

Minute of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) gathered in Annual Session, approved on 8/4/24, as to ongoing U.S. military aid as the Israeli - Palestinian War crosses international boundaries

Background: In recent days, deadly military attacks have occurred –into Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iran with the latter event assassinating the Palestinian negotiations leader. These grievous actions present an imminent threat of terrible regional war and, given US historic unconditional support for Israel, quickly could draw our nation’s military into war with Iran, other nations, and their allies in the region. Meanwhile, after the deplorable October 7 attack by Hamas on Israeli civilians and the disproportionate response by Israel, Israel’s ongoing attacks and siege on Gaza continue to inflict enormous harm on civilians.

Minute: BYM Friends call on the U.S. Government to reevaluate and immediately halt military support for Israel.

Any renewed aid should be conditioned on Israel’s agreement to the following, and the U.S. also should push for other nations and nonstate actors to support the following:

- an immediate ceasefire and an end to the horrific siege of Gaza;
- an immediate exchange of all hostages and prisoners;
- immediate access for international humanitarian aid and rebuilding for the millions of Palestinians in dire need in Gaza and the West Bank; and
- a cessation of all regional military attacks.

Long term, international peace negotiations should begin to enable Palestinians and Israelis to build a shared future based on equality, security and the rule of law, and on respect for the lives and dignity of all people.

Recommended actions: BYM Friends, individually and collectively, are called to act as led, to share the foregoing minute, and to encourage a U.S. foreign policy that supports both Palestinians & Israelis who seek to build a shared future together based on equality, security and the rule of law.