

RESOLUTION NO. 6664

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF AN ENDURING CEASEFIRE IN GAZA, UKRAINE, HAITI AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

WHEREAS, the Gardena City Council recognizes that all human life is precious regardless of color, religion, ethnicity, or nationality; and the targeting of civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law and basic human morality; and

WHEREAS, since the horrific Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, in which over 1,200 Israelis were killed and more than 240 taken hostage, over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli response and nearly 70,000 wounded, 70 percent of whom are women and children; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an “immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce” between Israeli forces and Hamas militants in Gaza, and numerous other international humanitarian organizations have similarly called for a sustained ceasefire; and

WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice has determined the plausibility of genocide and that Israel is in violation of the Genocide Convention; and

WHEREAS, since February 24, 2022, tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians – children, mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, and other human beings – have been killed by Russian military forces bombing and shelling of apartment buildings, private residences, hospitals, children’s schools and playgrounds, and other non-military locations in cities throughout the sovereign state of Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Federation as the aggressor, has committed violations of human rights and war crimes against the Ukrainian people; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine is a sovereign, autonomous democratic state whose borders and territorial integrity cannot be changed by force and whose citizens have an inherent right to make their country’s decisions and determine their country’s future; and

WHEREAS, following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, Haiti has descended into a multidimensional crisis characterized by political deadlock, extreme violence, and dire humanitarian conditions; and

WHEREAS, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, between January 1, 2023 and August 15, 2023, at least 2,439 people have been killed and a further 902 injured and 951 kidnapped; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti the first

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quarter of 2024 was the deadliest for Haitians with around 2,500 people killed or injured in gang violence, which amounts to a 53 percent increase in casualties from the previous reporting period, the most violent period since the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti's Human Rights Section started recording statistics in January 2022; and

WHEREAS, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, devastating protracted conflict has been ongoing for nearly thirty years, which has seen a considerable escalation since 2022. Since the conflict began in March 2022, approximately 1.6 million people have been displaced according to United Nations data; and

WHEREAS, in early 2024, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo intensified further, particularly between the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the armed rebel group M23. Tensions are also rising between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, with them blaming each other for supporting various armed groups. The Democratic Republic of Congo accuses Rwanda of backing M23.

WHEREAS, the escalation of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo has resulted in devastating consequences for civilians. People in the region are living in extremely precarious conditions, lacking access to basic necessities such as clean water, healthcare, and food. Additionally, the spread of cholera poses a significant threat, primarily due to the mass displacement of people;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY FIND, DETERMINE, AND RESOLVE, that the International Court of Justice has determined the plausibility of genocide and that Israel is in violation of the Genocide Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gardena City Council condemns anti-Semitic, anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, Islamophobic, and all xenophobic rhetoric and attacks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gardena City Council urges the Biden Administration, Senate, and Congress to cease being complicit in the genocide and work towards a permanent ceasefire, providing humanitarian aid, restoring funding to UNWRA, and the release of all hostages, detainees, and political prisoners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gardena City Council condemns the continued Russian invasion of Ukraine and honors the courage and spirit of the Ukrainian people in their resistance against unjust aggression.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gardena City Council condemns the increasing violence, criminal activities, and human rights abuses and violations which undermine the peace, stability, and security of Haiti.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gardena City Council condemns the

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increasing violence, criminal activities, and human rights abuses and violations which undermine the peace, stability, and security of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and to each member of the California Congressional delegation urging them to use their position to enact a sustained ceasefire in Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution; shall cause the same to be entered among the original Resolutions of said City; and shall make a minute of the passage and adoption thereof in the records of the proceedings of the City Council of said City in the minutes of the meeting at which the same is passed and adopted.

Passed, approved, and adopted this 14th day of May, 2024.



TASHA CERDA, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mina Semenza

MINA SEMENZA, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CARMEN VASQUEZ, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS:
CITY OF GARDENA)

I, **MINA SEMENZA**, City Clerk of the City of Gardena, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of said City is five; that the foregoing Resolution, being **Resolution No. 6664** duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City of Gardena, approved and signed by the Mayor of said City, and attested by the City Clerk, all at a regular meeting of said City Council held on the **14th day of May 2024**, and that the same was so passed and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: MAYOR PRO TEM HENDERSON, COUNCIL MEMBERS FRANCIS,
 TANAKA AND LOVE, AND MAYOR CERDA

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Becky Romero

fr City Clerk of the City of Gardena, California

(SEAL)