

To be placed on City letterhead and sent to our federal delegation Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, Representative Chavez DeRemer, and to President Biden

I write today on behalf of the Bend City Council to urgently request your continued action on an international matter that is of significant importance to us and many of our constituents. It has been over 100 days since the Hamas terror attacks of October 7, 2023 on civilians in Israel and the subsequent violent response in Gaza from the government of Israel. The human cost of this war has been staggering, as thousands of innocent civilians have been killed or wounded, including thousands of children. Since the war began, residents of Bend have consistently protested for peace and an end to the violence. As in other communities across the United States, we have also seen continued and rising anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian sentiments taking a toll on our residents.

All human lives are precious, no matter their ethnicity or religion. Any intentional targeting of civilians is a violation of international human law, as are acts or threats of violence with the primary purpose of spreading terror among a civilian population. All people – Israeli, Palestinian, and others – are entitled to live in safety, free from violence. The Bend City Council urges you to use all avenues within your power to help negotiate an end to the war and a stop to the violence, provide for the unrestricted entry of humanitarian assistance into Gaza, provide for the safe return of all hostages taken in the October 7 attacks, and protect the lives and security of all civilians in Gaza and Israel.

Children, families, and all other innocent civilians should never be targets of terrorism or acts of war. Please act urgently to end the violence.

Melanie Kebler

Mayor of Bend