

From: [Aiya Kanawati](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: Please support a Ceasefire. ENOUGH!
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 11:43:25 AM

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Whittier -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear City Clerk,

E-comment:

Thank you for the time and invaluable work you provide to enrich our community. I write to you today as a concerned member of this community. Over the past four months, I like many Americans have witnessed the most-well documented genocide of our time. I have watched this genocide of 35,000 human beings with my own tax dollars. I have heard their screams through my phone. The name of my country is written on the bombs crushing them. Our federal leaders have suppressed our desires for a ceasefire. Although 83% of Democratic voters have united to stand against genocide, we witness our federal leaders dismiss these concerns and dismiss the 35,000 human lives that have unnecessarily departed us. We stand firm in our beliefs for the protection of all human life no matter the birthplace or creed and are desperately urging our local leaders to represent our voices.

Israel began bombing the last "safe zone" once the super bowl started yesterday. At the same time, they aired propaganda ads on our super bowl claiming they are not committing genocide. The last safe zone holds 1.5 million refugees who were told to flee their homes from the north to this safe zone which is in the most southern tip of the country. Several children have frozen to their death due to being displaced. There are reports of families eating donkeys, cats and other wild animals. There are also images of cats and dogs eating human corpses. People finding piles of skeletons in every corner. They do not even have the simple luxury of getting buried. With 1.9 million Palestinians displaced in the winter, disease, starvation and dehydration are spreading quickly as people do not have clean water, restrooms nor sanitation. This is all funded by American citizens and is not sustainable. We are paying for freeloaders to have health care and genocide sprees yet our own moms and dads are turned away from hospitals. I have experienced this first hand.

Every year, Whittier residents pay 1,010,734 dollars to Israel. This is our portion of the annual bill which doesn't include the random deals that have been made since the start of the genocide. While our money is being dropped in the form of bombs onto human beings, we have potholes in our streets, limited program funding, teachers paying out of pocket for supplies and the lingering hope that one day, we can live a decent, dignified life as working-class Americans. I can assure you that we would be much more successful and healthier if Cerritos money stayed in Cerritos rather than it casually being spent on genocide. We stand firm in our solidarity for the native people of Palestine and strongly wish that our council conveys our perspectives by calling for a ceasefire immediately. It would be a shame for all of us to have read Anne's diaries yet allowed a genocide to commence under our nose. Thank you.

Kind regards,
Aiya Kanawati