

San Francisco Monthly Meeting minute pertaining to the strife in Palestine/Israel

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As Quakers, we believe in the sanctity of every human life. The latest escalation of violence between Israel and Palestine breaks our hearts and compels us to demonstrate our testimonies of peace, truth, justice and equality. We grieve for every life lost, and for every survivor suffering from the unspeakable violence in this troubled region.

We unite with member states of the United Nations demanding an immediate permanent cease fire, and the return of Israeli hostages and Palestinian political prisoners. We urge our elected officials to participate in the international community's efforts to advance a diplomatic solution for this conflict. We call upon our nation to do everything possible to usher humanitarian aid to those suffering from starvation, disease and lack of safe shelter. We implore the United States to divest its financial, military, and political support from any regime that puts lives in peril. More weapons and more violence will never bring peace. War is not the answer.

We pray for the safety, dignity, and freedom of every being. We pray that all peoples involved in this conflict - including leaders, combatants, and diasporas - commit to the restorative work of healing lifetimes of trauma and harm. We pray that Israelis and Palestinians may recognize and honor their common needs for self-determination and security as a way to forge a lasting, equitable and just peace for all.