



CHRIS LARSON
WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 7

March 4, 2024

Esteemed Members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors,

I write today as a Milwaukee resident and a member of the Wisconsin State Senate to urge your support for Resolution 24-240, supporting and urging for a permanent cease-fire in Israel and in Gaza and the West Bank.

As the number of Palestinian dead in the first five months of this conflict has reached a staggering and ever-growing 30,288 dead (including at least 10,000 children), and 71,377 injured, it is essential that elected officials at all levels of government stand up and call for an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation, and influx of humanitarian aid to the region. In addition, the United States Government should withdraw military support for the Netanyahu government's war on Palestinian civilians.

Hamas' attack on Israeli civilians in October was an abhorrent act and Israel had the right to defend itself from such attacks. But what has transpired since has far exceeded any sort of proportional response and has transformed into what can only be characterized as a genocide.

We must be clear - Hamas does not act on behalf of the people of Gaza any more than Netanyahu speaks for the entirety of Israel. Moreover, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF's) actions throughout make clear that this was never just a war against Hamas. How else can they explain the 382 civilian deaths (including at least 130 children) in the West Bank and East Jerusalem - an area which is in no way under the control of Hamas? How else can they explain the 94 journalists murdered, in violation of international law?

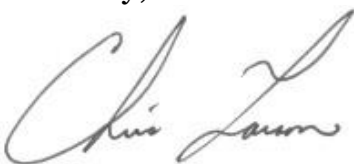
Hamas must release all Israeli hostages, but this should not be a prerequisite to stopping the genocide in Gaza. According to journalist Medhi Hassan, the IDF has killed more Israeli hostages than it has rescued in missions since the start of the conflict.

It's time for an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza. By voting in favor of Resolution 24-240, the Milwaukee County Board can send a strong message to County residents and the Biden administration that we can never be complicit in the collective punishment of civilians or the eradication of an entire nation under the guise of self-defense. The choice to bypass congress twice with military support for Netanyahu's government is being done with our tax dollars and in our names. The growing famine is being supported with American investment. Therefore, it is on us as elected leaders to demand an end to the genocide and see to a sustained ceasefire, a lasting peace, and an end to the war crimes.

While the state legislature is still artificially under gerrymandered control of Republicans, we were not able to pass the bipartisan ceasefire resolution I co-authored along with Representatives Hong, Madison, Clancy, Joers, Myers, Moore Omokunde, Shelton, Stubbs, and Wichgers. However, you have the ability at the Milwaukee County Board to pass a ceasefire resolution and join the ranks of more than 50 leading communities like Deerborn, Seattle, Atlanta, San Francisco, and Chicago. Together, our voices will be heard.

The world is watching.

Sincerely,



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