

Sheila de la Guerra

General Public Comment

LATE
DIST

From: Sara Khan <sarammkhan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:36 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment: Call for Immediate Ceasefire and Reconsideration of Solidarity with Isreal

Group 2

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment in the wake of the resolution passed on November 11, expressing solidarity with the State of Israel. This resolution, in light of recent events, sends a distressing message that the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors is inadvertently supporting actions contributing to the ongoing suffering and alleged genocide of the Palestinian people.

As of November 23rd, the UN reports staggering figures of 14,800 killed, including 6,000 children, and 1.8 million displaced in Palestine. These statistics underscore the urgency of the situation and the need for a conscientious reevaluation of the Board's stance.

The ongoing occupation of Palestine, dating back to 1967, has a complex history rooted in the systemic expulsion, displacement, and ethnic cleansing of a quarter-million Palestinians—both Muslim and Jewish natives of Palestine. This plight traces back to the creation of Israel in 1948, a historical context crucial for understanding the complexities of the current situation.

It is imperative to acknowledge that the resistance from the Palestinian people is a response to decades of oppression and violence. Characterizing their actions as unprovoked or divorced from the historical context perpetuates an incomplete narrative. The humanitarian crisis and the violation of human rights in the region cannot be overlooked or disregarded.

In light of these stark realities, I call on the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors to issue an immediate and public call for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine. This call should emphasize the need for dialogue, diplomacy, and humanitarian efforts. The current resolution fails to recognize the gravity of the situation and the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Our community looks to its representatives to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and human rights. The erasure of the decades-long suffering and occupation of Palestine is a dangerous perpetuation of systemic white supremacy and Islamophobia. It is incumbent upon the Board to rectify its position swiftly, publicly denouncing actions that contribute to the violation of international law and the suffering of innocent civilians.

In these times, sadly, acts of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia rise and I ask the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors to remind the constituents of our County that hate crimes in any form will not be tolerated and provide the proper channels for reporting incidents.

This issue is of paramount importance to many members of our community, and I trust that you will act decisively to address the urgent concerns raised in this letter.

Sara Mukhtar Khan
Santa Barbara local and former Santa Barbara County employee

Sheila de la Guerra

From: mfolsom@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:56 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Rescind resolution 23-251

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Board of Supervisors.

Last month you adopted resolution 23-251: "In support of Israel's Right to Security and Peace"

"We stand in solidarity with the State of Israel in its pursuit of security and peace" :

The resolution was proposed to you in response to a horrendous October 7 attack on the people of Israel, which no one condones. However, the wording of the resolution, in its content, its presentation, and its omission are against the standards that should be applied to any resolution you adopt:

1.) The resolution contains many statements referring to "urgent need for peace" making vague references to peace between "Israel and its neighbors" but makes no reference to the Palestinian people. Its omission is a denial of the basic rights to life that the Palestinian people should have.

2) The resolution contains many references to the local Muslim community, but I am not aware that the community mentioned gave approval, or were even aware of, its creation.

3) Most seriously:

In the days leading up to your resolution, and in subsequent days, Israel has made a mass incursion against the Palestinian people. What you call "the pursuit of security and peace" has become an exercise which at minimum constitutes "collective punishment", a violation of international law, and has been justifiably referred to by many human rights advocates as "Ethnic Cleansing". The citizens of Gaza have been denied access to the basic necessities of food and water, creating a situation described by the U.N as "near-famine". Twice as many people have been killed in Gaza in the past month, as in Ukraine in the past two years. More than half the buildings in Gaza, including schools, hospitals and religious institutions, have been destroyed. There is no ability for infrastructure or basic subsistence in Gaza, let alone the right to "participate in joyous cultural events" that you mention in the resolution.

At the time, Supervisor Benson commented that the Board does not normally adopt resolutions related to international issues, but "There is evil in the world". There is indeed "evil in the world", being imposed on the people of Gaza, and your resolution endorses that evil.

Please rescind it.

Mary Folsom

Sheila de la Guerra

From: jim Silva <jazziejim@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 5:06 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Gaza & Palestine/Israel

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Honorable Supervisor:

Please look at these population figures as they tell a lot.

1870 - Jews are 2% of population in Palestine w Arabs and Jews living peacefully.

Zionist immigration begins in early 20th Century facilitated by the colonial British.

1946 - Palestinians still own 92% of the land, Jews own 8%

1947 UN Partition Plan gives 56% of land to Jews and 44% to Palestinians

1948/49 - War with Arab states, Israeli army and terrorist death squads kill 15,000 Palestinian villagers, burn & destroy over 400 villages, and expel 750,000 natives from their homes. They become refugees in Gaza.

Israel takes 78% of Palestinian land, leaving Palestinians with 22%

1967 War - Israel takes the rest, occupying all of Palestine continuing until today when it is committing genocide implementing it's "final solution" to exterminate the remaining populations of Gaza and the West Bank so that it can have all the land.

Thank you,

Jim Silva