

**From:** [Yale Robinson](#)  
**To:** [Mayor Christenson](#); [Peg Crowe](#); [Paul Condon](#); [Amanda Linehan](#); [Ryan O'Malley](#); [Ari Taylor](#); [Stephen Winslow](#); [Chris Simonelli](#); [Jadeane Sica](#); [Craig Spadafora](#); [Karen Colón Hayes](#); [Carey McDonald](#); [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)  
**Subject:** Vote "NO" on the Ceasefire Resolution  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2024 6:46:09 PM

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Dear members of the Malden City Council,

I ask you in the strongest terms to vote "NO" on this, or any other, ceasefire resolution in the Israel-Hamas war. There is no moral equivalence between a democratic nation whose stated goal is the protection of its civilians and a terrorist organization whose stated goal is the elimination of Jews worldwide.

I lost a friend in 2002, when he was murdered in a bus bombing perpetrated by a Palestinian suicide bomber. My friend's name was Yoni (Jonathan) Jesner, from Glasgow, Scotland. He and I studied at the same Israeli yeshiva (seminary). A photograph of his face, along with more than a thousand other victims of the second intifada, is posted on the coatroom door at Congregation Beth Israel in Malden, where I worship as an Orthodox Jew.

The history of Palestinian terrorism runs even deeper into the past. Consider the hijacking of airplanes and the murder of innocent passengers in separate incidents in Dawson's Field (in the country of Jordan, 1970), Entebbe (Uganda, 1976), and Egyptair flight 648 (Malta, 1985). There was also an attempt to bomb a plane bound for Israel, thwarted by Israeli airline security professionals, an incident known as the Hindawi affair (1986). All four attacks occurred in the 1970s and '80s, a time when air travel was less safe, in part because of hijackings. I would add Pan Am flight 103 in Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, allegedly bombed by a radical Islamist terrorist from Libya; and of course the September 11, 2001, attacks here in the United States, again the evil actions of nineteen Islamist terrorist hijackers and their supporters.

The only reason we aren't still seeing these type of attacks in 2024 is that airport security and international law enforcement have stepped up preventative measures. Similarly, the wave of suicide bombings in Israel from 2001 and onward only started to subside after the Israeli government took the extraordinary action of building a border wall separating the West Bank from adjacent areas in Israel. We have to affirm our faith in the words of King Solomon in the Bible, that if God doesn't watch a city, the watchman's diligence is futile (Psalms 127:1). Thank God we live in a world where we don't experience terror directly on a frequent basis.

The October 7, 2023, Hamas attack against Israel was a new version of an old hateful Palestinian tactic of war against innocent civilians. We cannot tolerate it, any more than we would even consider relaxing airport security and border integrity. If Hamas is rewarded with a ceasefire that allows their military to retain capabilities of harm, the threat of a repeat incident, whether in Israel or elsewhere, becomes more plausible.

We must also hope for more out of a ceasefire than the return of the remaining living hostages, whose numbers may unfortunately be fewer than publicly reported estimates may suggest. Families of the deceased hostages strongly desire the opportunity to receive closure and give their loved ones an honorable burial in Israeli cemeteries. Israel has other legitimate demands, too, and this is part of the reason a comprehensive ceasefire-for-hostages deal has not yet been agreed by the parties. Moreover, Hamas has repeatedly offered to release only SOME of the hostages in exchange for a withdrawal of ALL Israeli soldiers from Gaza and the release of Palestinian criminals held in Israeli prisons. This is a an uneven, unfair and unreasonable

offer that Israel has rejected, and rightly so.

It is none of your business to meddle in such negotiations, particularly when you would take the wrong side of morality. Please leave the resolution of such matters to the parties and, to an extent, the federal government of the United States in its foreign policy role.

You don't have to be influenced by college students, the mainstream media, or the United Nations ceasefire resolution that passed a few months ago. You can, and should, make a different decision.

If you choose not to support my people's homeland, then please stay on the sidelines and maintain silent neutrality.

As a concluding note, my friend Yoni Jesner is most famous for his final act of grace, the donation of his kidney to a Palestinian girl from East Jerusalem. The family's decision to approve the organ donation without regard to who would receive the lifesaving transplant, has won widespread praise from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, of blessed memory, and other leaders. Yoni's memory, and the foundation in his name that still operates in the United Kingdom, stand for the truth that peace is possible and is worth praying for and striving for.

Thank you for your service to the people of Malden, and for reading this message.

Sincerely,

Yale Yechiel N. Robinson  
22 Bartlett Street  
Malden, MA 02148

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