



Resolution to: Call for Bilateral, Permanent Ceasefire in Palestine
Resolution Year | 2025-01

Authored By: Elaine Pollard and the voices of many CSUSM students

Whereas, the Associated Students, Inc. of the California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) Board of Directors is the official governing body of the students of CSUSM; and

Whereas, Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) of California State University San Marcos is the primary advocate for students at CSUSM and is dedicated to providing services designed to create and enhance a learning-focused campus environment; and

Whereas, it is ASI's mission to serve, engage, and empower students, ASI has the responsibility to inform CSUSM students about issues that affect our student population; and

Whereas, ASI recognizes the events unfolding in the Middle East region have caused tremendous tension and pain for many students across California State University San Marcos and

Whereas, and in following up on the ASI statement released on May 22, 2024¹ from the ASI executive board members which serves as the representative voice of almost 17,000 students at California State University San Marcos; and

Whereas, the ASI met with CSUSM President Ellen Neufeldt in a joint meeting with 12-15 students who have been heavily involved in advocacy and activism on campus for Palestine and understand that a statement on this topic from President Neufeldt is not within her purview to release due to CSUSM being a publicly funded University but did point students to other campus departments that could further answer their questions; and

Whereas, the ASI and the student group also met with Jessica Berger, the Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the CSUSM Foundation, Leon Wyden, the Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, and Patricia Prado-Olmos, the Chief Community Engagement Officer, Community Relations & University Engagement to learn about the CSUSM budget, how tuition is allocated, campus investments, campus partnerships, and how CSUSM is writing their new Social Responsible Investment Policy; and

Whereas, the ASI executive team has made a continuous effort to create a space for students that allows them to express their concerns and experience regarding this matter and has spent upwards of 50 hours from May to November of 2024 consulting with them; and

Whereas, the feedback given by the students has been implemented into this document as the historical narrative with the purpose to provide CSUSM students with information regarding the ongoing war in Palestine; and

¹ <https://www.csusm.edu/asi/documents/bod/memos/asiasefirememo.pdf>

Whereas, the Israel-Hamas War has recently gained worldwide attention, it is also important to recognize that Palestinians have been under oppression by Israel since its independence in 1948²; and

Whereas, on November 14th, 2024, the United Nations Special Committee finds that Israel's warfare in Gaza is consistent with the characteristics of genocide, with mass civilian casualties and life-threatening conditions intentionally imposed on Palestinians there³; and

Whereas, this resolution cannot begin to properly articulate the atrocities and crimes committed against Palestinians over the course of a near century, but ASI can take a stance against it and do the best to continue to ensure that student tuition dollars are not contributing towards this war; and

Whereas, ASI stands firm in condemning the recent rise of Islamophobic and antisemitic incidences and harassment, hate crimes, hate speech, doxing and suppression of freedom of speech in universities across the United States; and

Whereas, the United Nation Human Rights Council condemns the continuing an occupying power of Israel⁴ which has influenced settlement activities of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem; and

Whereas, the United Nations⁵, Amnesty International⁶, Doctors without Borders⁷, World Health Organization⁸, and Oxfam International⁹ have called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza to end civilian suffering; and

Whereas, on July 18, 2023, the US Congress passed a resolution stating that Israel is not a racist or apartheid state¹⁰, however in July 19th, 2024, the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories constitutes apartheid and mandated that Israel end its occupation, dismantle settlements, provide reparations, and facilitate the return of displaced people.¹¹

Resolved, ASI calls for a bilateral, permanent ceasefire in Palestine; and

Resolved, ASI will continue to stand against violence and promote peace; and

² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/11/un-special-committee-finds-israels-warfare-methods-gaza-consistent-genocide>

⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1148261>

⁵ <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15767.doc.htm>

⁶ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/demand-a-ceasefire-by-all-parties-to-end-civilian-suffering/>

⁷ <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/our-response-israel-gaza-war>

⁸ <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15487.doc.htm>

⁹ <https://www.oxfam.org/en/open-call-immediate-ceasefire-occupied-palestinian-territory>

¹⁰ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-concurrent-resolution/14/text>

¹¹ [World Court Reviews 57-Year Israeli Occupation | Human Rights Watch](#)

Resolved, ASI condemns public comments that support human rights violation and the execution of war crimes; and

Resolved, ASI fosters an environment that upholds diversity, equity, and inclusion regarding a supported humanitarian ceasefire in Palestine and condemns any language for forced displacement of populations within the Gaza Strip; and

Resolved, that ASI calls for CSUSM leadership and City of San Marcos officially join for an unwavering stance against gross human rights violations and condemns the continued bombardment by the Israeli government; and

Resolved, ASI calls on faculty, staff, and administrators to be compassionate to all students affected by the Israel-Hamas War; and

Resolved, ASI recommends to faculty, staff, and administrators that any dehumanizing rhetoric heard is mitigated, any information given to the students on this matter is fact-based, up to date, and unbiased, and student concerns and suggestions are taken seriously with the information or implementation given in a timely manner.

