

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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U.N. Ceasefire Resolution Must be Implemented

LA Jews for Peace supports the concept of a U.N. Hamas-Israel ceasefire resolution because an international statement of purpose is a step towards stopping the killing and allowing humanitarian aid to flow to the over 2 million Gazans who are not Hamas combatants. U.N. Security Council Resolution 2735 is such a statement of purpose. It passed on June 10 by 14-0-1 (Russia abstained). 2735 calls for a 3-stage sequence leading to end of hostilities including a full Israel withdraw from Gaza, robust exchange of hostages and prisoners, humanitarian aid, and the start of rebuilding Gaza.

Three considerations make U.N. Resolution 2735 different from previous U.N. attempts to enact a ceasefire; they suggest that 2735 has a better chance of success. First, the U.S. is the sponsor of this ceasefire resolution. In contrast, the U.S. vetoed three previous attempts for the UN to pass a ceasefire resolution. Second, this resolution includes provisions to help the over 2 million Gazans who are not Hamas combatants. The resolution calls for humanitarian aid “to scale” and housing units to be delivered by the international community. And three, coincident with this resolution is a step-up in international recognition of a Palestinian state. Four European countries, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia, and Spain, recognized Palestine in the past two weeks, joining 75% of the world’s countries. Item 6 in 2735 builds momentum by reaffirming the international commitment to a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

LA Jews for Peace urges all parties to quickly accept and implement the ceasefire resolution. Unfortunately, Middle East peace efforts never progress that smoothly. Meanwhile, the killing continues, and thousands of Palestinian children face starvation.

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- Hamas says it accepts the UN resolution in principle; it has proposed amendments but has not formally accepted. Hamas is demanding that the negotiations will lead to a permanent ceasefire and total withdrawal.
- Israel has not directly responded to the U.N. resolution, in fact, it is ignoring it. The Prime Minister’s office reiterated Israel’s long-standing goal to destroy Hamas and recover the hostages. That goal is incompatible with 2735.
- The United States says it supports the current U.N. resolution. In fact, President Biden needs to stop the war for any hope of winning November’s election. But the Biden Administration seems not ready to use sanctions to get Israel to adopt the resolution. Rather it says Israel already accepts the ceasefire (that Israel denies, apparently a blatant lie), and puts all onus for success on Hamas (when in fact Hamas is positive about the resolution whereas Israel is not, another lie)

LA Jews for Peace demands that the parties break the current impasse of conflicting positions and adopt and implement U.N. Resolution 2735 that will end the war. That is the most direct way to stop the killing and starvation of the people of Gaza.