

## **Burlington Resolution in Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

**Draft - August 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Whereas, the Palestinian territory of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza have been under military occupation by Israel since 1967.

Whereas, Gaza, home to 2 million Palestinians, half of whom are children, has been under military siege and an economic blockade by Israel since 2007. This May, Israeli forces subjected Gaza to a devastating air and artillery attack. At least 248 people were killed, including 66 children, and nearly 2,000 injured. The attack was the fourth major military operation against Gaza since 2008.

Whereas, Israel has established more than [280 illegal settlements](#) in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. International law prohibits an occupying power to transfer citizens from its own territory to an occupied territory.

Whereas, Israeli settlements, home to more than 600,000 Israeli Jews, deny Palestinians the right to self-determination, equality, property, an adequate standard of living, water rights, personal dignity and security, and freedom of movement.

Whereas, [Human Rights Watch](#) and two leading human rights organizations in Israel ([B'tselem](#) and [Yesh Din](#)) have independently concluded Israel is guilty of the crime of apartheid.

Whereas, we have an urgent responsibility to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people because of the \$3.8 billion in military aid our government gives annually to Israel.

Whereas, since 2005, over 170 Palestinian organizations of civil society have called on the international community to join the [BDS](#) (boycott, divestment and sanctions) campaign against Israel.

Whereas, in a concerted effort to silence anti-occupation and anti-settlement movements and curtail free speech, at least [32 U.S. states](#) have passed legislation or enacted executive orders outlawing boycotts of Israel.

Therefore, be it resolved, the City Council of Burlington express its solidarity with the Palestinian people, condemns anti-boycott legislation, and endorses the Palestinian-led [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions](#) movement, which calls for nonviolent pressure on Israel until it meets three demands:

1. Ending the military occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Separation Wall;
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated under U.N. Resolution 194.

Therefore, be it further resolved, the City Council of Burlington calls on President Joe Biden to end all military aid to Israel, and calls on the Vermont Legislature and Governor Phil Scott to similarly demand an end to military aid to Israel.

Submitted to the September 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 meeting of the Burlington City Council.

Co-signed by

Vermonters for Justice in Palestine

ANSWER Coalition

Vermont Alliance for Racial Justice

AFSCME 1674

Community Voices for Immigrant Rights

Decolonize Burlington

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

Islamic Society of Vermont

Jewish Voice for Peace VT/NH

Migrant Justice/Justicia Migrante

Party for Socialism and Liberation

Vermont AFL-CIO

Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series

Burlington Tenants Union

Vermont Workers Center

UVM Revolutionary Students Union

Champlain Valley Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

Vermont Access to Reproductive Freedom