Resolved, we urge the University Foundation, Academic Senate of California State University San Marcos and students of CSUSM to join ASI in solidarity; and

Resolved, ASI encourages CSUSM Corporation to reevaluate their contractual relationships and continue to build and sustain relationships with partners that align with their Social Responsibility Statement¹²; and

Resolved, ASI will work to partner with the Office of Inclusive Excellence to help ensure that our campus climate continues to evolve and change with the needs of our students to be a space that all students feel comfortable in; and

Resolved, ASI will work to create a Social Justice Action taskforce that will examine the issues impacting the students of CSUSM and creating a reasonable action plan in collaboration with campus partners; and

Resolved, that California State University San Marcos will commit to fostering a campus environment that values and critically engages with diverse viewpoints, rejects all forms of Islamophobia, violence, discrimination, and racism, and anti-Palestinian sentiment; and

Resolved, that California State University San Marcos rejects all forms of antisemitism and anti-Jewish sentiment; and

Resolved, ASI stands with the Jewish members of the world and of California State University San Marcos that are being negatively affected by the excessive violence in occupied Gaza; and


¹² <https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/california-state-university-san-marcos-ca/report/2024-02-06/PA/investment-finance/PA-10/#:~:text=The%20CSUSM%20Foundation's%20mission%20is,enhance%20the%20endowment's%20primary%20mission.>

Resolved, ASI stands with the Palestinian and Arab members of both the world and CSUSM that continue to be negatively affected by the Israel-Hamas War and emphasizes that this is not a religion vs. religion issue but rather a complete and total violation of human rights; and

Resolved, ASI will aim to follow the action plan outlined in the resolved section when any violation of human rights occurs in any country, towards any group of people; and be it further; and

Resolved, that ASI forwards this resolution to the CSUSM Office of the President, the CSUSM Academic Senate, the Cougar Chronicle Newspaper, all CSUSM Student Organizations, the California State Student Association, Chancellor Mildred Garcia, California Governor Gavin Newsom, San Marcos Mayor Rebecca Jones, Senator Alex Padilla , Senator Laphonza Butler, Representative Scot Peters, and the California State University Board of Trustees.

I, Octavio Martinez, 24/25 ASI President & CEO, hereby certify that the above resolution was approved by Board of Directors of Associated Students, Inc., at a regularly scheduled meeting held on December 6, 2024


Octavio Martinez (Dec 11, 2024 13:08 PST)

12/11/2024

Octavio Martinez

Date

Historical Narrative

The following historical narrative has been assembled by CSUSM Students including Izdehar Abu Laban, Emily Mahmoud, Megan Angkiangco:

- Hamas, a militant Palestinian nationalist and Islamist movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that is dedicated to the establishment of an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine, but Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people
- The conflict between Israel and Palestine is not new as several wars have occurred since Israel's establishment: 1948-49: Israel's War of Independence and the Palestinian Nakba, 1956: Suez Crisis, 1967: Six-Day War, 1973: Yom Kippur War, 1982: Lebanon War, 1987-93: Intifada, 2000-05: Second Intifada, 2006¹³: Second Lebanon War, and the current Israel-Hamas War¹⁴
- Many do not refer to the Israel-Hamas War by this name and prefer Gaza-Israel Conflict, Israel-Palestinian Conflict, or other iterations as innocent Palestinian people are being killed at a much higher rate than any confirmed Hamas deaths
- On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel by air, land, and sea which took place just after the 50th anniversary of the multi-front 1973 Yom Kippur War against Israel and while Israeli Jews were preparing to celebrate Simchat Torah
- Hamas terrorists crossed the Israeli land border, killing civilians and abducting hostages in more than 20 towns in southern Israel, including children and the elderly
- The initial attack killed more than 1,200 Israelis and injured thousands more with 12 American citizens in Israel are among those killed and 250 innocent Israelis and 12 Americans taken as hostages and marking October 7th as the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust¹⁵
- Since October 2023, the death toll has surpassed 40,774 innocent Palestinian civilians, and an estimated 10,000 buried under rubble who have yet to be identified. The Gaza health ministry does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its figures but says around 70% of the dead are women and children¹⁶. Israel said in a statement in July that it had killed more than 17,000 combatants in Gaza

¹³ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/intifada>

¹⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Israeli-wars#ref340992>

¹⁵ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/10/07/statement-from-president-joe-biden-marking-one-year-since-the-october-7th-attack/>

