

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-83R

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS, TEXAS CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE, PERMANENT, AND SUSTAINED CEASEFIRE IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE, ARMS EMBARGO ON THE STATE OF ISRAEL, RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, we the San Marcos City Council strive daily to ensure all people's health, safety, dignity, and freedom. We follow the lead of the World Health Organization, United Nations, Save the Children, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, His Holiness Pope Francis, more than 150 countries, and countless other organizations in the United States and around the world in calling for a ceasefire, because what happens internationally impacts our constituents locally. We believe in the shared humanity of all people, reiterate that all people are entitled to live life in safety and free from violence, and affirm these as common values held by San Marcos residents and leaders; and

WHEREAS, we recognize our residents' basic First Amendment rights, including the right to criticize the political beliefs and policies of the United States and Israel and affirm our commitment to the constitutional rights of all people to free speech and assembly, especially in the face of increasing efforts to criminalize protest and suppress dissent across the country; and

WHEREAS, we stand in solidarity with our constituents, students, faith leaders, organizers, and community members who have mobilized in San Marcos and across the nation in support of Palestinian human rights and to call for an end to U.S. complicity in human rights violations abroad. We recognize that protest is a vital part of our democratic tradition and a reflection of our community's moral conscience; and

WHEREAS, we unequivocally condemn targeting civilians no matter their faith or ethnicity, which constitutes a violation of international law, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); and we recognize the equal right to self-determination and peaceful, safe futures for Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, the continued bombardment in the Gaza Strip and assault of the West Bank comes in the context of the 77-year displacement of Palestinians and illegal occupation of their land. The United Nations Security Council has declared the 57-year-long settlement and the 18-year blockade of Gaza unlawful. In addition, in July 2024 the United Nations Security Council declared Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory unlawful and that "all States are under an obligation not to recognize" the decades-long occupation; and

WHEREAS, Israel has engaged in large-scale military assault by land, air, and sea on Gaza, home to approximately 2.3 million people, of which almost half are children. Hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk in Gaza without an immediate, permanent, and sustained ceasefire and arms embargo, unimpeded flow of humanitarian relief in the forms of food, water, shelter, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, civilians living in Palestine are being killed at an unprecedented rate. According to a study published in The Lancet in July of 2024, over 186,000 Palestinians had been killed since Israel's invasion of the Gaza Strip, around 43% of which have been children. Over [1,000](#) medical workers and [173](#) journalists have been killed. In addition, over 100,000 Gazans are wounded, over 2,000,000 are displaced, and over 10,000 are missing under the rubble; and

WHEREAS, Palestinians of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths are now facing a humanitarian crisis, and human rights organizations such as [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) have since accused Israel of committing acts of Genocide and engaging in collective punishment; and

WHEREAS, while speaking at the [UN Human Rights Council on March 26, 2024](#), Special Rapporteur, Francesca Albanese, stated, “Following nearly six months of an unrelenting Israeli assault on occupied Gaza, it is my duty to report on the worst of what humanity is capable of... There are reasonable grounds to believe that the threshold indicating the commission of the crime of genocide has been met. I implore Member States to abide by their obligations which start with imposing an arms embargo and sanctions on Israel, and so ensure that the future does not continue to repeat itself”; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 11, 2024, and Friday, January 12, 2024, [the International Court of Justice \(ICJ\) at the Hague held public hearings](#) in the case brought forward by South Africa against Israel for alleged violations of the Genocide Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide during its operations in Gaza. South Africa’s application contends that “acts and omissions by Israel... are genocidal in character, as they are committed with the requisite specific intent... to destroy Palestinians in Gaza as a part of the broader Palestinian national, racial and ethnic group.” South Africa’s actions to receive provisional protection for the people of Gaza are supported by 32 countries and over 1,000 organizations worldwide; and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2024 The International Court of Justice provided the advisory opinion requested by the United Nations’ General Assembly regarding [“Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem.”](#) The court declared Israel guilty of apartheid and its military occupation illegal. The World Court ordered Israel to completely end its military occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The ICJ ruling today affirms the legal obligation for all States to end complicity in Israel’s illegal occupation and gross violations of human rights, and to act to ensure respect for international law.

