



NO TAX DOLLARS FOR WAR CRIMES

NOVEMBER 13 ACTION TOOLKIT

Organize an event in your community to tell Congress to stop funding Israeli violence against Palestinians!

On Monday, Nov. 13, people across the United States will visit the district offices of their senators and representatives to honor the dead and demand an end to the mass killing of people in Gaza.

Congress votes to send billions of dollars to Israel to buy the bombs that have already killed more than 10,000 people in less than a month, including 4,100 children. We are calling on everyone to build memorials in front of their congressional offices. Bring flowers, photos, candles, teddy bears, and notes to memorialize those who have died and those who will die if a cease-fire and humanitarian access are not put in place.

Join us to demand:

- Cease-fire now
- Humanitarian access to Gaza
- No tax dollars for war crimes

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER YOUR EVENT AT

[AFSC.ORG/NOVEMBER 13](https://afsc.org/november13)

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WHY NOW?

On Oct. 7, Palestinians from Gaza carried out attacks in Israel that killed at least 1,400 Israelis, injured thousands more, and took an estimated 230 hostages. Israel immediately launched attacks on Gaza. Since then, at least 10,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, approximately 40% of them children. Violence continues to escalate, and those numbers continue to grow. Israel also placed Gaza under hermetic closure—blocking access to fuel, water, electricity, food, medical supplies, and other goods. In the West Bank, violence against Palestinians also escalated as settler attacks, mass arrest campaigns, and military raids increased in number. At least 140 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds more injured in the West Bank following the Hamas attack.

AFSC mourns with those who have lost loved ones and all who are suffering. Join us as we continue to work for the changes needed to end this violence and build a just and lasting peace.

Our points of unity

- Center the voices and leadership of Palestinians, Palestinian organizations, and Jewish allies in our actions and work.
- Uphold a commitment to nonviolence during the actions on this day.
- Take guidance from core messages offered in this toolkit.

Together, we demand the U.S. government:

Call for a cease-fire now.

Since Oct. 7, Gaza has been under attack. Since then, over 10,000 Palestinians have been killed, approximately 40% of them children. Over 1.5 million people have been displaced from their homes, and over 40% of homes in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed. A cease-fire is needed NOW.

Call for humanitarian access to Gaza.

The Israeli government has put in place a total blockade of Gaza. As a result, a completely preventable humanitarian crisis is unfolding. People are going hungry and running out of water. Hospitals are shutting down without electricity. The U.N. and humanitarian agencies are being denied access to Gaza. Thousands more will die if access to food, medicine, and care is not secured.

Stop U.S. military funding to Israel: NO tax dollars for war crimes.

Congress is in the process of approving a proposed \$14 billion in additional aid to Israel. We do not want our tax dollars spent to kill civilians in this conflict. For decades, the U.S. has offered uncritical support to Israel as it has systemically violated Palestinian rights. Despite agreement among international human rights organizations that Israel is enforcing apartheid against Palestinians, the U.S. provides \$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel every year. It is time to say NO to sending weapons to Israel.

HOW TO DESIGN A POWERFUL ACTION

On Nov. 13, we are calling on everyone to build memorials in front of their congressional offices.

Here are some ideas to help you plan:

PLANNING

- **Find the district offices for your senators and representatives!** You can look up your congresspeople at <http://usa.gov/elected-officials>. You will have to go to their individual websites to find their district offices, usually under the “contact” section.
- **Research your location ahead of time if you can.** If you haven’t already been to the local office of your senator or representative, stop by ahead of time just to get a sense of where you might set up the memorial, what the security is like in the building, and anything else it would be good to know before Nov. 13.
- **Find allies:** Who are your existing partners in this work? Who should be involved? Reach out to them early so they can be part of the planning if they would like to be.
- **Assess your resources:** What skills does your group have? How many people will participate? How much money and supplies do you have access to?
- **Make an action plan:** Think through the action from start to finish. Assign action roles, make a time schedule, list supplies and equipment needed, finalize logistics. Make backup plans just in case!
- **No action is too big or too small!** If you live in a rural area or an area where there is not much support for Palestine, even five people delivering demands to their representatives and placing flowers outside in memorial can help show that people across the country support these demands.

