

1 By Supervisors Gómez-Tom, Bielinski, O'Connor,
2 Martinez, Rolland, Martin, Johnson, Jr., Vincent,
3 Shea, Roundtree Jr., and Eckblad
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File No. 26-447

6 **A RESOLUTION**
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8 condemning the detention of Salah Sarsour, demanding his immediate release from
9 federal custody, and calling for the protection of his constitutional due process rights
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12 WHEREAS, Salah Sarsour is a longtime resident of Milwaukee County, a local
13 business owner, husband, caregiver to his aging mother, and the father of six and
14 grandfather of nine, with a tenth expected imminently -- all of whom are United States
15 citizens; and
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17 WHEREAS, Mr. Sarsour serves as the volunteer board president of the Islamic
18 Society of Milwaukee and is a respected leader in the community; and
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20 WHEREAS, Mr. Sarsour, who is Palestinian, has maintained status as a lawful
21 permanent resident of the United States since 1993, a status that affords significant
22 constitutional protections, including First Amendment rights to free speech and free
23 association, and Fifth Amendment guarantees of equal protection and due process; and
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25 WHEREAS, on March 30, 2026, agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs
26 Enforcement (ICE) detained Mr. Sarsour while he was engaged in routine business
27 activities in Milwaukee; and
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29 WHEREAS, Mr. Sarsour remains in immigration detention at the Clay County Jail
30 in Brazil, Indiana, causing significant hardship to his family and removing a vital leader
31 from the Milwaukee community; and
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33 WHEREAS, the federal government has asserted that Mr. Sarsour "poses an
34 adverse consequence to foreign policy considerations," a broad and rarely used Cold
35 War-era provision, despite Mr. Sarsour's decades-long history of lawful residency and
36 reported lack of a domestic criminal record; and
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38 WHEREAS, serious concerns have been raised that Mr. Sarsour was targeted
39 for detention based on his protected political viewpoints and advocacy for the
40 Palestinian people; and

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WHEREAS, reports indicate the government’s case relies in part on allegations stemming from events that occurred when Mr. Sarsour was a minor in the West Bank—claims which his legal counsel maintains are factually and legally deficient; and

WHEREAS, a writ of habeas corpus has been filed in federal court challenging the constitutionality of his detention and seeking Mr. Sarsour’s immediate release; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of May 22, 2026, recommended adoption of File No. 26-447 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby condemns the detention of community leader Salah Sarsour and asserts that the current allegations do not justify his continued separation from his family and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors demands that Mr. Sarsour be immediately released from federal custody and afforded the full due process protections guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

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