

By: Bhojani

H.R. No. 76

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On October 7, 2023, Hamas militants based in Gaza
2 attacked southern Israel, murdering approximately 1,200 people and
3 seizing over 230 hostages; the cruel assault was met with worldwide
4 condemnation; and

5 WHEREAS, The international community also deplores the
6 increasingly catastrophic response by the Israeli government; its
7 relentless campaign of air strikes has laid waste to entire
8 neighborhoods, including homes, schools, hospitals, and places of
9 worship; more than two-thirds of the population is displaced and
10 over 11,100 Gazans have died, among them 4,500 children and
11 thousands of women and seniors; this terrible death toll surpasses
12 the number of children killed in conflict zones around the world
13 each year since 2019, according to humanitarian organization Save
14 the Children; and

15 WHEREAS, Over 28,000 Gazans have been injured and the health
16 care system is collapsing; conditions in the region are growing
17 ever more dire, with dwindling access to food, clean water,
18 electricity, fuel, and communications; many Texans are wracked with
19 worry for relatives trapped in Gaza, and compassionate people the
20 world over fear for their plight, as well as for Israeli hostages
21 held by Hamas in dangerous locations; and

22 WHEREAS, We recognize that the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian
23 communities, as the Abrahamic faiths, are impacted and devastated
24 by the recent conflict in the Palestinian Territories of Gaza and

1 the West Bank, and Israel; and

2 WHEREAS, The State of Texas encompasses one of the most
3 socio-demographically diverse regions in the country, with
4 thriving Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities, and is home to
5 hundreds of synagogues, mosques, and churches; the coalition
6 between Muslims, Jews, and Christians plays a fundamental role in
7 joining diverse communities and leveraging their strength to deal
8 with this conflict through extensive interfaith and community
9 engagement efforts; and

10 WHEREAS, Tensions in the Middle East have provided fuel for
11 those who would stoke prejudice and division, particularly among
12 communities that are connected to this ongoing conflict; and

13 WHEREAS, In Texas, local Arab, Muslim, and Jewish communities
14 are facing increased physical and verbal assaults and intimidation
15 due to heightened Islamophobia and antisemitism; these threats have
16 been made clear in recent years through such incidents as the murder
17 of a Muslim South Asian pediatrician in Conroe and the mass shooting
18 in Allen by a Nazi sympathizer; and

19 WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott and other officials have spoken
20 out forcefully against antisemitism and in support of Israel's
21 right to defend itself; Arab, South Asian, and Muslim communities
22 are increasingly frustrated and dismayed by the Abbott
23 administration's muted reaction to Islamophobia in Texas and by the
24 failure to call for a cease-fire in Gaza; these communities have
25 become more civically engaged in our democracy, as acceptance of
26 diversity has expanded, but silence in the face of mass civilian
27 casualties in Gaza and rising bigotry in our state leaves members

1 alienated and disheartened; and

2 WHEREAS, Governor Abbott has demonstrated his influence in
3 addressing the ongoing conflict, as evidenced by his assertive
4 measures, including the allocation of funds to 31 Jewish
5 organizations with the purpose of security enhancements and his
6 personal visit to the region; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
8 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby:

9 1. Urge Governor Greg Abbott to utilize all available means
10 to achieve a cease-fire in Gaza;

11 2. Mourn the lives lost and the destruction, both physical
12 and emotional, in the region known as the Holy Land, which holds
13 religious significance and reverence in all three Abrahamic faiths;

14 3. Grieve for our community members and all those throughout
15 the United States who are emotionally connected to this conflict or
16 have family and relatives in the Holy Land;

17 4. Condemn the rising antisemitism, Islamophobia, and
18 objectionable rhetoric and rising hate in our communities;

19 5. Believe that the diversity of our state is our strength
20 but the social bonds we create and nourish are our power; and

21 6. Seek understanding, respect, and recognition of our pain
22 through peaceful and civil discourse to set an example for other
23 communities to follow.