

## Statement Against Genocide

In response to the violence and death that continue to occur in Gaza, and in light of the call by Palestinian trade unions for acts of solidarity, the union of the Public Defenders of Alameda County make the following statement:

The Genocide Convention of 1948 defines genocide as:

Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such:

- a. Killing members of the group;
- b. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

There is an ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip. For over 60 days, we have been inundated with real-time images of death and destruction. We have seen, with our own eyes, the targeting of schools, hospitals, homes, and civilians. We have seen images of dying babies and heard the screams of grieving family members. We have seen Gazan Palestinians forced into ever smaller areas, while being cut off from communications, clean water, food, and humanitarian aid. We have seen one percent of the Gazan population killed by Israeli bombing.

For over 60 days, we have heard directly from Israeli government officials regarding the intentions behind these actions. We heard the Israeli government order two million Palestinians in Gaza to “get out now.” We heard the Minister of Defense’s announcement that “there will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly.” We heard the Prime Minister refer to “a struggle between the children of light and the children of darkness, between humanity and the law of the jungle.” We heard members of the Israeli cabinet calling for a second Nakba.

We have seen and heard enough. We cannot stay silent in the face of genocide.

We therefore call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. We call on the United States government to end its complicity in this ongoing genocide and halt all funding and support for Israeli violence and oppression against Palestinians. And we make these calls knowing that meaningful peace in the region will only happen when all peoples can live with equality, freedom and dignity.

Echoing the call from the Palestinian trade unions, we affirm that “the struggle for Palestinian justice and liberation is not only a regionally and globally determined struggle. It is a lever for the liberation of all dispossessed and exploited people of the world.”