

From: [Edwin Andrews](#)
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Subject: Ceasefire resolution
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 10:26:19 AM

Statement to the Malden City Council

June 4th, 2024

My name is Edwin Bartilon Andrews. I live at 83 Cleveland Street in Ward 8.

I am here to urge the esteemed members of this council to vote “no” on the proposed Ceasefire resolution regarding Israel and Gaza. What is happening is tragic but is solely the result of Hamas breaking the existing ceasefire on October 7th during the festive Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah. Calling for a ceasefire now before Israel has destroyed Hamas simply plays into Hamas and its enablers’ hands.

My background is a bit different than others'. My mother was born in Morocco, descended from Jews who fled the Spanish Inquisition and who then lived peacefully in Muslim-majority Morocco. My mother survived WWII because sailors on the USS Massachusetts (harbored here in Battleship Cove in Fall River) helped free North Africa during Operation Torch on November 8th, 1942. Had it not been for this campaign, she, along with the rest of the Jewish community in Morocco, would likely have met the same fate that six million Jews and five million others met in Europe simply because of who they were. Had Israel existed in 1939, the Jews of Europe would have had a safe haven and many if not most of my fellow Jews would have survived the Holocaust.

The re-establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948 was the dream of Jews for 2000 years due to virulent anti-Semitism, from the Crusades to the Inquisition to pogroms that culminated in the Holocaust. Every Passover seder ends with “Next Year in Jerusalem!”. That dream was fulfilled on that day.

This ceasefire resolution has no place in Malden politics for many reasons. This resolution only serves to divide this beautifully diverse community and would prevent the only majority Jewish nation from defending itself from entities that have vowed to destroy her.

One unintended result of Hamas’ attack on Israel on October 7th, 2023 is to make me (and perhaps many others) feel more Jewish than I have ever felt.

I again urge members of this esteemed body to vote “no” on a Ceasefire resolution.

Edwin Andrews

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