



October 22, 2023

President Joseph Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Laphonza Butler  
United States Senate  
The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: De-escalation of Violence in the Middle East**

Dear Mr. President and Members of Congress,

I am heartbroken by the two weeks of violence and loss of life in Israel and Gaza.

Just this past week, the Al Ahli Hospital, which is overseen by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and located in the eastern Gaza City neighborhood of Zeitoun, was rocked by a second bombing. Early estimates are above 500 dead, including women and children who were taking shelter in the courtyard, while conservative estimates put the number of Palestinian children killed by the ongoing airstrikes at 700 to 1,000.

So as a necessary addition to my repeated prayers for peace, I write to you, the people we have elected and who may have the power to change the course of events, to do all that is in your power to de-escalate the violence.

As a follower of the teachings and example of Jesus, I encourage you to embrace and amplify calls for action that will make for a just and lasting peace, including an immediate cease fire and an end to plans for an Israeli ground invasion which would necessarily mean the loss of many more civilian lives.

I ask that you publicly call for, and work with the Israeli forces to create safe corridors for those seeking to move away from the fighting, and safe zones for those who cannot or will not leave their homes.

I further ask that you work with international governments and aid organizations to bring much needed food, fuel, water, temporary shelters and other vital supplies to those displaced peoples in Gaza.

I understand that feeling of anger and a desire for revenge for recent events are coursing through many in Israel. And I understand the frustration and resentment of Gaza Palestinians who have been displaced and imprisoned for many years, some all their lives. And we will have to deal with those issues. But I hope you will agree that civilians should never be targets of military action and that the most important thing now is to prevent more violence against innocent civilians.

For a just and more peaceful world,

(Print Name & Address) \_\_\_\_\_