

1 Call: Permanent Cease-fire Now!

AFSC Action Hour Resources

2023



Groups and individuals across the United States and the world, including the American Friends Service Committee, are calling for an immediate and permanent cease-fire. Popular opinion polls show a majority of people in the U.S. are in favor of a cease-fire. As a Quaker organization, AFSC opposes all violence and works toward its end. We know that violence will not end through more violence. To bring change, we must address the roots of conflict, including historic and ongoing Palestinian displacement, occupation, and the reality of apartheid.



Violence did not begin on October 7th, nor will a permanent cease-fire end all violence. AFSC will continue to work for the changes needed to end violence and build a just and lasting peace. This includes working to dismantle the root causes of harm, including the five listed to the right, which come together to create a system of violence.

Working Beyond a Cease-fire

1 OCCUPATION

Israel's military occupation has entrenched a deeply abusive system of inequality and injustice that denies Palestinians their basic rights. This system of injustice is ongoing, and includes checkpoints, permits, military detention, and many other abuses.

2 APARTHEID

Inside Israel, Palestinians live under laws that limit their basic rights including where they can buy a home, what they can say, and who they can marry, limits not imposed on Jewish Israeli citizens. Leading human rights organizations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and B'Tselem have described the situation as apartheid.

3 SETTLER COLONIALISM

Academic Patrick Wolfe explains, "settler colonialism destroys to replace." This system includes forced evictions, forcible transfers, home demolitions, and other abuses. Israel's policy of constructing and expanding illegal settlements on occupied Palestinian land is one of the main driving forces behind the mass human rights violations resulting from the occupation.

4 BLOCKADE

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. Both the effects and the enforcement of the blockade are violent, with regular Israeli military incursions and bombings of Gaza.