, **LA Jews for Peace** urges the U.S. to cut off its supply of weapons to Israel, as over 40 members of Congress are advocating. That will effectively both stop the genocide and deflect the Israel-Iran battle from escalating into a regional war.

Stopping arms to Israel will be politically difficult, but it will earn the U.S. some redemption from being complicit in Israel's crimes.

LA Jews for Peace believes that Netanyahu's government instigated Israel's April 1 attack on the Iranian Embassy, not because Israel was threatened, but for geopolitical reasons. Netanyahu wanted to provoke an Iranian response to get the world to stop criticizing Israel's genocide in Gaza and to generate sympathy for Israel under Iranian aggression. To some extent, he has been successful. World media is talking about Iran's attack on Israel and not the ongoing genocide. There is even sympathy for Israel being attacked.