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Resolution 29

A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROMOTE PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS BY ADVOCATING FOR A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA, CONDEMNING HATE SPEECH, AND ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ON PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

Short Title: Call for a Permanent Ceasefire Act

Sponsors: Senator Naila Din (*Corresponding*), Senator Alisha Khan, Senator Aisha Aleem, Senator Nicholas Cooke, Senator Zainab Aleem, Senator Shatha Boaj

Secondary Sponsors:

Signatories: Arab Student Organization President Jamal Mohamad, NC State Students for Justice in Palestine, UNC Chapel Hill Students for Justice in Palestine, UNC Charlotte Students for Justice in Palestine, UNC Greensboro Students for Justice in Palestine, App State Students for Justice in Palestine, App State Student Amarah Din, Young Democratic Socialists of America at NC State, Pre-Law and Education and Diversity, Progressive Student Task Force, Students for Immigrant Rights & Equality, Dissenters NCSU, Students for Decarb @ NCSU, NCSU Graduate Workers Union, Sociology Graduate Student Association, Muslim Student Association, Asian Student Association, NCSU Al-Wahidan, NCSU PACKSA, EKTA, African Student Union, The Black Student Board, Ethiopian & Eritrean Student Organization, The Rho Chapter of Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc., Mexican American Student Association, Wolfpack Junoon, Folklorico, Spanish Club, Platform Magazine, Pre-Med Club, Pre-Dental Club, Campus Community Alliance for Environmental Justice, Mi Familia at NC State, NAACP at NC State

Referred to: Student Affairs

First Reading: April 17, 2024

Second Reading: September 4, 2024

WHEREAS, [Gaza](#) has been under a [strict land and sea blockade by Israel](#) since 2007, preventing civilians and essential goods such as food and medicine from crossing the border and contributing to severe economic conditions and high poverty levels; the majority of Gaza's population consists of refugees from the events of 1948, known as the [Nakba](#), during which 530 villages were demolished and displaced around 957,000 Palestinian refugees; and,

WHEREAS, Israel has launched a ten-month-long retaliation campaign, resulting in the death of more than [40,000 Palestinians, with more than 41% being children](#); various scholars and human rights advocates have characterized these actions as genocide. An article from The Lancet, a medical journal, states that the total number of deaths both direct and indirect from the genocide could be up to [186,000](#). Additionally, over [372 Palestinians have been killed in the Occupied West Bank, and 4,391 have been wounded](#); and,

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WHEREAS, this campaign follows an October 7th attack by members of Hamas, which resulted in about [1,200 Israelis killed and 240 taken as hostages](#); and,

WHEREAS, since October 7th, [Israeli forces have detained more than 2,200 Palestinian men and women](#)—between October 1st and November 1st, the total number of Palestinians held in [administrative detention](#) without a charge or trial rose from 1,319 to 2,070; and,

WHEREAS, [70%](#) of the Palestinians killed in Gaza are women and children; and,

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization has documented more than [600 attacks on the health system in the Palestinian Territories](#), severely impacting the healthcare infrastructure essential for civilian life; and [of Gaza's 36 hospitals, only 12 remain even partially functional](#), with medical staff forced to treat patients under conditions of limited access to essential medical supplies; and,

WHEREAS, over [75% of the universities and schools in Gaza have been destroyed or damaged](#) by Israeli bombardment; and,

WHEREAS, the [UN Secretary-General, António Guterres](#), has reported to the U.N. Security Council that Gaza is on the verge of a humanitarian crisis, with the support system close to complete collapse, and has urgently called for an immediate ceasefire to alleviate human suffering; and,

WHEREAS, an international war crime is defined by the [United Nations](#) as breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, namely: willful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health; extensive destruction and appropriation of property, purposefully depriving a prisoner of war or other protected people of the rights of fair and regular trial; the taking of hostages; intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities; intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives; intentionally directing attacks against personnel, installations, material, units, or vehicles involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission; and,

