

Standing in Solidarity with the Palestinian Community

WHEREAS, the First Legislative District is home to a diverse community with a number of our constituents identifying as Palestinian American--of the Muslim and Christian faiths that have contributed and continue to contribute to our country's progress, culture and success; and

WHEREAS, the First Legislative District Democrats commit themselves to protecting, respecting, and fulfilling the full range of inherent human rights for all, as set forth in the [United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the Geneva Conventions, and the Hague Regulations of 1907 and numerous other international human rights instruments; and

WHEREAS, East Jerusalem districts are under Israeli military occupation and, as the Occupying Power, Israel is obligated to abide by the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 53, and Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which defines as a war crime the "extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly"; and

WHEREAS, in East Jerusalem, Israel plans to demolish 100 homes in Al-Bustan district, which are home to almost 1,550 Palestinians, 63 percent of whom are children¹, and evict 169 residents in Sheikh Jarrah district, including 46 children, so that their homes can be occupied illegally by Israeli settlers², with blatant disregard for these Palestinian families³; and

WHEREAS, American taxpayers will give Israel a total of \$38 billion of weapons over ten years, according to a 2016 [agreement](#) between the two countries' governments; and

WHEREAS, Israel uses these weapons, in violation of international laws, to commit human rights abuses against Palestinians living under Israel's brutal, more than five-decade-long military occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip; and

WHEREAS, the \$3.8 billion dollars in military aid, which the United States government provides to Israel annually could be used instead to fund urgent needs in our communities.

WHEREAS, solidarity with Palestinians and the Palestinian American community, as evidenced by such organizations as [Jewish Voices for Peace](#), does not constitute anti-Semitism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the First Legislative District Democrats strongly condemn any violence or hate targeting Palestinians, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First District Democrats call on the US government to restrict military aid to Israel and make future aid contingent upon Israel following the Geneva Convention on Human Rights in the treatment of Palestinians; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Legislative District Democrats ask that Congresswoman Suzan DelBene and Congressman Rick Larsen co-sponsor Congresswoman Betty McCollum's [H.R. 2590](#), the "Palestinian Children & Families Act" and Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez's [H.J.Res.49](#), "Providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed direct commercial sale to Israel of certain weaponry and munitions"; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the First Legislative District Democrats ask that Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell co-sponsor Senator Bernie Sanders' [S.J.Res.19](#), a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed transfer to Israel of certain defense articles, including defense services and technical data;

Proposed by Rami Al-Kabra, June 3, 2021

Recommendation DO PASS by the 1st LD Issues Committee - June 3, 2021

Passed by 1st LD Dems General Meeting – June 21, 2021

¹ "Palestinians protest Israeli plans to demolish 100 houses in East Jerusalem," *Middle East Eye*, March 19, 2021, available at: <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/hundreds-palestinian-protest-against-israeli-plan-demolish-100-palestinian-houses-east>

² Aseel Jundi, "Save Sheikh Jarrah: The online campaign giving hope to Palestinian refugees in East Jerusalem," *Middle East Eye*, March 22, 2021, available at: <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-palestine-save-sheikh-jarrah-campaign>

³ "Video shows Israeli settler trying to take over Palestinian house" Al Jazeera, May 4, 2021, available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/4/if-i-dont-steal-your-home-someone-else-will-jewish-settler-says>