

Albuquerque Meeting Calls for Humanity in the Middle East

(2024.11.11) Minute of Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Reconfirming Our Call for the End of Hostilities in the Middle East and a Return to Internationally Recognized Standards of Humanitarian Law, Human Rights and Respect for the Humanity of Every Person

Albuquerque Friends reaffirm our call for an end of hostilities among all parties arising from or connected to the ongoing Israeli/Palestinian conflict and a return to respect for human rights and international humanitarian law throughout the growing regional theater. We reaffirm our Minuted commitments and calls for reconciliation among all peoples in this conflict (see Minute 2024.4.4). As in past minutes, we reiterate our support for the people of Israel and concern for the release of all hostages. We believe that safety for Israel and all peoples is best addressed by insisting that the United States stop funding an increasingly offensive and expanding war.

Consistent with Friends' testimonies on peace, social justice, and respect for international humanitarian law and internationally recognized human rights, Albuquerque Friends call for the immediate de-escalation of the Israeli Military's offensive in Lebanon, the end of the Israeli Military Assault on Gaza and the end of the Israeli Government supported settler violence against Palestinians and their communities in the Occupied West Bank.

We and our country are failing to meet our most essential humanitarian responsibility to overcome the blockade of essential life-supporting materials such as food, water, materials for shelter, and the full panoply of resident goods and services which all people, including the occupied population of Gaza and the West Bank, need for their dignity and survival. It is not credible that our government is incapable of demanding our ally Israel allow the humanitarian relief necessary to end the rising toll of death by starvation, death by lack of urgently needed medical care, death by exposure, and the trauma of repeated uprooting and dislocation of civilians.

In particular, we call on the United States government to suspend arms sales, transfers, military aid and financial support for acquisition and/or use of aggressive weapons of warfare to the government of Israel. We urge our members of Congress to initiate or join in efforts to stop pending and future arms sales to the government of Israel.

We urge the government of the United States to focus its efforts on bringing about de-escalation and ceasefire in this conflict and, on assuring through its resources, alliances, and international standing that all persons living within this conflict area are provided with food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education for their children, and an end to the specter of human-caused famine.