

RESOLUTION:

The Ongoing Genocide in Gaza and Palestinian Liberation

WHEREAS, the workers' struggle for dignity and justice is inseparable from the struggle of the Palestinian people for liberation, dignity, justice, and self-determination.

WHEREAS, Between October 7, 2023 and August 6th, 2024, the recorded death toll in Gaza as a direct result of Israel's assault, has exceeded 40,000, with at least 15,000 being children and an additional 10,000 estimated to be missing.¹

WHEREAS, the current direct deaths recorded are likely to be a massive undercount due to the near complete destruction of infrastructure and services in Gaza.²

WHEREAS, according to the Lancet, one of the top two medical journals in the world, the death toll including those who have died due to the indirect effects of Israel's assault on Gaza is likely to reach more than 186,000.³

WHEREAS, The US sends \$3.8 Billion in workers tax dollars annually to Israel's military for armaments, and specifically workers in the NC send \$91,775,098 to Israel in weapons annually. Since October 6, 2023, the US Congress has authorized an additional \$12.5 billion in military aid to Israel.

WHEREAS, on January 26th, The International Court of Justice (ICJ) found it plausible that Israel has committed acts that violate the Genocide Convention.⁴ The court ordered Israel to prevent destruction, ensure the preservation of evidence related to the charge of genocide, and take "immediate and effective" measures to ensure the provision of urgently needed humanitarian aid and basic services.

WHEREAS, on May 24th, 2024, the ICJ issued a binding-order instructing Israel to "immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah Governorate", which Israel has ignored.⁵

WHEREAS, in another ruling, the ICJ asserted the Israeli presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is unlawful and must come to an end "as rapidly as possible" and further states that other nations must not "render aid or assistance in maintaining" that presence.⁶

WHEREAS, according to the latest data from the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Palestinian government, as of February 13, Israeli attacks have damaged 392 educational facilities; 123

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

2 <https://www.vox.com/world-politics/2024/5/17/24159263/gaza-deaths-israel-hamas-hospital-ministry-health>

3 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01169-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01169-3/fulltext)

4 <https://www.npr.org/2024/01/26/1227078791/icj-israel-genocide-gaza-palestinians-south-africa>

5 <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/204091>

6 <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>

ambulances; and 267 places of worship. Only 11 out of 35 hospitals are partially functioning.⁷ The headquarters of the General Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions in Gaza City along with all other major union buildings were reportedly bombed by the Israeli military.

WHEREAS, as of December 30th, 2023, an estimated 70% of homes in Gaza were destroyed by the Israeli military, a number that has certainly risen as Israel continues its relentless and indiscriminate attacks on Gaza.⁸

WHEREAS, as of July 23rd, 2024, 1.9 million people – 90% percent of Gaza’s population – have been displaced due to Israel’s military campaign in Gaza.⁹

WHEREAS, Section VI (D) “Expressions of Genocidal Intent against the Palestinian People by Israeli State Officials and Others” of South Africa’s application in its genocide case against Israel¹⁰ documents allusions to or explicit calls for the genocide and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians living in Gaza by Israeli leaders, including Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

WHEREAS, there is a plethora of independent reports and verified footage documenting Israeli war crimes since October 7th, 2023, including but **not** limited to: targeted killing of civilians¹¹ and journalists,¹² torture,¹³ sexual abuse,¹⁴ collective punishment, destruction of civilian infrastructure¹⁵ including the controlled demolition of entire neighborhoods¹⁶.

WHEREAS, the Israeli government is using the starvation of Palestinian civilians as a method of warfare in the Gaza Strip, which is a war crime under International Humanitarian Law ¹⁷. The Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Phase Classification (IPC) analysis found that at the end of 2023, the entire population of Palestinians in Gaza are living with crisis-level hunger ¹⁸. This is the highest proportion of any population in a food security crisis and above on the IPC’s global records. Children living in Northern Gaza are reportedly going without food for days, and some have resorted to eating animal feed to survive ¹⁹.

WHEREAS, OXFAM international has asserted that Israel is “using water as weapon of war in Gaza” reducing the amount of available water by 94%.²⁰

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

8 https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/gaza-destruction-bombing-israel-aa528542?mod=hp_lead_pos7

9 <https://www.unfpa.org/occupied-palestinian-territory>

10 <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231228-app-01-00-en.pdf>

11 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/damning-evidence-of-war-crimes-as-israeli-attacks-wipe-out-entire-families-in-gaza/>

12 <https://cpj.org/2024/08/journalist-casualties-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict/>

13 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/11/israel-opt-horrifying-cases-of-torture-and-degrading-treatment-of-palestinian-detainees-amid-spike-in-arbitrary-arrests/>

14 https://www.democracynow.org/2024/8/8/welcome_to_hell_btselem_israel_torture

15 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/widespread-destruction-israeli-defence-forces-civilian-infrastructure-gaza>

16 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/02/01/world/middleeast/Israel-gaza-war-demolish.html>

17 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/18/israel-starvation-used-weapon-war-gaza>

18 https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Famine_Review_Report_Gaza.pdf

19 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68239320>

WHEREAS, although the scale of the current onslaught on Gaza is unprecedented, according to Human Rights Watch²¹ and Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem²², Israel has deliberately and unlawfully targeted civilians well before October 7th, 2023.

