

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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Trump Ends Gaza Genocide

LA Jews for Peace appreciates the ceasefire just agreed to by Israel and Hamas with the help of Egyptian and Qatari mediators. This 2-phase, 3-month deal will stop the fighting. It is the same deal that President Biden floated last May, eight months of way too much killing and destruction ago. The downside is there is adequate time for either side to stop the process (perhaps by never moving to phase-2) or create other mischief. It is a shame that the 1-phase, three-week deal¹ was not adopted, if only to minimize the time for either party to undermine the agreement.

This is a good agreement that stops the killing, even if it just lasts for the 6-week first phase.

LA Jews for Peace acknowledges that the key factor that pushed this deal to completion was President elect Donald Trump using his political capital. [Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff](#), informed Benjamin Netanyahu office last Friday that he'd be arriving the next day and wanted to meet. Netanyahu's aides "politely explained that was in the middle of the Sabbath but that the prime minister would gladly meet him Saturday night." Using "salty English," Witkoff explained that Shabbat was of no interest to him. Netanyahu obeyed orders and showed up at his office as commanded. Witkoff then sealed the deal in Qatar.

LA Jews for Peace notes that if the Biden Administration showed even part of the firmness with Israel just demonstrated by Trump, there would have been a deal months ago. The Biden Administration brought shame on the nation by supporting Israel's genocide in Gaza. And Biden's Gaza failure was clearly a significant factor in Kamala Harris' loss in November.

The war was a loss for everybody: Untold suffering in Gaza; Israeli turning itself into a criminal state; and undermining free speech and assembly in the United States.

When the fighting stops, attention will turn now to building a better future for Palestinians and Israelis. Some of us support a Palestinian state alongside Israel. We note that talk of a demilitarized Palestine is self-defeating. Any super-militarized state (think Israel) adjacent to a demilitarized state (think Palestine) is an unstable situation. For a stable and peaceful relationship, there must be some equivalence between the adjacent states.

¹ Email statement from Gershon Baskin, GershonBaskinNewsandViews@googlegroups.com, Oct. 15, 2024 and earlier.