

Valley Friends Meeting
Minute Concerning the Israeli-Gaza War of 2023-2024

We, the members of Valley Friends Meeting, upon prayerful reflection, state that we:

--grieve and deplore the history of violence in Israel and Palestine that prevent the security, development, and peace of both peoples;

--press the United States Government to re-evaluate its policies of supplying armaments to any country or group to require that civilians and all those not taking part in the fighting must not be attacked and must be spared and protected.

--urge the United States Government to continue substantial humanitarian aid to the refugee camps and other Palestinians in Gaza;

--entreat top political officials of Israel and Palestine to meet their moral obligations to their respective citizenry and negotiate a just and permanent peace treaty that will benefit both sides, give hope for the future, and reduce instability in the region;

--advocate the use of neutral third party mediators to assist in negotiations;

--encourage both the Israelis and Palestinians to recognize that compromises will be necessary to share the land for the good of both peoples;

--exhort the parties to forego relating past events and look to the future for opportunities to show the world that intractable conflict can be changed for the good;

--request the support of the global community to encourage negotiations and assist wherever possible to help both sides fulfill the resulting treaty obligations in a peaceful manner; and

--support the work of the American Friends Service Committee in the West Bank and Gaza to help Palestinians meet their basic human needs and bring true peace to both peoples.

We offer our services in any fair and non-violent way we can to help fulfill these petitions, and we continue to hold both peoples in the Light for peace and justice for them and their posterity.

Approved this 19th day of May, 2024, in Dayton, Virginia, USA.