

Resolution Regarding Israel's Siege of Gaza

Whereas, Israel maintains tight control over key aspects of life in the Gaza Strip, including its air and sea space and all but one of the border crossings connecting Gaza with the world; and

Whereas, in June 2007 Israel tightened its siege over the Gaza Strip, barring almost all Palestinians from entering and leaving the area; and

Whereas, Israel blocks export of virtually all goods from the Gaza Strip while severely restricting imports -- including foodstuffs, medicines, and raw materials; and

Whereas, according to the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, Israel's "effective control" of the Gaza Strip necessitates that the laws of occupation continue to apply to Israel, and that Israel turned the Gaza Strip into the "largest prison on earth"; and

Whereas, 80% of all families in Gaza are dependent on food aid from international agencies and at least 47% live in extreme poverty; and

Whereas, Israel frequently takes punitive actions against the population of 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza, including restricting electricity and fuel supplies; and

Whereas, in absence of a United Nations resolution, punishing a civilian population as a means of political or military pressure is prohibited and illegal; and

Whereas, under humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions, Gazans must be allowed access to humanitarian aid and supplies;

Therefore, be it resolved, that our government should call upon Israel to end its siege of Gaza and comply with its obligations under international law.

Adopted _____ by _____