

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF OREGON  
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02  
REGARDING THE FAMINE, ETHNIC CLEANSING, AND GENOCIDE IN GAZA**

**WHEREAS**, Oregon Democrats are committed to upholding international humanitarian law—including the protection of civilians and the planet—while advancing equity and defending the rights and dignity of all people, both in the US and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon Democrats unequivocally stand for the protection of civil rights and the promotion of social justice, and in opposition to all forms of discrimination, including but not limited to antisemitism, Islamophobia, bigotry, racism, and xenophobia; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the Democratic Party of Oregon’s Resolution 2024-02, we acknowledge the longstanding history of conflict in the Israel–Palestine region and, for the purposes of this resolution, focus on events following the October 7th, 2023 attack; and

**WHEREAS**, since this conflict began, at least 70,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 170,000 wounded, while in Israel, over 2,000 people have been killed and 13,500 wounded, according to figures confirmed by the Israeli Defense Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, in a case brought by South Africa alleging genocide in Gaza, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) found the claims plausible, acknowledged the humanitarian crisis, and—through its January 2024 order and subsequent directives—instructed the Israeli government to take measures to prevent acts prohibited under the Genocide Convention, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, and halt its offensive in Rafah pending further proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2025, the United Nations (UN)-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) confirmed a worsening famine in Gaza, marked by extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition, and starvation-related deaths—conditions with well-documented, severe impacts on communities and future generations—affecting over 2 million people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Israeli government’s actions in Gaza have been characterized as genocide by numerous credible human rights organizations—including Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, Human Rights Watch, B’Tselem, and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel—which report that the Israeli government has severely restricted the distribution of food, water, fuel, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza; and

**WHEREAS**, following a fact-finding mission to the region, Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley coauthored a report in September 2025 condemning the Netanyahu government for ethnic cleansing, citing the government’s public declaration of intent to forcibly remove Palestinians from Gaza, weaponization of humanitarian aid, and intentional destruction of civilian infrastructure including over 90 percent of Gaza’s housing units, hospitals, schools, and

universities, and 86 percent of its water and sanitation facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in a September 2025 report, an investigative body of the UN Human Rights Council concluded that the Israeli government "flagrantly disregarded" international law and committed acts against Palestinians in Gaza that meet the criteria of genocide under the Genocide Convention, including killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction in whole or in part, and imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and

**WHEREAS**, as a party to the Genocide Convention, the US is legally bound to prevent and punish acts of genocide and should take all measures within its power to prevent genocide in any state where it holds influence or capacity to act, and the DPO platform affirms genocide is an affront to humanity as well as our active participation in the ICJ; and

**WHEREAS**, as a party to the Genocide Convention, the US is legally obligated to prevent or suppress acts of genocide and must ensure, under the Leahy Law, that its security assistance does not support foreign military units credibly implicated in human rights violations; and

**WHEREAS**, as of October 2023, the US's spending on military aid to Israel totals over \$21 billion – essential for Israel's ongoing military operations – and in July 2025, 27 Democratic members of the US Senate, including Senator Merkley, voted for a resolution to block offensive arms shipments to Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, the DPO's platform affirms that the slaughter, systematic removal, or forced emigration of distinct cultural groups, known as genocide, is a stain on the global conscience, and that both national and international policy should never enable, fund, provide diplomatic cover to, or ignore crimes against humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, while we recognize the devastating impact of the conflict on the Israeli people, including their losses, suffering, and resulting struggles, the situation in Gaza has reached an unprecedented level of urgency following two years of devastating violence, mass displacement, and blocked aid, resulting in near-total infrastructure collapse, famine, and spread of disease prompting international agencies to urge immediate action to save lives and uphold international humanitarian law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF OREGON RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the Israeli government's actions that have the effect of famine, ethnic cleansing, and genocide in Gaza, including the deliberate targeting of civilian populations and infrastructure in violation of international law, and urge our elected leaders to use every available tool to stop the commission of genocide in Gaza.

**Section 2.** We support (a) an immediate, permanent ceasefire, (b) unrestricted and sustained distribution of humanitarian aid to all affected areas, (c) an international arms embargo on all parties violating international humanitarian law, including a suspension of US military aid to Israel, and (d) the use of all diplomatic, legal, and economic tools to ensure accountability for violations of international law.

**Section 3.** We call for focused, intensive, and intentional rebuilding efforts, backed by robust US and UN funding, to restore Gaza's health, water, sanitation, electricity, housing, and public infrastructure, while supporting the revival of civil society and economic life for both Palestinians and Israelis.

**Section 4.** We affirm our commitment to a just and lasting peace for all in the region, including the right to self-determination, safety, and dignity for both Palestinians and Israelis, and honor our commitment to ensuring Oregonians of all faiths and ethnicities have a sense of belonging in the Democratic Party.

*Resolution submitted by Andrea Ottoman, Benton County; Susan Leonard, Linn County; Nathan Burroughs, Linn County; Garrett Fleenor, Washington County; Andrew Rosales, Douglas County.*