



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

March 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation Members
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515
(recipient addresses attached)

RE: Call for Immediate, Lasting Bilateral Ceasefire in Gaza, Release of All Captives, and Urgent Delivery of Humanitarian Aid

Dear Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation Members:

I write to express my grave concern about the unfathomable suffering of civilians in Gaza. I seek the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation's support in urging Congress and the Biden Administration to: facilitate an immediate and lasting bilateral ceasefire in Gaza; the release of all captives, including Israeli hostages held captive by Hamas and Palestinians detained unlawfully by the Israeli government; and the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid.

The Israel-Hamas war has had devastating consequences over the past five months. In response to Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack, the Israeli government has killed [over 30,000](#) Palestinians - roughly one person killed for every 73 Palestinians in Gaza - and wounded over 70,000 Palestinians. Of the 30,000 killed, [70%](#) are women and children. 1.7 million people, or 80% of the Gazan population, have been displaced and [60%](#) of the buildings in Gaza have been damaged or completely destroyed. The humanitarian crisis has steadily worsened, as Israel continues to severely restrict aid from entering Gaza. More than half a million Gazans are facing what experts classify as catastrophic levels of hunger and [four out of the five hungriest people](#) in the world are in Gaza, according to the United Nations' Secretary-General António Guterres. At least [20 people](#) have died from starvation, primarily children. Amidst this catastrophe, the Israeli government has confirmed its [intent](#) to invade the city of Rafah, which is now home to more than a million Palestinian civilians who have fled fighting elsewhere in Gaza and who have nowhere else to escape.

The United States must act now to save innocent lives, and the Biden Administration must use the full force of America's leverage and global leadership to end the war. While I support recent American [efforts](#) to deliver additional aid to Gaza, human rights organizations assert that a permanent ceasefire is the only way to allow for sufficient aid

and to meaningfully address the crisis. A ceasefire agreement will also help secure the safe return of the remaining Israeli hostages – as over 100 hostages were released during the temporary ceasefire in November 2023. Moreover, a permanent ceasefire and diplomatic resolution to the conflict will diffuse tensions in the Middle East and prevent further regional escalation.

I thus urge the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation to join calls across the world and back all possible efforts to end the war, secure the full release of all captives, and facilitate an influx of robust international humanitarian aid. Around two-thirds of American voters (67%) support the U.S. calling for a permanent ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence in Gaza, according to a new [survey](#) from *Data for Progress*.

As a local leader, I am witnessing the dangerous reverberations of the conflict across the Los Angeles region. Many communities in Los Angeles County are grieving and mourning the loss of loved ones, or otherwise affected personally by the ongoing violence; and there has been a sharp rise in the number of hate-related incidents and crimes directed towards our Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian communities. Your support for de-escalation and a diplomatic resolution to the conflict can help diffuse tensions both abroad and at home.

Alongside leaders across Los Angeles County and the world, I continue to mourn the over 1,200 Israelis killed and the over 250 Israelis abducted on October 7, 2023, by Hamas. International humanitarian law is clear that targeting or indiscriminately attacking civilians is prohibited, and I condemn the killing of civilians by both Hamas and the Israeli government. As a global leader, the United States has a critical role to play in the protection of *all* human rights. Palestinians and Israelis deserve to live lives of safety, dignity, and freedom.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to continuing to work together on urgent moral issues that impact Los Angeles County residents and the country at large.

Sincerely,



Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Enclosure – Addresses of Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation Members

Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation Members

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Representative Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Senator Laphonza Butler
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Washington, DC 20510

Representative Judy Chu
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Washington, DC 20515

Representative Robert Garcia
1305 Longworth House Office Building
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Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Representative Grace Napolitano
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Representative Adam Schiff
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