

FROM ALAA UAW 2325 LABOR FOR PALESTINE RANK AND FILE:

To our fellow union siblings,

We urge you to please vote YES on today's resolution, "Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza, and End to the Israeli Occupation of Palestine, and Support for Workers' Political Speech."

We urge you to vote yes for two reasons.

Free Palestine

[Palestinian trade unionists](#) made an urgent call for unions worldwide to end all complicity and stop arming israel. By passing this resolution, we as fellow trade unionists will be heeding that urgent call and will be playing an active role in ending western complicity with the decades long occupation, ethnic cleansing, and genocide of Palestinians.

For those who believe in peace, justice, human rights, and human dignity, ending the violence in Palestine requires ending our complicity with an [apartheid regime](#) and [occupation](#) that treats Palestinians as [second-class citizens](#); that [arbitrarily arrests and imprisons](#) Palestinians without trial or due process; that snipes and kills [journalists reporting](#), [Palestinian women taking refuge in churches](#), and airstrikes [doctors trying to save people's lives](#); that [bulldozes and buries people alive](#); that carpet bombs 2.2 million people and kills at least [19,400 Palestinians](#) in just over two months, at least [5,350 of whom are children](#), leaving [50,000 injured](#), and [6,000 still buried](#) beneath the rubble; that wipes out [entire generations of families](#) and [ancient holy sites](#); that destroys the [land](#), [animal life](#), and the environment with [chemicals and weapons](#) that cultivate death, and never life.

A [genocide](#) has been rapidly unfolding in the Gaza Strip since October 7. In just over two months, Israel has dropped more than 25,000 tons of explosives – [the equivalent of two nuclear bombs](#) – on the Gaza Strip, more tons of explosives than the US dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II. Since October 7, [at least 66 Palestinian journalists](#) have been killed by Israeli airstrikes and there is mounting evidence that [Israel is deliberately targeting journalists](#). Beyond just facing death by airstrikes, tanks, or snipers, increasingly more Palestinians are facing death by [starvation](#) and [disease](#).

This genocide and the conditions that have fostered such violence must end, and it must end with a permanent ceasefire and a political solution that fulfills the demands of Palestinians: [land back](#), [the right of return](#), and a secular, democratic nation state where Palestinians are treated as full citizens with human dignity. If you have been feeling hopeless, powerless, and distraught in the mass death and suffering of the Palestinian people, voting yes is just one small way you can contribute to stopping this violence and building a world oriented towards peace.

Worker Solidarity and Free Speech

In the past month we have witnessed an onslaught of attacks on our union. From opposing counsel, the media, our respective managements, and unidentified (but often alluded to) law firm donors, these attacks are aimed at silencing collective support for Palestinians, at [interfering in our union activities](#), and at defunding essential legal services for indigent New Yorkers. The Bronx Defenders Union has been specifically threatened with defunding and attacked by [billionaire Netanyahu/Likud donors](#) responsible for [environmental destruction](#) in the [Golan Heights](#) who nonetheless dare to still consider themselves [the victim](#).

But the NY political establishment's attempts to squash union support for Palestinians only exposes the hollowness and depravity of their cause and the real potential of our union power. Our ability to stand together in the face of such intimidation and fear-mongering by overwhelmingly voting yes on this resolution will only strengthen our resolve as we prepare to negotiate better salaries, benefits, and ultimately a more equitable and just New York City for us all. Our failure to stand boldly in support of Palestinians will only expose us as unprincipled and easily intimidated by those who already have every reason to undermine our union power.

Palestinian liberation is inherently intertwined with our own, and Palestinian resilience and [steadfastness](#) are virtues which we should aim to embody individually and collectively to build a better world for us all. To that end, voting yes is an act of resilience and steadfastness.

Logistics

As a reminder, ALAA will be sending out ballots to members who did not vote on November 17, 2023 prior to the issuance of the TRO. **Because this is a continuation and completion of the vote, there is no opportunity to change a vote that has already been cast, nor are we adding any additional voters.** Again, you will only receive a ballot to vote if you did not previously cast a ballot.

If you do not receive a ballot today and believe that you should, please reach out to Lee Diaz (Ldiaz@alaa.org) or Claire Gavin (Cgavin@alaa.org) for assistance.

In solidarity,

ALAA UAW 2325 Labor for Palestine