

Minute on the Violence in Israel and Gaza, U.S. Responsibility to Uphold International Law, and the Urgent Need for Humanitarian Aid—Lincoln Friends Meeting (NE)

We grieve with all those who are suffering from the terrible violence in Israel on October 7 and in Gaza and the West Bank and Israel since then. Every day that violence continues, we believe, only makes more difficult a stable, peaceful resolution.

We are aware that our own government bears significant responsibility for the ongoing violence. The rules bar weapons transfers when the U.S. government assesses that violations of international law are “more likely than not” to occur. (Memorandum on U.S. Conventional Arms Transfer, NSM-18, Feb 23, 2023, Section 4) South Africa’s carefully reasoned and documented case to the International Court of Justice calling for actions in alignment with the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide should be given significant weight in these assessments.

We call for immediate ceasefire and immediate action to provide basic necessities of life: water, food, shelter and medical care to those who have been driven from their homes in Gaza.

As Quakers we believe there is that of God in everyone and that an enduring peace built on justice and reconciliation is still possible.