

# Clean Water *for* North Carolina

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## CWFNC Resolution on the Genocide in Palestine

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Whereas, since our founding in 1984, Clean Water for North Carolina (CWFNC) has worked alongside communities in North Carolina to fight for Environmental Justice, to empower communities, and to work for clean, safe, and accessible water and environments for all<sup>1</sup>,

Whereas, Environmental Justice opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, people and cultures, and other life forms (Principle 15)<sup>2</sup>. Further, Environmental Justice Principles 4 and 6 call for the cessation of production and use of hazardous, toxic and radioactive materials, all of which are poisoning the land, water and infrastructure of Gaza in the ongoing war;

Whereas, the current situation in Gaza concerning clean and accessible drinking water is dire. Since October 7, 2023, and even during the occupation of the Palestinian territories for decades before, Israel has limited the essential resources of water, food, electricity, and fuel to Palestinians in Gaza. Water and sewage treatment facilities depend on fuel and electricity and without them, Palestinians are unable to access clean water or safe sanitation. It is estimated that 97% of Gaza's water is unsuitable for human consumption<sup>3</sup>. Relying on unclean water, and consuming polluted, often salty water, increases the likelihood of dehydration and waterborne diseases like E.Coli and cholera. It's estimated that a mere 16% of items needed to conduct vital water and sanitation infrastructure are reaching Gaza, due to Israel's blockade, and long delays to inspect all shipments<sup>4</sup>,

Whereas, the horrific attacks by Hamas on southern Israeli communities, with the deaths of about 1,200 and capture of over 250 hostage were completely unjustified, even by the many years of occupation and oppression of people in Gaza and the West Bank, the response by the Israeli Government and Israeli Defense Forces has been far beyond any proportional defensive action. Further, the United States has not only been complicit with Israel's occupation and control of Palestine, but regularly contributed to its supply of weapons currently being used in

massive destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, houses of worship, critical infrastructure, and more broadly the Culture, Land, and People of Palestine, a violation of Environmental Justice Principle 15, as well as U.S. law prohibiting supply of arms to a nation which prevents delivery of humanitarian aid;

We, the Board of Directors of Clean Water for North Carolina, understand the fight for Environmental and Water Justice to be part of an interconnected endeavor that intrinsically connects us to global struggles for justice—social, economic, and environmental. We understand that the same societal, corporate and governmental structures that threaten the safety and wellbeing of North Carolinians’ as well as their human rights including safe water supply, extend globally and that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

**We, the Board of Directors of Clean Water for North Carolina, do hereby resolve:**

That there be an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. We understand the genocide in Gaza is connected to us through U.S. funding and weapons supplied to Israel, and by millions of dollars from the taxpayers of North Carolina. This struggle for peace and justice is in parallel to our mission to promote and ensure Environmental Justice for all, and implement the Principles of Environmental Justice.

That the only means to stop the genocide and starvation of Palestinians and desecration and contamination of their land and resources is an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the resumption of unrestricted flow of humanitarian aid and the full funding of UNRWA, and talks to establish the autonomy and rights of Palestinians in a protected, independent nation;

That Israel must be held accountable for the destruction to humanity and environment; including the killing of over 33,000 Palestinians and injury to over 70,000 Palestinians with no connection to Hamas; just as Hamas must be held accountable for the destruction and death wrought on October 7, 2023. This accountability must include substantive attention to the irreversible damage to water and sanitation infrastructure; the destruction and chemical and radiological contamination of land, water, and dwellings; and the lasting impacts to land and life whose effects we will see throughout the coming decades.

**Sources**

1. <http://cwfncc.org>
2. <https://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.pdf>
3. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/7/one-month-of-no-water-food-and-healthcare-for-gaza>
4. <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/war-has-poisoned-gazas-land-and-water-peace-will-require-environmental-justice/>
5. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/failing-gaza-undrinkable-water-no-access-toilets-and-little-hope-horizon>
6. <https://www.cfr.org/article/us-aid-israel-four-charts>
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/mar/06/israel-weapons-sales-loophole>