PROGRAM

- **Ensure that your action serves as a platform to hear from Palestinians and/or Jewish allies.** If you can’t schedule a speaker from those communities, you can read aloud from “The Light in Gaza,” a wide-ranging anthology of Palestinian writers and artists. It constitutes a collective effort to organize and center Palestinian voices in the ongoing struggle. Available free in e-book form (<https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/1861-light-in-gaza>)
- **Consider reading the names of those who have been killed in Palestine since Oct. 7.** The Palestinian Health Ministry has released a list of 6700+ names and ages of the deceased, although the number is now much larger. You can access the list on [Mondoweiss](#) (organized alphabetically).
- **Consider highlighting the devastating killing of children.** Every 10 minutes, a

Palestinian child is killed. The number of children killed in Gaza in just three weeks surpassed the annual number of children killed across the world's conflict zones since 2019.

- **Inspire and connect participants.** Music, chanting, grounding exercises, candle-lighting all build a sense of community. If your group isn't faith-based, connect to your shared values. If you are from a faith tradition, ground the event in scripture or prayer.
- **Call specifically on your Congressional representatives and senators** to respond to our shared demands and concerns.

ACTIONS

- **Construct a makeshift memorial outside your senator's or representative's office**, a tradition in many cultures and places during a sudden moment of collective grief. Bring flowers, photos, candles, teddy bears, and notes to memorialize those who have died and those who will die if a cease-fire and humanitarian access are not put in place.
- **Include visuals to clearly communicate our demands and name the senator or representative you want to influence.** We want all members of our audience – event attendees, media, elected officials, social media followers, and others – to understand the depth of our conviction and what we're asking them to do. You can download and print signs here: afsc.org/posters-palestine
- **Deliver demands to the office.** Send a delegation of just a few people inside to deliver our demands in writing. A printable version of this will be available before the event at afsc.org/November13
- **Don't forget to take photos and video and share on social media!** Use the hashtag #LetGazaLive. Please also send us photos of your memorial along with the location to socialmedia@afsc.org

POST-ACTION

- **Debrief the action:** What were the action highlights? Where was there room for improvement?
- **Follow up:** Reach out to participants and members – keep them updated. Make calls to media – get the story out. Provide jail support if necessary and keep track of ongoing legal issues.

SPREAD THE WORD!

Now that you've decided what you're doing and when, it's time to invite others to join you.

Register your event at: afsc.org/November13 so others know there is an event in their area.

You can also create a Facebook event to reach more people in your networks.

Download social media graphics and posters at afsc.org/November13

Use the hashtags **#LETGAZALIVE** and **#DEFUNDWARCRIMES**

Here's some promotional language you can adapt for your event.

Sample Invitation/Facebook language

On Nov. 13, we are building a memorial for the more than 10,000 people killed in Gaza at (insert MOC office), and raising our collective voice to demand Congress stop funding war crimes in Gaza.

Our event is part of a national day of action coordinated by the American Friends Service Committee. Together, we are demanding the U.S. call for an immediate cease-fire, access for humanitarian aid, and a stop to U.S. military funding to Israel.

We ask that you join us in urgent action by coming to our event on ____ (DATE AND TIME) at __ (LOCATION).

CONTACTING THE MEDIA

One important way to amplify the effect of your action is to get the press to cover it. To get reporters there, you have to let them know in advance.

You can modify the template below to create your own media advisory. The media advisory should be emailed to reporters in your area several days before the event, and then followed up with calls to make sure they got it and to encourage them to attend.

Tips for contacting reporters:

1. Email the media advisory (see the template below) to the reporter with a personal note at the top. Paste the advisory in the body of the email. If you don't have a reporter's email you can look up their news desk online.
2. After you have emailed, follow up by phone to make sure they received it.
3. When they answer, you can say something like "Hello, my name is [your name] and I am calling on behalf of [your organization]. I'm calling to follow up on the advisory I sent you about an event in support of Gaza happening outside [Congressperson's office]. Did you receive the release?" If they say no, ask if you can resend and confirm the correct email address. If you get a voicemail, you can just leave a message with the event details.
4. If you do get a real person, tell them a little bit about the details of the event and why they should come to cover it. Try to get a commitment from them to report on it. If they are not sure, ask them when you can follow up.
5. Reporters get a ton of calls and emails, so they'll be trying to rush you. Make sure you're prepared to resend the release if they didn't get it. Don't feel bad if it seems like they are blowing you off, just be as polite and persistent as you can be!

