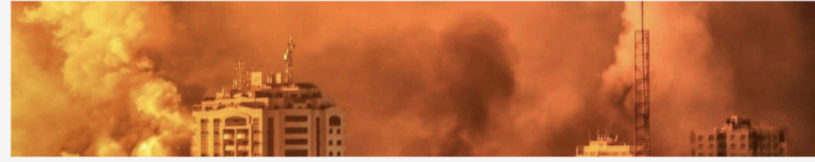


AFSC Action Hour

Ceasefire Now

TAKE ACTION EVERY FRIDAY FOR PEACE



 bit.ly/AFSCactionhour  [@afsc_org](https://www.instagram.com/afsc_org)  [@afsc_org](https://twitter.com/afsc_org)  American Friends Service Committee

American Friends Service Committee
Weekly Action Hour for Palestine

3 January 2024

Registration link to future action hours is [here](#)

AFSC's main page on the Crisis in Gaza is [here](#). The Action Hour Landing Page is [here](#).
This Action Hour is modeled on Jewish Voice For Peace's [daily power hours](#).

Welcome to this Action Hour

- Moment of silence: Recently, at least five Palestinian babies have frozen to death in Gaza. You can read more about the cold temperatures in Gaza, which have exacerbated effects because of food and water shortages as well as injuries, in this article from [Middle East Eye](#).
 - [OCHA report](#) on deaths and injuries in Gaza.
 - OCHA written report on deaths and injuries in the [West Bank](#).
 - Monthly [OCHA report on West Bank](#) destruction, death, and displacement with infographics.
 - Read [this report from Lancet](#) on the death count in Gaza.
- Background: AFSC has staff in Gaza, with an ongoing presence there since 1948. More information about our work [here](#). Donations to the Gaza humanitarian appeal can be made on this [link](#).
- Yousef's Update from Gaza: The weekly reports are posted on [Gaza Unlocked](#).
 - Read Yousef's weekly report [here](#).

Action 1: Doctors Against Genocide letters for Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya

- This week, we are supporting Doctors Against Genocide's letter-writing campaign by [sending emails](#) to the White House and Congress demanding the immediate release of Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya and other healthcare worker hostages illegally detained by Israel. Online letters are much stronger when you personalize your subject line (not available for this campaign) and the beginning of your letter text. [Click here](#) to send a letter.
- Watch this [video](#) that Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya sent two days before his detention.

Weekly Resources

- Artist Feature: [Sol Band](#), a musical group formed in Gaza in 2012, plays both traditional Arabic music and their own modern pop songs all around the world. Music has always been a refuge of sorts for the seven members, but during the months they spent in Gaza before they were [forced to evacuate](#) in April 2024, music was especially useful for cultivating hope, even as they [performed and recorded](#) in the rubble and amidst continued bombardment.
- You can view a fantastic toolkit for postering and other artistic actions at bit.ly/armsembargoart
- [The People's March](#) will happen in Washington, DC on January 18. Jewish Voice for Peace and CODEPINK will have contingents, and if you are in the area, you can join them to highlight Gaza right before the inauguration.

Action 2: Call Congress to End Weapons Transfers to Israel & Denounce Torture

- You may phone the United States Capitol switchboard at **(202) 224-3121**. A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the office you request.
- You can also look up the phone numbers for your Congressperson [here](#) and your Senators [here](#).
- There is one suggested script for calling both your Representative and your Senators on the [next page](#) of this document.
- Find data about detained Palestinian prisoners [here](#).
- **UNRWA**: See the bill in the [House](#) and in the [Senate](#). Here's some [background](#) on the bill. Use FCNL's [Action Alert](#) to ask your Representatives to support the bill. Read [Odeliya's piece on the importance of the bill](#). Hassan El-Tayyab from FCNL has also written this piece in [The Hill](#). Read more about [Israel's ban on UNRWA](#) from AFSC [here](#).

Ongoing Reminders & Past Resources

- Take a look at this database from Visualizing Palestine on the question of [intent in Israel's genocide](#).
- Read this new report from [Doctors without Borders](#) on Israel's campaign of total destruction.
- Human Rights Watch released a new report accusing Israel of acts of genocide in Gaza based on [Israel's control of the water supply in Gaza](#).
- Join 430+ organizations and communities in being [Apartheid-Free](#). Sign up to receive the Apartheid-Free newsletter [here](#).
- Send a message to the White House via their [website](#). Send a message to the office of the vice president [here](#).
- Check out our [Action Hour landing page](#) for 13 great resources we've presented over the last 12 months.

- Resources on divestment from AFSC [here](#).
- [Donate](#) to AFSC's work in Gaza. Or use our new [peer-to-peer fundraising tool](#)!
- Use [this link](#) to join an AFSC Signal group where we will post occasional actions you can take besides the ones highlighted on the Action Hour.

Script for Calling

My name is [YOUR FIRST & LAST NAME] and I'm a constituent of [REPRESENTATIVE/ SENATOR NAME]. I'm calling today to ask that [REPRESENTATIVE/ SENATOR NAME] in the new year, call for an immediate cease-fire, arms embargo, and full funding for humanitarian aid. Today, I'm particularly concerned about the abuse and torture of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention facilities.

In the new year, while many are trying to turn over a new leaf, Israeli airstrikes, many with US munitions, continue to kill Palestinians in the hundreds each week. Just today, around 100 Palestinians have been killed. But it is not just Israeli airstrikes that are killing Palestinians, the number of identified detainees from Gaza who have died in Israeli custody is 35.

As of December 2024, according to data provided by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) to Hamoked, an Israeli human rights NGO, there are 10,154 Palestinians in Israeli custody, including 2,003 sentenced prisoners, 2,951 remand detainees, 3,428 administrative detainees held without trial, and 1,772 people held as "unlawful combatants." These figures do not include Palestinians from Gaza who have been detained by the Israeli military since 7 October 2023 and their number remains unknown.

I urge [REPRESENTATIVE/ SENATOR] to do whatever they can in 2025 the new year to bring about a permanent cease-fire, an arms embargo on Israel, and a refunding of UNRWA. During the holiday season, we are reminded that every life is sacred and our actions must match this fundamental truth. Every life taken is one too many.