

Minute on the Middle East  
Twin Cities Friends Meeting  
Approved December 9, 2023

**The U.S. Must Act to De-Escalate the Violence in Israel and Palestine**

Our Quaker commitment to nonviolence calls us to speak out following the recent violence in Israel and Gaza. As Quakers, we deeply mourn the loss of all lives and pray for those who have lost loved ones due to this latest escalation.

More war and weapons won't bring peace. In the face of growing violence, lawmakers must:

- Publicly call for a ceasefire, de-escalation, and respect for international law.
- Protect lives—those of the hostages and all civilians.
- Address the root causes underlying this explosion of violence.

We urge Congress to call for an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation, and restraint to prevent further civilian harm in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.