

Resolution for a Ceasefire in the Ongoing Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Whereas,

The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict has resulted in the loss of countless lives, widespread displacement, and immense suffering for civilians;

Whereas,

The United States government and military contractors play an active role in arming the Israeli military, which is currently engaged in a siege against Gaza, which human rights organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Israeli group B'Tselem have called a humanitarian crisis;

Whereas,

War is union business, and American unions like the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America (UE), and international allies of the AFL-CIO such the Canadian Labour Congress, the Trades Union Congress (in the UK), the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and the International Trade Union Federation have called for a just peace;

Whereas,

On March 16th, 2003, while providing humanitarian aid in Gaza, Rachel Corrie was killed by the Israeli military. She was born and raised in Olympia and was a student at The Evergreen State College. Rachel was the first American civilian to be killed in this occupation. AFSCME represents TESC, and our members serve students like Rachel. Olympia's sister city is Rafah, in the south of Gaza. Our communities are linked in the pursuit of peace and justice;

Whereas,

We recognize that all civilians must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and deploring in this regard the heavy civilian casualties and widespread destruction of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Whereas,

A ceasefire is a crucial first step towards creating the conditions necessary for a negotiated, just, and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Therefore be it resolved,

That WFSE Council 28 calls on the AFL-CIO as well as AFSCME International to join us in support of an immediate ceasefire in the conflict and equal rights for Palestinians and Israelis.

Be it further resolved,

That WFSE Local 443 commits to raising awareness among its members about the humanitarian impact of the conflict, the importance of respecting international law, and the need for a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. WFSE Local 443 calls for solidarity with fellow Unions and Locals in this regard.

Ashley Fueston Ist Vice President

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MISIP "121/23-611