WHEREAS, [War crimes committed by Israel](#) include, but are not limited to, intentional harm to protected persons, violation of treaties regarding vulnerable individuals, disproportionate responses, forced displacement and land annexation, desecration and mutilation of corpses, destruction of cultural property, suppression of food, medical supplies, and humanitarian aid; unlawful use of white phosphorus, collective punishment, and attacking vehicles involved in humanitarian aid; and,

WHEREAS, genocide is defined by the [United Nations](#) as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious

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group, such as killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group; and,

WHEREAS, United Nations Genocide Expert [Francesca Albanese](#) has deemed that Israel's actions are in accordance with genocide; South Africa took Israel to international court for apartheid, a policy of discrimination and segregation based on race, and the [UN](#) has concurred that Israel is indeed an apartheid state; and,

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2023, the [UN General Assembly](#) saw a majority vote of 153 to 10 in support of an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, demonstrating significant international consensus on the urgency of this matter; and,

WHEREAS, a permanent ceasefire is essential for ending the crisis in the region and the safe release of the hostages on both sides; and,

WHEREAS, NC State Student Government condemns the killing of both parties, Israeli and Palestinian, as war crimes and crimes against humanity

WHEREAS, incidents of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and [dehumanizing language and rhetoric against Palestinians](#) have increased in the wake of the conflict, contributing to a [cycle of violence](#) around the U.S., which has hindered the path toward mutual respect and understanding; and,

WHEREAS, in a [letter](#) addressed to the Chancellor, NC State student organizations, such as African Student Union, Pre-med Club, Asian Students Association, Mexican American Student Association, Students for Justice in Palestine, The Black Student Board, NC State Pre-Dental Club, NCSU PACKSA, The Rho Chapter of Latinas Promoviendo Comunidad/Lambda Pi Chi Sorority, Inc., Muslim Students Association at NC State, Young Democratic Socialists of America at NC State, and Arab Student Organization, have all taken a stance regarding the current injustices on Palestinians due to Israeli state-sanctioned violence and the complicity and silence of our university; and,

WHEREAS, a [petition](#) created by the Young Democratic Socialist of America (YDSA) showcases the voices of the students on campus and endorsements by numerous student organizations, calling to NC State Student Government to call for a ceasefire in Gaza, as well as additional requests; and,

WHEREAS, there was a false claim from University representatives to discontinue and remove the website of the "Cultural Treasures of Israel & Jordan" WolfTreks trip, which presents Jerusalem as an Israeli cultural treasure, overlooks the ongoing

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occupation of Palestinian territories and the [apartheid system](#), and disrespects the sentiments of Palestinian students and their culture; and,

WHEREAS, student organizations are urging North Carolina State University to platform alternative companies to support student career prospects, moving away from Lockheed Martin, Caterpillar, and Boeing due to their active contributions to the oppression of Palestinians and their direct support for Israel in these actions; and,

WHEREAS, UNC-CH Graduate and Professional Senate passed legislation entitled [54-030 Gaza Ceasefire and Israel Divestment Resolution](#), which calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and Occupied Palestinian Territories, Southern Lebanon, and Israel; and,

WHEREAS, 54-030 additionally calls for the University to divest assets that do business with Israel's Government and army, are headquartered in Israel, and are listed on Israel's stock exchange; and,

WHEREAS, UNC-Charlotte Student Senate passed a legislation entitled [SR 60.2-14 A Resolution for the SGA to Recognize Israel's Actions in Gaza](#), which approves statements of a petition signed by over 400 students, faculty, and staff on UNC-Charlotte's campus; and,

WHEREAS, SR 60.2-14 specifically calls for the SGA to recognize the genocide being committed by the State of Israel, a total divestment of funds to the State of Israel until a ceasefire is arranged, and complete and total transparency from the Board of Trustees with prior and existing investments to the State of Israel; and,

WHEREAS, with a spark and rise in student conversations, protests, and written demands to Universities across the UNC System schools, namely NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte, App State, and UNC-Greensboro, UNC ASG has a "[mission](#) [to revolve] around promoting students' interests, fostering quality education, and nurturing community engagement"; and,

WHEREAS, on March 5th, members of the Raleigh City Council voted 4-4 against adopting a ceasefire resolution. Council Members Black, Jones, Patton, and Harrison voted in favor, while Mayor Baldwin, Mayor Pro Tem Melton, Council Member Branch, and Council Member Forte voted against it; and,

WHEREAS, a statement calling for peace and urging everyone to 'think globally, act locally' was read by Council Member Harrison at the March 5th meeting; and,

WHEREAS, since the beginning of October 2023, NC State students and Raleigh community members have been actively present at every Raleigh City Council meeting, calling for a council vote on a ceasefire and sharing personal stories; and,

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WHEREAS, in a meeting with Council Member Harrison, she acknowledged that although the Raleigh City Council did not pass a ceasefire, there remains potential for ongoing collaboration between NC State Student Government, Raleigh City Council, and North Carolina Senators to advocate for student concerns regarding the Israel and Palestine; and,

WHEREAS, NC State Student Government has previously passed politically-based legislations that deal with student life and concerns both on and off campus, such as the [102nd Session Documented Dreamers Act](#), [101st Land Acknowledgment Act](#), [100th Title IX at NC State Act](#), [100th Institutional Support for Underrepresented Communities Act](#), [99th Fossil Fuel Divestment Act](#), etc.; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government calls for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government stand firm in our condemnation of the recent rise in anti-Palestinian, anti-Semitic, and Islamophobic hate incidents, harassment, hate crimes, hate speech, doxxing, and the suppression of freedom of speech in universities across the United States, and commit to taking active measures to address and prevent such acts within our community; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government supports all students who have been negatively affected in the context of the mentioned violence abroad, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or religious background; and be it further

RESOLVED, that by passing this legislation, the North Carolina State University Student Government formally acknowledges the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as a direct result of actions taken by the Israeli Defense Forces; and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government will acknowledge the mental and emotional toll on all students affected by the aforementioned atrocities and advocate for a permanent ceasefire to respect and support the mental health of the entire student body; and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government hereby supports the release of both Palestinian and Israeli hostages in exchange for a permanent ceasefire; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that North Carolina State University is urged to provide students with an educational resource link featuring scholarly articles, books, and contact information for professors knowledgeable about Palestine and Israel, thus ensuring that students receive a comprehensive and historically accurate

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education on the matter, similar to the university's informative initiative on Russia's [invasion](#) of Ukraine; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that North Carolina State University will not resume the "Cultural Treasures of Israel & Jordan" WolfTreks trip [website](#) for overlooking the occupation of Palestinian territories and disregarding Palestinian students' sentiments; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that North Carolina State University Student Government calls the university to disclose the recipients of their investments and divest from groups that direct their funding towards Israel; and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government recommends that the Standing Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach undertake the task within the 104th Session to advocate the Raleigh City Council and North Carolina legislators about student concerns on campus related to the Israeli offensive in Gaza and the ongoing repercussions for Palestinian Americans; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the North Carolina State University Student Government recommends that the UNC Association of Student Governments increase discussions addressing student concerns across the UNC System campuses, source ways to advocate these concerns to the Board of Governors, and engage the campuses to demonstrate solidarity and foster unity among all UNC schools; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Charles Maimone (Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration), Lisa Marie L. Ferrell (Chief Communications and Marketing Officer and AVC for Communications and Marketing), NC State Alumni Association; Vice Provost Sheri Schwab; UNC ASG President Cameron Brown, all members of the Raleigh City Council individually: Mary-Ann Baldwin - Mayor, Jonathan Melton - At-Large, Stormie Forte - At-Large, Mary Black - District A, Megan Patton - District B, Corey Branch - District C, Jane Harrison - District D, Christina Jones - District E; all members of the North Carolina US House Delegation and US Senators representing North Carolina; and be it further,

RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective upon its enrollment.