WHEREAS, as of January 2024, more than 3,000 Palestinians²³ (almost all of whom were detained in the West Bank) have been held captive by Israel without charge or trial under Israel's controversial (and often illegal) use of "administrative detention", in which Palestinians (many of whom are minors) are often held without charge for years²⁴; and,

WHEREAS, thousands of other Palestinians in the West Bank have been held captive by Israel after being tried in "military courts" which were instituted to "illusion of proper judicial conduct"²⁵ while largely operating as impartial rubber stamp courts (with a conviction rate of 99%) with no real due process (note that Israeli settlers in the West Bank are tried in Israeli civil courts, rather than military courts).²⁶

WHEREAS, many international human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch²⁷ and Amnesty International,²⁸ have found that the current status quo imposed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, amounts to the crimes against humanity of apartheid.

WHEREAS, about 3200 were arrested²⁹ while protesting the ongoing genocide in Gaza on college campuses around the United States including 39 arrests at UNC-Chapel Hill, three arrests at UNC-Charlotte, and two arrests at NCSU in a clear act of suppression, including many union members.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights chief expressed concern regarding the "disproportionate" and "heavy-handed" response to the anti-genocide protests taking place on U.S. campuses.³⁰

WHEREAS, in 2015, UE endorsed the Boycott, Divestments, and Sanctions (BDS) movement to achieve peace and justice.³¹

WHEREAS, in 2017, the State of North Carolina passed an anti-BDS law titled "Divestment From Companies Boycotting Israel".³²

20 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/israel-using-water-weapon-war-gaza-supply-plummets-94-creating-deadly-health>

21 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/12/gaza-unlawful-attacks-may-fighting>

22 https://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip/20190612_targeting_inhabited_gazan_homes

23 <https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20240117-israel-administrative-detention-rates-soar-after-october-7>

24 https://www.btselem.org/administrative_detention

25 https://www.btselem.org/topic/military_courts

26 https://www.btselem.org/download/201506_presumed_guilty_eng.pdf

27 <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

28 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>

29 <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/thousands-arrested-college-protests-students-fallout-was-only-beginning-rcna164807>

30 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/04/1149181>

31 <https://www.ueunion.org/political-action/2015/BDS>

32 https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_147/Article_6G.pdf

WHEREAS, in December of 2023, the Durham City Workers Union chapter of UE Local 150 initiated a campaign within the Durham Workers Assembly to call on the Durham City Council to pass a resolution in support of ceasefire and ending military aid to Israel. On February 20, 2024 the city adopted such a resolution in a 5-2 vote.

WHEREAS, by remaining unwavering in our commitment to the liberation, we advance our interests in promoting democratic, rank-and-file worker control at home and abroad.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THIS 13th UE LOCAL 150 CONVENTION:

1. Calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Southern Lebanon, and Israel.
2. Further calls for the release of all those unlawfully held in captivity by Israel and Hamas including more than 3,000 Palestinians held in captivity without charge or trial under Israel's "administrative detention" scheme, the thousands of other Palestinians tried in rubber-stamp Israeli military courts, and 101 Israelis and foreign nationals held by Hamas.
3. Demands that the U.S. government suspend all military funding to Israel and enact an arms embargo on Israel.
4. Encourages our chapters at the local levels to challenge local governments to pass resolutions in support of ceasefire in Palestine and end to the military aid to Israel.
5. Demands that the U.S. government restores funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).
6. Reaffirms its commitment to the BDS as one of the methods aimed at achieving Palestinian liberation.
7. Calls for the North Carolina state legislature to repeal the anti-BDS law §147-86.80 - §147-86.83.
8. Condemns, with the strongest possible terms, the violent and brutal crackdown on campus protests across the country including North Carolina as well as the evident infringement on students' right to free speech.
9. Demands for all criminal charges that were brought against campus protestors be immediately dropped.
10. Further demands that suspensions and other disciplinary actions taken by universities against student protestors be immediately overturned.
11. Encourages our members to engage in educational and other political actions organized by the National Labor Network for Ceasefire.

Submitted by the UNC Graduate Worker Co-Chapter of UE Local 150