

Julie Dachtler

From: Deanne Meyer <deannemeyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 9:43 AM
To: Lucas Frerichs; Mary Vixie Sandy; Jim Provenza; angel.barajas@yolocounty.or; Oscar Villegas; Clerkoftheboard
Cc: Deanne Meyer
Subject: Potential resolution Hamas Israel war

Dear Supervisors,

Thank you for your public service to Yolo County. I have been a resident of Yolo County for over 35 years living in Davis, Woodland and back to Davis.

I understand that you are working on a resolution for Yolo County regarding the Hamas-Israel war.

I have one question. WHY? I also have a suggestion. Don't cave in to loud, noisy, unpeaceful people claiming to want peace. Truth be known, some of them want to wipe Israelis (all religions) and Jewish people off the map. We have enough problems in Yolo County that we can't fix. In a time of seeking equity and inclusion, any resolution that calls for a ceasefire without also calling for the immediate release of all hostages and dismantling Hamas, falls far short. This may help avoid Yolo County being similar to the vile antisemitism in Oakland.

Do you realize that while you're contemplating a ceasefire resolution Hezbollah (Lebanon) is declaring war on Israel in the North. Do you realize the terrorists in the west bank aren't far behind. Why on earth would the Yolo County Board of Supervisors want to add fuel to the fire of war? That's exactly what you will accomplish should you not condemn Hamas, demand release of hostages, demand dismantling of Hamas and then request a ceasefire.

The nuances of life in Israel and the neighboring Gaza territory and West Bank are important to understand. More importantly, it is essential to understand what a ceasefire means. Be mindful, there was a ceasefire on October 6. This was violated by Hamas who attacked (without provocation) innocent civilians through heinous crimes and atrocities. The objective of this attack by Hamas was "to put the plight of Palestinians back in the news." Their actual intent is to remove Israelis, Jews, and Christians from Israel and the rest of the globe. Do not think Yolo County is not in their sights. Just not the first layer! Their leader has unequivocally indicated 10/7 was the first and there will be a 2nd, 3rd, 4th and continued massacres until Jews are gone. There has been no list of hostages released. There has been no request for the red cross to enter (some of the individuals kidnapped had severe injuries, others needed medication). It is unclear how many individuals have died or been killed. Psychological warfare was employed prior to hostage release by indicating someone is dead and then releasing them. Crimes against women hostages (and those killed on 10/7) have been committed. Hamas regularly and repeatedly violates the rules of engagement by placing military personnel and weapons in schools, mosques, hospitals and using Palestinians as shields. They have not suggested they want peace. They have no intention of peace unless they rule the land. Look back at military actions since 2005 when Israel pulled out of Gaza and identify who started attacks. Hamas has time and again attacked Israel.

Please help me understand where the peace is versus genocide of Jews/Israelis/Christians in Israel. Consider the various chants I've heard as pro-Palestinian rallies march across UC Davis and in the city of Davis. "From the river to the sea Palestine will be free." This means there is no Israel. Another chant "If we don't get it, shut it down. No justice, no peace. Justice is our demand, no peace on stolen land." How do you interpret that statement? Is this a group of people who want peace? Their condition is that Israel give up their country. One truly needs to understand how the country started. Since its inception there was an option for 2 states. Unfortunately, Arabs declined that option and began a war with a newly formed country. Some say Arabs were expelled from the new Israel. Many chose to leave on the advice of neighboring countries with a thought that they would go back after Israel was removed from the map. However, Jews were expelled from neighboring Arab countries (look at population numbers to satisfy this statement). More chants. "We will honor all our martyrs, all our children, mothers, daughters. We will honor all our martyrs, all our parents, mothers, fathers. Hey hey, ho ho, the occupation has got to go". "Colonizers we don't need them. What we want is total freedom." How does the return of the oldest indigenous people in the region to its homeland equate to colonization? The British did occupy the land prior to 1948. Many of the Jews in Israel are there because after Israel became a country Jews in neighboring Arab countries were categorically kicked out. The global Jewish population is estimated at 16.2 million and less than 1000 reside in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt combined.

Recently in the discussion people label this the Israel-Hamas war. Hamas having violated a peaceful situation has earned top billing in the Hamas-Israel war. If Israel's intention was the genocide of Gazans they would not give incredible notice for civilians to evacuate areas before military action. The definition of genocide is important. The Department of Justice defines genocide in § 1091 "and includes violent attacks with the specific intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group." Hamas has in fact made repeated statements that would result in the genocide of Jews and Israelis. I believe them. Do you? Do keep in mind Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005. Prior to October 7, 2023, they did not occupy this territory. Life was relatively peaceful October 6, 2023, until Hamas violated all sense of humanity with the brutal attack.

I am saddened by the incredible loss of life, by Palestinians being controlled by Hamas, by humanitarian relief not making it to the people who need it (it is getting into Gaza), by the inability of some countries to acknowledge the State of Israel, and so much more. I too want peace. I want to go to bed knowing my family and friends in Israel are not risking their lives to go for a walk or walk to the store (do you realize that people need to seek shelter for 10 minutes after bombing so all the shrapnel from an intercept can fall to earth). However, for peace to happen all parties need to be interested in the discussion AND live with a political solution. As we witnessed 10/7 that is not the case. Hamas violated rules of engagement on 10/7 by attacking civilians. Hamas did not provide a list of kidnapped people, allow medical aid, and chose not to continue the pause. Did Hamas share recent humanitarian aid received in Gaza with the Palestinian people? My sources say not so much.

Canon Brian Cox from California identified 4 things Christians can do to support Israel. These actually support those living in Gaza as well.

Take an active role against anti-semitism.

Build friendships between their nation and Israel.

Pray for change in the Islam narrative to transform focus from hating Jews.

Relationship with Palestinian Christian community --see themselves as victims. Replacement theology is key here. Need to move from comforting them to redefine their relationship with Israel.

With all our challenges here in Davis, unhoused, food insecurity, under employment, cost of housing, increasing sewage rates, faulty water pipes, streets in need of repair, mental health needs, etc., I ask you WHY is this international issue so very important to demand your time away from critically important issues? The war will not be resolved with bullets and bombs. It requires a political solution and all entities involved must honor that solution. Thus far, Hamas has shown colors of not respecting truces, rules, or terms of engagement. How do you think a ceasefire will work now?

I would suggest that you research the antidemocracy groups who will arrive at your meeting and through noisy, boisterous, dramatic presentations etc. seek your attention.

I am happy to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Deanne Meyer

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