

For Immediate Release
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**Moving from Ceasefire to Free Palestine:
Gathering to Remember the Martyrs
Sunday, January 19th, 2025, at 6:30 pm
Islamic Society of Milwaukee Community Center, 815 West Layton Avenue**

The Wisconsin Coalition for Justice in Palestine (WCJP), representing 87 organizations across Wisconsin, will gather to remember and honor the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian lives lost over the past 15 months. We will not forget the role our own government played in carrying out the genocide, a legacy that will forever brand President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken. We will continue to advocate for an end to the Israeli occupation and brutal apartheid, a comprehensive arms embargo, and the liberation of Palestine.

The Coalition cautiously welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire agreement in Gaza, after 15 months of unrelenting genocide on the Palestinian people. True to form, Israel has continued to massacre Palestinians, mainly women and children in Gaza, since the announcement of the potential ceasefire.

This ceasefire deal is the same one offered nearly eight months ago and rejected by Israel. The current deal was reached when incoming President Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff met with Netanyahu. The US has always had the capacity to stop the genocide in Gaza, but the Biden administration opted to enable it instead.

While we welcome the ceasefire, Israel has historically violated such agreements, including the recent agreement with Lebanon. This ceasefire is the first step in rebuilding Gaza and releasing all hostages, including the thousands of medical personnel, teachers, and hundreds of children taken from Gaza and tortured by Israel, and the more than 10,000 Palestinians taken from the West Bank. We call for the prosecution of Israeli and American war criminals and reparations to the Palestinians. The liberation of Palestine is non-negotiable.

While hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were killed and hundreds of thousands maimed, with nearly 1 million children in need of mental health and trauma care, the real losers in this genocide are Israel and the United States government. They have lost their moral standing and will forever be known as war criminals and enablers of genocide.

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