

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Putting America First by Pursuing a Just, Lasting Peace in the Middle East**

Dear Mr. President:

During the 2024 presidential campaign, you pledged to put America First in our nation's policies. You pledged to end our military's involvement in forever wars. You pledged to pursue peace around the world. Many Americans voted for you because of these pledges. Days before taking office, you took an important step towards advancing peace by playing the key role in securing the ceasefire deal in Gaza, which ended over a year of genocide and freed prisoners on both sides.

We write now to express deep concern that your recent call for the United States to unilaterally take control of Gaza after the expulsion of nearly two million Palestinian men, women, and children from their ancestral homeland threatens to undermine the progress you made when you first help secure the ceasefire deal.

Put simply, the ethnic cleansing and U.S. occupation of Gaza would spark a massive backlash in the Arab and Muslim world, drain American resources by entangling the U.S. military in new forever wars, and make the peaceful establishment of a Palestinian state impossible, leading to even more conflict in the region.

Moreover, there are no legal grounds for the United States to occupy the Gaza Strip. Gaza is not a "big real estate site" that can go to the highest bidder. Gaza is a land that millions of Palestinians have called home for generations. They are not willing to give up their land, nor should American soldiers or taxpayer dollars ever be used to occupy Palestinian land or any Middle Eastern country again.

Nations such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Egypt have rejected the expulsion proposal. It is a red line for the Arab and Muslim world. Even trying to implement this scenario could destabilize governments throughout the region. Palestinians peacefully lived in Gaza—and throughout historic Palestine—for hundreds of years before they were ethnically cleansed from most of their land by terrorist groups like the Irgun that later unified to form the Israeli military. The world cannot allow the Israeli government to repeat this crime, nor should the United States commit such crimes.

We urge your administration to abandon the expulsion and occupation proposal. You should instead work with the Arab and Muslim world to develop a realistic proposal to rebuild Gaza without expelling Palestinians from their ancestral homes. As part of your efforts to secure your peace, you should also launch a renewed peace process that puts necessary pressure on the Israeli government to establish a liberated Palestinian state. This is the way to achieve a true, just and lasting peace.

After World War II, Europe and Japan were left devastated, much like Gaza is today. The United States demonstrated its unparalleled leadership through the Marshall Plan and the reconstruction of Japan, helping to rebuild entire nations without displacing their citizens. That same power, vision, and capability lie within your hands today.

Securing real peace in the Middle East could be your greatest legacy. While the Biden administration oversaw the destruction of Gaza, you have the unique opportunity to build a legacy other than genocide. You can define yourself as a true peacemaker, securing peace through a Palestinian state and then reinvesting the rest of your energy and America's resources back into the American people.

Past U.S. presidents have only offered lip service to securing peace by creating a Palestinian state—something Netanyahu explicitly opposes. If your administration truly seeks peace, you must leverage American power to endorse a viable Palestinian state; anything less will inevitably lead to more future suffering and hardship.

If your administration genuinely seeks peace and justice in the region, it must ensure the freedom and security of the Palestinian people. To this end, we call on your administration to adopt the following signature goals as part of a comprehensive peace agenda:

- **Upholding a permanent ceasefire** to protect civilian lives and create the necessary conditions for long-term peace and security. This includes halting all Israeli military operations, initiating an arms embargo on Israel so long as it continues violating international and U.S. laws and fostering an environment where diplomatic solutions—not war—become the foundation for regional stability;
- **Rebuilding Gaza with robust U.S. support for humanitarian aid**, including food and shelter for Palestinians who must remain in Gaza, as well as reinstating full U.S. funding to UNRWA and reigniting its freedom to function within the U.S., Gaza, and the West Bank to ensure essential services like healthcare, education, and refugee assistance continue uninterrupted;
- **With Palestinian leadership, coordinating a massive international redevelopment fund** that lays the foundations for a future Palestinian state under a unified Palestinian government;

- **Extending full U.S. recognition of a Palestinian state**, in line with many nations worldwide; and
- **Facilitating an end to Israel’s occupation and apartheid policies**, under which Palestinian civilians have suffered for decades.

We appreciate your attention to these urgent issues and respectfully request that you give them the serious consideration they deserve. We stand ready to work with your administration and any international partners committed to realizing a genuine, lasting, and just peace for everyone in the region. We urge you to show bold leadership in seizing this historic opportunity to ensure the dignity, security, and freedom of all who call this land home.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

American Center for Justice  
 American Federation of Ramallah Palestine  
 Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action)  
 American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP)  
 American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)  
 Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
 CAIR Action  
 CODEPINK  
 Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel Network  
 Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)  
 Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space  
 Islamic Association of North America  
 Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)  
 ICNA Council for Social Justice  
 Islamophobia Studies Center  
 Libyan American Alliance  
 MAS PACE  
 MSA National  
 The Mennonite Palestine Israel Network (MennoPIN)  
 Muslim Legal Fund of America  
 MUNA Action  
 Peace Action  
 The March 15th Forum-Combating Islamophobia  
 The Mosque Cares | Ministry of Imam W. Deen Mohammed  
 Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East  
 United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network  
 U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)

## **Regional, State & Local Organizations**

Ahlulbayt Society of Columbus [OH]  
Asian Americans United [PA]  
Association of Muslim American Lawyers (AMAL) [NY]  
Arizona Muslim Alliance, Inc. [AZ]  
Arizona Muslim Police Advisory Board (AZMPAB) [AZ]  
Atlanta Multifaith Coalition for Palestine (AMCP) [GA]  
Aurora Commons LLC [OH]  
Birmingham Interfaith Human Rights Committee [AL]  
Brandon Christian Church [FL]  
Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy [IL]  
Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago [IL]  
Dallas Peace and Justice Center [TX]  
Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center [VA]  
FOSNA Pittsburgh [PA]  
Global Heart Institute [PA]  
Good Citizens of DFW [TX]  
Greenview Madani Center [GA]  
Hamzah Islamic Center [GA]  
Human Rights Dallas [TX]  
Husaynia Islamic Society of Seattle [WA]  
ICNA Council for Social Justice New Jersey [NJ]  
Imam Council of Metropolitan St. Louis [MO]  
Indiana Center for Middle East Peace [IN]  
Islamic Center of Boca Raton [FL]  
Islamic Center of Irving [CA]  
Islamic Center of Passaic County [NJ]  
Islamic Center of San Diego [CA]  
Islamic Council of New England [New England]  
Joining Hands for Justice in Palestine [GA]  
Kurdish Community Islamic Center [CA]  
Masjid Al-Furqan - West Cobb Islamic Center [GA]  
Masjid Al-Shareef Long Beach, CA [CA]  
Masjid Al Wadud [NJ]  
Majlis Ash-Shura: Islamic Leadership of New York [NY]  
MAS DC PACE [DC]  
MAS DFW PACE [TX]  
Massachusetts Peace Action [MA]  
Muslim Democratic Caucus of Texas [TX]  
Noor Islamic Cultural Center [OH]  
Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel [MN]

Peace and Common Security Working Group, Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the Environment [MA]

Prince George's County Muslim Council [MD]

SABA Islamic Center, San Jose, CA [CA]

Voices for Justice in Palestine [NC]

We Love Our Neighbors [CA]

Will County Progressives [IL]