

“You take my water, burn my olive trees, destroy my house, take my job, steal my land, imprison my father, kill my mother, bombard my country, starve us all, humiliate us all, but I am to blame: I shot a rocket back.”

~ an old man in Gaza

The Asheville Friends Meeting calls on Congress and the President to:

- * **prohibit U.S. military aid to Israel from being used for annexation of West Bank/East Jerusalem.** The prospect of unilateral annexation places the vision of a lawful, diplomatic, and equitable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict under unprecedented threat. Annexation not only contravenes international law and decades of established U.S. policy, but also overturns the basic premise that Palestinians have a right to self-determination and security in their own homeland.
- * **oppose the displacement of Palestinians by Israeli settlers and ensure that U.S. equipment and funding is not used for any demolition activity.** Settlements are illegal under international law, whether in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem. Jerusalem must be regarded as a city that can be shared by both peoples, with open access to the city for Palestinians as well as Israelis, as a religious, political, socio-economic, and residential center.
- * **fully fund United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) programming, which provides basic health and education services for 5.6 million Palestinian refugees living in Gaza and the West Bank.** Since the United States stopped the nearly \$360 million in funding for the program in 2018, UNRWA has been facing a major funding crisis and urgently needs contributions to continue its life-saving work. Without UNRWA, millions of Palestinians will face food and water insecurity and go without basic healthcare and emergency services.
- * **oppose restrictions that prevent Gaza from accessing electricity and water.** Israel's policy of withholding essential human needs such as water and electricity are forms of collective punishment and as such are violations of international law and deeply antithetical to our Quaker principles. Israel needs to increase the amount of water and electricity it sells to Gaza and allow the region to rebuild its water and sewage infrastructure.