MEDIA ADVISORY TEMPLATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact: Name, Phone, Email

Protesters build memorial at [Senator/Rep name] office, demand Congress stop funding war crimes in Gaza

[A subheading further describing event can go here if needed]

CITY (DATE) - On Nov. 13, constituents of [Senator/Rep name] will gather at the [Senator/Rep's] office in [location] to build a memorial for the more than 10,000 people killed in Gaza. This action in [your city/town] is part of a national day of action demanding that Congress stop funding the Israeli military as it commits war crimes and ethnic cleansing in Gaza and the West Bank. Participants are also asking their members of Congress to publicly support an immediate cease-fire and humanitarian access to Gaza. The day of action is organized by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker organization that has worked in Gaza since 1949.

What: Name of the event

Who: Speakers/participants and their organizational affiliations /participants and their organizational affiliations

When: Date and time

Where: Address and any specific details that folks will need to get there

Visuals: [Include a note about the great photo opportunity you're creating for the press]

For more information about the national day of action, visit <http://afsc.org/November13>

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[A short description of your organization can go here]

The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

MESSAGING GUIDE

This messaging guide is designed to unify our message and impact while avoiding narratives that don't help our cause. It can be adapted to your local context.

Key points

- Everyone deserves to live in safety and peace. But peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory will never be possible as long as our Congresspeople continue to spend billions of taxpayer dollars on weapons and bombs for the Israeli military.
- We are here to mourn the more than 10,000 people in Gaza who have been killed by the Israeli military since Oct. 7, as well as all those who have died – Israelis, Palestinians, and others – as a result of the occupation.
- It is customary to build memorials to the dead at the place where they died. We are building these memorials in front of congressional offices to remind our senators and representatives that while Gaza is an ocean away, they are directly complicit in these war crimes.
- We are calling on our members of Congress and the Biden administration to:
 - Support an immediate cease-fire.
 - Allow for safe and sufficient humanitarian access to Gaza
 - Stop U.S. military funding to Israel: NO tax dollars for war crimes.
- People of many different faiths – including Jews, Muslims, and Christians – are participating in these actions. This is part of a national day of action organized by the American Friends Service Committee in coordination with communities across the country.

Background

- Violence did not begin with the attacks from Gaza. Even before Oct. 7, this year was one of the most violent years in Palestine in more than a decade. At least 247 Palestinians – including 47 children – had been killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers before the end of September.
- Gaza has been under a violent blockade for years. For over 16 years, the people of Gaza have lived under an Israeli-imposed blockade that severely limits travel, trade, and everyday life for its over two million residents.

- Israel has instituted an apartheid system for Palestinians. A consensus has emerged in the human rights community – including Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations and international groups Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International – that Israel’s treatment of Palestinians constitutes apartheid.

Find more background resources on our website: afsc.org/topics/gaza-israel

DAY OF ACTION CHECKLIST

Materials to have on hand

- Banners, posters -- you can print our posters at afsc.org/November13
- Half-sheet flyer to give to passersby explaining the action
- Fully charged phones to document the event and stay in touch with organizers
- Altar/memorial materials: some ideas include flowers, candles, photos, notes and cards, teddy bears, paper chains, and photos
- Bullhorn or sound system
- Just in case box (*Contents of box: packing or duct tape, scissors, stapler, huge markers, sidewalk chalk, extra paper, first aid kit*)

Suggested roles

- Emcee:** Welcomes attendees, introduces speakers, and facilitates program.
- Speakers:** A few people who can speak directly to the situation in Gaza and why we are here today
- Security/police liaisons:** Help keep participants safe by directing them to correct locations; isolates provocateurs from the event attendees; liaises with police if they appear.
- Marshalls:** Keep event participants focused on the event and direct the movement of the group, block traffic if marching
- Press point person:** Greets press, gets their contact information, explains the program to the press, and then directs them to people to be interviewed.
- Documenting:** Takes pictures/video
- Song/Chant/Activity leaders:** A couple of people who can confidently (not necessarily the best singers but have confidence) sing the song or chant the chant first and then lead attendees.