

## Resolution in Support of Palestinian Liberation

Resolution in Support of Palestinian Liberation and in Opposition to Israeli Apartheid, Occupation, and Genocide; Demanding a Permanent Ceasefire, Release of Political Prisoners, and UAW's Divestment from any and all Israeli Bonds

## By ACLU Union – UAW Local 2110

## November 2023

WHEREAS, following the Hamas attacks on October 7th that resulted in the death of roughly 1,200 people in Israel and the capture of 239 hostages, Israel has relentlessly targeted and bombed Palestinian homes, schools, hospitals, refugee camps, and places of worship in the occupied territory of Gaza, while simultaneously cutting off Palestinians' access to all basic life necessities;

WHEREAS, as of November 18th, <u>the death count in Gaza</u> has likely risen to 20,000 Palestinians — including 6,403 children and 4,150 people missing under the rubble with little chance of survival — and additionally over 32,310 Palestinians have been injured;

WHEREAS, Israeli Occupation Forces have <u>forcibly displaced more than 1.7 million people</u>, nearly 75% of Gaza's total population of 2.3 million people;

WHEREAS, Israel has committed war crimes — with the unconditional financial and political backing of the U.S. government — against Palestinian civilians, including <u>attacking Gaza's largest hospital</u>, <u>striking a UN school sheltering 7,000 displaced people</u>, and <u>targeting and slaughtering journalists at unprecedented rates</u>;

WHEREAS, Palestinians have begun to die in Gaza from <u>dehydration</u>, <u>malnutrition</u>, <u>lack of medical care</u>, and <u>infectious diseases that are being rapidly spread</u>;

WHEREAS, escalating Israeli army raids have murdered <u>at least 220 Palestinians and injured over 2,800 in the occupied West Bank since October 7th</u>, in addition to mass-arresting Palestinians, restricting their movement, and emboldening Israeli settlers to depopulate Palestinian villages and <u>murder at least nine</u> Palestinians:

WHEREAS, Israel continues its bombing campaign of Gaza under the guise of <u>self-defense</u>, yet the right to self-defense is confined by the principles of international law, the rule of proportionality, and cannot comprise retaliatory or punitive action — accordingly, <u>genocide cannot be committed in the name of self-defense</u>;

WHEREAS, <u>human rights organizations</u>, <u>human rights experts</u>, and <u>genocide experts</u> have opined that Israel's violations of international law have amounted to a genocide;

WHEREAS, it cannot be ignored that in 1948, in what amounted to an ethnic cleansing, Israel expelled hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes, destroyed hundreds of Palestinian villages, and murdered roughly 15,000 Palestinians; and since 1967, Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem face segregation and discrimination under a brutal military occupation by Israel, which the United Nations and Amnesty International have designated as apartheid;

WHEREAS, Palestinians today are <u>systematically dispossessed through evictions</u>, <u>land confiscation</u>, <u>and home demolitions</u> to create space for and maintain Israeli settlements;

WHEREAS, as of November 2023, Israeli human rights organization HaMoked estimates that Israel has imprisoned <u>6,809 Palestinians</u> on "security" grounds, including 2,070 prisoners held without charge or trial through administrative detention; and prisoners continue to <u>face torture</u> by Israeli authorities;

WHEREAS, under the <u>Hamas-Israel prisoner exchange</u>, Hamas released 51 Israelis and 18 foreign nationals, and Israel released 150 Palestinians, including 117 children; however, Israel has arrested an additional <u>133 Palestinians</u> from East Jerusalem and the West Bank over the first four days of the prisoner exchange;

WHEREAS, as workers of an organization that prioritizes the protection of the First Amendment, we are deeply concerned with the widespread targeted efforts to silence those speaking out against genocide and for the liberation of Palestinian people — including <u>U.S. representatives</u>, <u>students</u>, <u>employees</u>, and <u>unions</u> — and the chilling effects of such censorship; and we stand in solidarity with people exercising their constitutional right to advocate for an end to Palestinian deaths;

WHEREAS, on October 16th, <u>Palestinian trade unions</u> called on unionized workers to take measures to impede, disrupt, and bring an end to all military aid to Israel;

WHEREAS, as the human rights violations we confront in our professional capacity — including, but not limited to reproductive rights, prisoners' rights, family separation, and disability rights — mirror those systematically faced by Palestinians in Israel and occupied Palestine (which have only escalated since the start of Israel's assault on Gaza), we possess a responsibility to take a principled stance against systemic oppression at home and abroad;

WHEREAS, while the portfolio of UAW member dues are not disclosed to members, it is public knowledge that American labor has historically held an <u>estimated hundreds of millions</u>, and <u>likely billions</u>, of <u>dollars in Israeli bonds</u>;

WHEREAS, UAW rank-and-file members are organizing en masse to declare their solidarity with the Palestinian people (See <u>UAW Harvard's Graduate Student Union Vote to Support a Ceasefire and BDS;</u>
Bronx Defenders Union's UAW Local 2325 Statement in Support of Palestinians; <u>UAW 2865 Calls on California Leaders to Demand a Ceasefire and an End to the Occupation of Palestine; <u>UAW Regions 6 and 9A Sign on to Labor Call for Ceasefire; Student Workers of Columbia – UAW Local 2710 Statement of Solidarity with Palestine; <u>UAW 4121 Statement in Support of Ceasefire</u>); therefore, be it</u></u>

RESOLVED, as U.S. laborers and employees of a premier national civil rights organization, we stand firm in our call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire; an end to Israeli apartheid; an end to the violent occupation and blockade of Palestinian land, sea, and air; and the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland; and be it further

RESOLVED, we oppose all existing and any future military aid to Israel and endorse the <u>Boycott</u>. <u>Divestment</u>, <u>and Sanctions</u> movement and the <u>Not On Our Dime</u> legislation, which prohibits NY-based non-profit corporations from funding Israeli's illegal settlements built on Palestinian land in the West Bank; and be it further

RESOLVED, we demand the immediate release of all Palestinians imprisoned and detained by Israel for resisting its violent occupation; and in accordance with their release, we demand the release of all Israeli and foreign national hostages captured by Hamas; and be it further

RESOLVED, we reject the notion that calls for Palestinian liberation and human rights are anti-semitic and vehemently denounce the rise of anti-semitism, anti-Palestinian racism, and Islamophobia in this country; and be it further

RESOLVED, we stand in solidarity with the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys – UAW Local 2325, uplift the contents of their resolutions, and condemn the <u>internal efforts to stifle the advancement of resolutions</u>; and be it further

RESOLVED, we join union shops in our call to UAW for the transparent disclosure of current and future investments of Israeli bonds funded by member dues and for the immediate divestment from any and all Israeli bonds.