WHEREAS, On November 21, 2024, [the International Criminal Court \(ICC\) issued](#) arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, for war crimes and crimes against humanity during Israel’s assault in Gaza committed from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024; and

WHEREAS, Israel's continuous illegal military occupation, land expropriation, and expansion of settlements in the West Bank severely violates Palestinian rights and living conditions. [Since January 21, 2025](#), Israeli forces have conducted extensive raids, resulting in significant displacement and casualties among Palestinians in the West Bank. The operation has led to the displacement of over 40,000 Palestinians from their homes, marking the largest displacement since 1967; and

WHEREAS, since March 2, 2025, in violation of international humanitarian laws and the existing ceasefire agreement, Israel has blocked the delivery of food, fuel, essential supplies, and electrical power to Gaza as an act of collective punishment; and

WHEREAS, shipping arms to Israel violates numerous US federal laws and policies including: [the Conventional Arms Transfer Policy](#), [the Foreign Assistance Act](#), [the Arms Export Control Act](#), [the U.S. War Crimes Act](#), [the Leahy Law](#), and [the Genocide Convention Implementation Act](#); and

WHEREAS, in 2024 alone, the US sent Israel [\\$18 billion](#) to bankroll 70% of the ongoing genocide. According to the United States Campaign for Palestinian Rights, [\\$1,405,468,510 from Texans’ tax dollars](#) went to Israel’s purchase of weapons. \$4,434,675 of this came from San Marcos residents’ taxes; and

WHEREAS, members of this community demand a true ceasefire and the complete cessation of weapon shipments to Israel, as the United States is the primary supplier of arms to Israel, which are used [in violation of international law](#) to carry out a genocide against Palestinians and instigate conflict in neighboring countries; and

WHEREAS, San Marcos stands to benefit from a reallocation of local funds towards essential domestic priorities such as transportation, education, housing, healthcare, environmental protection, and public goods and services, which currently face neglect due to state and federal appropriations to Israel's military.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved The City Council of The City of San Marcos urges our State and Federal delegations and the President of the United States to use their authority to:

1. Advance an immediate, permanent, and sustained ceasefire and arms embargo, along with the unrestricted and unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and the restoration of food, fuel, water, electricity, and medical supplies as a necessary step towards preserving all remaining Palestinian life and peace.

- For council members: [Manufactured Humanitarian Catastrophe](#)

2. Support an end to the State of Israel's apartheid, occupation, and blockade of Palestine, including Gaza and the West Bank, to guarantee the self-determination and preservation of life for all Palestinian people.

- For council members: [Israeli Apartheid](#)

3. Support an end to U.S. military funding and sales to the State of Israel, and an end to federal and local tax dollars contributing to the humanitarian catastrophe and genocide in Palestine.

- For council members: [Israeli Military Funding](#)

4. Support the unconditional release of all Palestinians held indefinitely without charge and trial in Israeli military prisons, as well as Israeli hostages.

- For council members: [Imprisoning Palestinians Without Trial](#)

5. Support the right for all Palestinian refugees and descendants to return to their homes and land upon the cessation of hostilities.

- For council members: [Ending Apartheid: The Right of Return](#)

6. In accordance with the [resolutions](#) historically put forward by the Palestinian people to the United Nations Security Council, we affirm the right of the Palestinian people to permanent sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territories, including control of land, resources, and borders.

- For council members: [Palestinian Sovereignty](#)

7. Support the constitutional rights of all people, regardless of citizenship status, to freedom of speech, religion, right of assembly, right to a fair trial, and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, as outlined in the Bill of Rights. The unimpeded exercising of these rights without fear of punitive action is an essential part of voicing opposition to the ongoing crimes against humanity perpetrated by the State of Israel.

- For council members: [Violations of Constitutional Protections](#)

Be It Further Resolved that the Office of the City Clerk is hereby directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to Texas' elected representatives to the Texas State Legislature, Texas' elected representatives to the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, Governor Greg Abbott, and the Office of President Trump.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Marcos City Council condemns anti-Palestinian, Islamophobic, antisemitic, and all xenophobic rhetoric and attacks.

This resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED on May 6, 2025

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk