

Julie Dachtler

From: Salma <senan13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:27 AM
To: Clerkoftheboard
Subject: Please add ceasefire resolution to agenda

Dear County Supervisors:

My name is Salma Enan. I have been a resident of Davis for over 30 years. I am asking you to join Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, World Health Organization, Jewish Voice for Peace, the Pope and many world leaders, and human rights and faith-based organizations around the world in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Since the genocide in Gaza started, my Palestinian-American friend who lives in Davis has lost 55 members of her family, half of them children. Losing one family member is gut-wrenching. Losing 55 in the span of one or two months? It's unimaginable. But it's her reality and sadly the reality of so many. Because the most conservative estimates put the death toll at 24,000 Palestinians killed with some estimates over 30,000. This does not even account for the thousands injured and dead under rubble. And, of course, we know that many of those are children. In fact, since this genocide began, 1 child in Gaza has been killed on average every 10 minutes. Every 10 minutes. That's 6 children killed every single hour of every single day. And that will continue until we have a ceasefire.

What makes this horror even worse is that our tax dollars are helping to pay for the bombs being used in this genocide.

I am certain that every single one of you hope for peace. But I assure you that peace will never be possible on the backs of thousands of dead children. If you are sincere about wanting peace, I implore you to add a ceasefire resolution to the next agenda calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. Every innocent man, woman, and child who dies in Gaza tomorrow could be saved by a ceasefire today.

I echo the words of the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council Statement when I say that we do not deny anyone's suffering or anyone's grief and we can and must hold our hearts open to feel it all. Supporting Palestinians does not mean opposing Israelis or Jews. And supporting Israel does not mean denying the suffering of Palestinians. As a Muslim, my faith teaches me that every life is precious, that if you were to take one innocent life it would be as if you were to take the lives of all of humanity. And it teaches me that we must speak the truth, even if it is against our own selves or our own people.

And it is because of my faith that I implore the County to have the moral courage to pass a resolution calling for an immediate and permanent cease fire in Gaza. We must realize that no one will be safe – not Israelis, not Palestinians – until the genocide ends, the Israeli occupation and apartheid system in Palestine are dismantled, and EVERYONE can live equally and with dignity. The safety of Israelis is intertwined with Palestinians.

Those who oppose a ceasefire will tell you "But Hamas," a group that by the way makes up less than one percent of Palestinians. Let's be clear, a moral end does not and cannot justify immoral and illegal means. International law tells us as much. We are asking you to understand why innocent Palestinians should live while they are asking you to understand why Israel should continue to kill. If we want our community to be blessed, then we need to stand with the oppressed. So, please, pass a resolution that calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire today.

Thank you,

Salma Enan

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