¹⁶ [Facts and estimates: Women and girls during the conflict in Palestine | UN Women – Palestine Country Office](#)

since the start of the war¹⁷, but no news network or other outside source can independently verify the ministry's numbers¹⁸

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- The Israeli government is not a complete representation of the Jewish people and Zionism is a political ideology advocating for a Jewish state in the land of Israel and self-determination of the Jewish people. Zionism is a "Jewish nationalist movement with the goal of the creation and support of a Jewish national state in Palestine, the ancient homeland of the Jews."²⁰
- As of August 23, 2024, the state of Israel has continuously displaced 1.9 million Palestinians (out of 2.1 million)²¹, cramming them into a small city, Rafah, to seek refuge from indiscriminate and inhumane bombings
- Israel called for the invasion of Rafah on the belief that four Hamas battalions were in the area and that senior militant officials resided there²² and dropped an estimated 500,000 leaflets urging evacuation to Dair al-Balah, where only 500,000 Palestinians remain cramped up, making it impossible for all 2.1 million Palestinians to fit into this small town
- With no way out across the Rafah Border without the Border Patrol bribing Gazan families thousands of dollars per person to escape, Gazans will be stuck in an inevitable concentration camp²³
- Israel has been accused by Amnesty International²⁴, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights²⁵, and the Human Rights Watch²⁶ of being an apartheid state which is a term originating in South Africa, where a system of racial segregation and "separate development" was official policy between 1948 and 1994.
- Israel has always rejected comparisons with apartheid-era South Africa. Even some staunch Israeli critics of the occupation have argued that discrimination against Palestinians does not amount to intentional or institutional racism and is the result of genuine security fears.²⁷

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/08/15/gaza-death-toll-israel-hamas/>

¹⁸ <https://www.cnn.com/2024/08/15/middleeast/gaza-death-toll-40000-israel-war-intl/index.html>

²⁰ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Zionism>

²¹ <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2024-08-23/israel-hamas-war-latest-israels-evacuation-orders-have-displaced-90-of-gaza-residents-un-says>

²² <https://apnews.com/article/rafah-offensive-israel-netanyahu-hamas-palestinians-014b2d850bbe28897b624bc5e5378320>

²³ [With Rafah crossing closed by Israel, Gazans have no way out - The Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/middle-east/2024/08/23/with-rafah-crossing-closed-by-israel-gazans-have-no-way-out-the-washington-post/)

²⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/02/israels-apartheid-against-palestinians-a-cruel-system-of-domination-and-a-crime-against-humanity/>

²⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/israels-55-year-occupation-palestinian-territory-apartheid-un-human-rights>

²⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

²⁷ <https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/01/middleeast/israel-apartheid-amnesty-intl/index.html>

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- A recent report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs finds that 43,391+ deaths have been confirmed which does not include the estimated 7,000²⁸ people trapped under the rubble of destroyed buildings, or whose bodies are either stuck on roads or in border areas that have been completely destroyed, and thus cannot be recovered.²⁹ and around 102,347 injured as a result of Israel's grossly excessive violence³⁰, and as of June 2023 10% of the Gaza Strip's population has been killed, injured, or missing³¹
- Among those who have been targeted and murdered are 113 journalists and over 224 humanitarian aid workers including 179 employees of UNRWA with two of them being some of the 19 UNRWA staff members to take part in the October 7th attack³²
- The uninhabitable conditions in occupied Palestine are exasperated by Israel deliberately withholding food, water, aid and neglecting several outbreaks of infectious, communicable diseases and malnutrition by means of collective punishment³³. Further, systemically utilizing torture and sexual violence by a means of control that dates back to 1967
- Multiple international organizations including the United Nations condemned the actions committed by Israel, including the United Nations human rights Council (WHO) purchased a resolution on March 26, 2024³⁴, where they are from all nations must respect international law, reaffirming the Palestinian struggle for independence, as well as speaking out against collective punishment
- ASI acknowledges the provisional ruling by the International Court of Justice under the Convention³⁵ on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide that "Israel must, in accordance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all act within the scope of Article II of this Convention in particular: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group"

²⁸ <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/23/world/middleeast/gaza-missing-bodies-deaths.html>

²⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/about-10-percent-gaza-strips-population-killed-injured-or-missing-due-israeli-genocide-enar>

³⁰ <https://www.ochaopt.org/>

³¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/about-10-percent-gaza-strips-population-killed-injured-or-missing-due-israeli-genocide-enar>

³² <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/investigation-completed-allegations-unrwa-staff-participation-7-october>

³³ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145537>

³⁴ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/hrc-draft-res-israeli-settlements-in-the-occupied-palestinian-territory-including-east-jerusalem-and-in-the-occupied-syrian-golan-25mar24/>

³⁵ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/summary-of-icjs-order-24may24/>