

Resolution Supporting a Permanent Ceasefire and Preventing Loss of Life in Israel-Palestine.¹

Jointly presented by individual students seeking change, Fatima Alshahmani and Hadeel Hilala.

As members of the Student Senate, we believe that you hold a deep responsibility to stand by the issues that matter to fellow students. As our community has seen the abhorrent destruction and extermination that is taking place in Palestine, it has left a profound impact, not only on those in Palestine and Israel, but also on many Palestinian and Israeli students at Minnesota State University Moorhead and surrounding universities. There is an urgent need for an immediate and lasting ceasefire to prevent further devastation and loss of life. As a student body, you hold the collective power to uphold the values of anti-militarism, compassion, and peace. It is our heartfelt wish that these shared values will bring us together, enabling us to champion important causes and strive towards a brighter future for the coming generations.

WHEREAS, the violence in Palestine and Israel directly affects Palestinian, Israeli, Arab, Jewish, Muslim, and countless other local community members; and,

WHEREAS, the violence in Gaza and Israel since October 7, 2023, has resulted in the deaths of more than 31,000 Palestinians, including more than 12,000 children, and more than 1,100 Israelis², including 33 children.³; and,

WHEREAS, A UN official has deemed the kill rate in Gaza to be the highest of any conflict since the Rwandan Genocide in 1994.⁴ More children have been killed in Gaza in 5 months than in all conflicts combined in the past four years;⁵ and,

WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, the conflict resulted in 240 Israeli captives⁶ and thousands of Palestinians detained without charge and trial;⁷ and,

WHEREAS, the majority of the population in Gaza, nearly 2 million people, have been displaced⁸ since the bombardments began on early October 7, 2023; and,

¹Adapted for MSUM from Concordia and Haverford College ceasefire resolutions

²<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>

³<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/11/22/israel/gaza-hostilities-take-horrific-toll-children>

⁴<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20240221-un-official-deems-kill-rates-in-gaza-highest-in-the-world-since-rwandan-genocide/>

⁵<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/3/12/israels-war-on-gaza-live-2000-medical-staff-starving-in-north-ministry>

⁶<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/14/how-many-israeli-captives-have-been-released-or-rescued>

⁷<https://www.npr.org/2023/12/01/1216643555/thousands-of-palestinians-are-held-without-charge-under-israeli-detention-policy>

⁸<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2024/2/28/palestinians-rush-into-the-sea-as-aircraft-drop-aid-into-gaza>

WHEREAS, famine is imminent in Gaza as half of the population, 1.1 million people, is classified at catastrophic levels of hunger, the highest level of hunger, and all rely on “‘woefully inadequate’ food aid.”⁹ 97% of all people globally facing or at risk of famine are in Gaza;¹⁰ and,

WHEREAS, entire neighborhoods, infrastructure, hospitals, schools, and Muslim and Christian places of worship have been destroyed, contributing to the erasure of Palestinian communities and culture¹¹; and,

WHEREAS, all universities in Gaza have been destroyed through bombing and demolitions along with the damaging and demolishing of 90% of its schools.¹² Over 100 academics and hundreds of university students have been killed in Gaza¹³; and,

WHEREAS, Doctors Without Borders,¹⁴ the World Health Organization,¹⁵ Save the Children,¹⁶ the United Nations Children's Fund,¹⁷ and the World Food Programme¹⁸ have all called for a ceasefire which would aid in preventing the loss of life of both Israelis and Palestinians; and,

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Professors and several other education associations across America have called for a ceasefire; and,¹⁹

WHEREAS, the Moorhead City Council, Moorhead Human Rights Commission, Concordia Student Senate, and Fargo Human Rights Commission have passed a resolution calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire; and,

WHEREAS, the United States plays a key role in the financing of armed violence in the region and Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of US aid.²⁰ The United States gives profound diplomatic support to Israel. Over half of the United Nations Security Council vetoes given by the US have been concerning Israel-Palestine;²¹ and,

⁹<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/one-quarter-gazas-people-one-step-away-famine-un-says-2024-02-27/>

¹⁰<https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/alerts-archive/issue-97/en/>

¹¹<https://www.alhaq.org/publications/19542.html>

¹²<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/24/how-israel-has-destroyed-gazas-schools-and-universities>

¹³ <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240227095745252>

¹⁴ <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/why-us-must-support-immediate-ceasefire-gaza>

¹⁵<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15487.doc.htm>

¹⁶<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/open-call-immediate-ceasefire-gaza-strip-and-israel-prevent-humanitarian-catastrophe-and>

¹⁷<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/time-running-out-children-gazaunicef>

¹⁸<https://www.wfp.org/news/we-need-immediate-humanitarian-ceasefire-statement-principals-inter-agency-standing-committee>

¹⁹<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/academic-freedom/2024/02/14/aaup-joins-labor-unions-call-ceasefire-gaza>

²⁰ <https://www.cfr.org/article/us-aid-israel-four-charts>

²¹ <https://globalaffairs.org/bluemarble/how-us-has-used-its-power-un-support-israel-decades>

WHEREAS, Sec. 16C.053 of the Minnesota Statutes prohibits state agencies from entering into contracts with organizations that intend to limit commercial relations with Israel; and,

WHEREAS, Minnesota State University Moorhead has a strategic anchor to “create a campus community that is diverse, inclusive, globally aware, and just” and a mission statement that we “develop intellectually and the versatility to shape a changing world”,²²

WHEREAS, Minnesota State University Moorhead’s strategic priorities have a core value of impact to “recognizing that achieving equity will require changing our systems, policies, practices, assumptions, and campus climate”,²³ therefore,

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, the Student Senate of Minnesota State University Moorhead calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all Israelis and Palestinians captive; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, the Student Senate of Minnesota State University Moorhead calls for the Minnesota State Legislature to repeal Sec. 16C.053 of the Minnesota Statutes regarding limiting commercial relations with Israel; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, the Student Senate of Minnesota State University Moorhead calls for the disclosure of investments of the University; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, the Student Senate of Minnesota State University Moorhead calls for administration to investigate their connections with any current or future study abroad programs in Israel-Palestine; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, that the Student Senate calls for Minnesota State University Moorhead and peer educational institutions to stand for peace by supporting an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

²²<https://www.mnstate.edu/about/mission/>

²³<https://www.mnstate.edu/about/strategic-priorities/>