

## **Statement by Non-Governmental Organizations on President Trump's Recent Statements Endorsing the Ethnic Cleansing of Palestinians in Gaza**

We are deeply alarmed by President Trump's recent statements that appear to endorse and plan for forced Palestinian displacement leading to the ethnic cleansing of the Gaza Strip. On January 25th, Trump [stated](#) "I would like Egypt to take people... You're talking about probably a million and a half people, and we just clean out that whole thing and say: 'You know, it's over.'" He also said that he had informed King Abdullah of Jordan that "I would love for you to take on more, 'cause I am looking at the whole Gaza Strip right now, and it's a mess. It's a real mess." On the same day, responding to questions from reporters on whether Egypt and Jordan would comply with such a request, he [stated](#) "They will do it. They will do it. They're going to do it, okay? We do a lot for them, and they're going to do it." Then, on February 4th in a joint press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, Trump said that the forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza should be "[permanent](#)," and [announced](#) a "long-term ownership position" for the United States.

We, the undersigned organizations, decry and oppose any effort or initiative, and any calls for, the forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza, and support the [Joint Statement](#) of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, the Palestinian Authority and the Arab League that similarly rejected any such steps. The forcible displacement of civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law, including under [Article 49\(1\) of the Fourth Geneva Convention](#), to which both the U.S. and Israel are party, and which states (emphasis added):

*Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive.*

Forcible displacement, when carried out with an intent to permanently remove a people from a land on the basis of their identity is ethnic cleansing.

Gaza is an ancient and historic Palestinian city, and the Gaza Strip itself became one of the most densely populated areas on earth precisely because of the ethnic cleansing that occurred in Palestine in 1948 (the *Nakba*), and 80% of Gaza's population are themselves refugees or descendants of refugees from the *Nakba*. Since 2006 it has been in a state of siege, its people have undergone repeated bombardment and restrictions on basic necessities including food, water, and medicine. Since October 2023, it has been the locus of what experts have called the most intense bombardment since the firebombing of Dresden, resulting in what both [academic experts](#), [United Nations experts](#), and even a [U.S. federal judge](#) have found to be a plausible case of genocide.

Through this all, the Palestinians in Gaza have stood with remarkable dignity and perseverance, insisting throughout the immense suffering and loss that they will never abandon their homeland.

We are deeply concerned by clear [statements of intent from Israeli government officials](#) over the past year concerning the creation of new Israeli settlements within the Gaza Strip, which further reinforce the intent of ethnic cleansing, and note that outgoing IDF Chief of Staff Halevi has [stated](#) that Palestinians in Gaza “can exit through the Rafah Crossing into Egypt, but only one way and they cannot return to Gaza...”

U.S. Middle East Envoy Stephen Witkoff was by some measures correct [when he said](#), upon a visit to Gaza in late January, that it is “inescapable” that “there is almost nothing left of Gaza.” But he was also wrong: the heart and soul of Gaza is retained in its people, and for as long as that strength of spirit endures, Gaza lives.

The United States has no right to dictate to the Palestinian people in Gaza to leave, and direct other countries to participate in their displacement. We are also aware that even a temporary external displacement could be used by Israel to enact permanent exile. While we agree that the short and medium-term humanitarian needs of the people of Gaza may be difficult to meet given the nearly complete destruction that Israel has wrought, if the necessary services cannot be provided in Gaza, the people of Gaza must be able to access them elsewhere within the historic borders of Palestine and must be able to return.

We are also extremely alarmed by an [uptick in settler violence and IDF operations in the West Bank](#) that have resulted in scores of Palestinian casualties. These actions are part and parcel of a strategy that seeks to make not just Gaza, but all Palestinian areas across historic Palestine, unlivable for the Palestinian people, and are thus contributory to a process of ethnic cleansing.

Palestine is not just an idea - it is a place. It is a homeland to the Palestinian people. To participate in, facilitate, or endorse their removal from it would violate every precept of international law, devastate the rules-based international order that protects us all, do irreversible harm to America's global influence, and be an act of unconscionable immorality.

As Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish wrote,

*My country is not a suitcase  
I am not a traveler  
I am the lover and the land is the beloved.*

*The archaeologist is busy analyzing stones.  
In the rubble of legends he searches for his own eyes  
to show  
that I am a sightless vagrant on the road  
with not one letter in civilization's alphabet.  
Meanwhile in my own time I plant my trees.  
I sing of my love.*

Date: Monday, 10 February 2025

Signed:

**A New Policy**  
**Friends Committee on National Legislation**

**US & International Organizations**

99 Coalition  
Action Corps  
ActionAid USA  
Al-Awda PRRC  
Alliance of Baptists  
AMEEN Action  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
Americans for Justice in Palestine Action  
Animal Healthcare Workers Against Genocide  
Arab Americans 4Ward  
Arab Youth Union  
Bangladeshi-Americans for Political Progress  
CAIR Action  
Center for Jewish Nonviolence  
Center For Nonviolent Solutions  
Center for Security, Race and Rights  
Charity & Security Network  
Churches for Middle East Peace  
CODEPINK  
CommonDefense.us  
Community Alliance for Peace and Justice  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Counter Coalition  
DAWN  
Demand Progress Education Fund  
Democratic Socialists of America  
Doctors Against Genocide  
Eisenhower Media Network  
Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel Network  
Faith Strategies, LLC  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ  
Help Fund Gaza  
HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement  
IMEU Policy Project  
IfNotNow Movement  
Institute for Policy Studies New Internationalism Project  
Jewish Voice for Peace Action  
Just Foreign Policy  
MADRE  
Medical Mission Sisters, Justice Office

Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC)  
Middle East Justice and Peace Group of South Central PA  
Migrant Roots Media  
MPower Change Action Fund  
Muslim Civic Coalition  
Muslim Visionaries  
National Iranian American Council  
Nonviolence International (USA)  
Oil Change International  
Ollin Women International  
Palestine Education Network  
Palestine Justice Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Palestine Shield Initiative (PALSHIELD)  
Palestinian Christians for Justice  
Partners for Palestine  
PAX  
Pax Christi USA  
Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus  
Peace Action  
Physicians for Humanity  
POLIFA  
Progressive Democrats of America - Middle East Alliances  
Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)  
Project TAHA  
Resignees from Biden Admin over Gaza  
ReThinking Foreign Policy  
RootsAction  
September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team  
Society of Helpers  
Terre des Hommes Italy  
The American Federation of Ramallah Palestine  
The Oakland Institute  
The Rights Forum  
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East  
United Church of Christ  
United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network  
United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)  
UNRWA USA National Committee  
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR)  
Vote for Peace PAC  
Washington Report on Middle East Affairs  
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)  
World BEYOND War  
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation

### **Local Organizations**

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting  
Atlanta Multifaith Coalition for Palestine  
Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists

Brooklyn for Peace  
Carolina Peace Center  
Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy  
Green-Rainbow Party Southeast Chapter  
Indiana Center for Middle East Peace  
MARUF CT (Muslim Advocacy for Rights, Unity, and Fairness)  
Massachusetts Peace Action  
Minnesota Peace Project  
Mississippi for a Just World  
New Hampshire Coalition for a Just Peace in the Middle East  
NH Peace Action  
NH Veterans For Peace  
Northshore For Palestine  
Palestine Taskforce California Nevada Conference United Methodist Church  
Pax Christi Michigan  
Pax Christi New York State  
Peace Action of San Mateo County  
Peace Action Wisconsin  
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Area  
Showing Up for Racial Justice Bay Area  
Shut Down Indian Point NOW!  
Smedley Veterans for Peace