

Pray-in at the U.S. Senate Calls For Congress to Support Israel-Hamas Ceasefire

When and where: Thursday, November 9, 12:30pm at the Senate Hart Building (201 1st St NE, Washington, DC 20002).

[RSVP here](#)

What: Christian peacemakers will conduct a “pray-in” calling on U.S. Congress members, particularly Christian members to abide by Jesus’ way of courageous love and to heed Christian leaders, such as Pope Francis’ call to take the side of peace, and urge all parties to:

1. **de-escalate hostilities**
2. **abide by an immediate ceasefire**
3. **release all hostages**

The *focus must shift* to diplomacy, accountability mechanisms, robust humanitarian aid, and strategic peacebuilding.

*After the pray-in we will visit key Senate offices to advocate for the above initiatives.

We encourage you to come in person. If necessary, watch event on [Instagram Live](#): via Franciscan Action Network

Why: Urgent action is needed to stop the mass slaughter and destruction and to save lives. War is trauma, not justice.

Dozens of national **Christian organizations have advocated for Congress and President Biden** to take the necessary steps to de-escalate the conflict in Israel-Palestine, including calling for a humanitarian ceasefire, for all parties to prioritize corridors for humanitarian aid for the people in Gaza, to prioritize steps to secure the immediate release of hostages, and to choose the side of peace.

President Biden/U.S. Government policy and Pope Francis are NOT on the same page. On October 23, President Biden stated that in a phone conversation he had with Pope Francis the previous day, the pope “was across-the-board supportive” of the U.S. “game plan” in the Israel-Hamas conflict, and “the pope and I are on the same page.” Tragically, President Biden is not on the same page with the pope. If he was, he would support a ceasefire, which the pope called for following his October 29 Angelus prayer. Moreover, if he wanted to truly de-escalate the conflict, President Biden and the U.S. Congress would call on Israel to end the total siege of Gaza and attacks in the West Bank, withdraw U.S. aircraft carriers from the region and stop sending U.S. weapons to Israel. They would then develop strategic accountability mechanisms and work for a regional peace summit.

As followers of Jesus, we are challenged to follow His nonviolent example and be His courageous peacemakers. Jesus rejected and called us beyond the ethic of “an eye for an eye.”

[RSVP here](#)

We grieve the loss of Jewish lives on October 7 resulting from the Hamas attack. And we grieve the loss of countless Palestinian lives resulting from Israel's total siege of Gaza, whereby water, electricity, food and fuel have been cut off, the relentless indiscriminate bombing of Gaza, forced displacement of over one million Gazans, and now a military ground incursion in Gaza, what Israeli officials describe as the "second stage" of the war.

On October 18, Pope Francis declared: *“The number of victims is growing and the situation in Gaza is desperate. Everything possible must be done to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe... Lay down weapons and heed the cries for peace from the poor, the people and the innocent children. War solves no problems. It only sows death and destruction, increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future... I urge all believers to take one side only: that of peace.”*

Alarmed that the [U.S. vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution](#) calling for a humanitarian pause in Israel's ongoing bombardment and siege of Gaza, and that President Biden's October 19 Oval Office address so heavily focused on sending more weapons to this conflict while ignoring its root causes, Catholic leaders warned Biden, a fellow Catholic, that this would *“increase the dehumanization, destruction, and trauma of all communities involved.”* *“As people of faith, we condemn Hamas' attacks and taking of hostages on October 7, and Israel's retaliatory violence that impacts all the people in Gaza,”* the [letter](#) states. *“We mourn the loss of all life... We affirm that each person has been created in the image and likeness of the God of Love ... Now is the time to call for de-escalation and ceasefire, before more lives are lost and the conflict spreads.”*

War is not accountability. Retribution is not accountability. Only with de-escalating steps and a ceasefire can we work for accountability. Only then can we mobilize credible voices who have the right leverage to create conditions for detaining those responsible for harm. Only then can we do the deeper, transformative work of accountability.

Despite this and numerous **other appeals, including from Jewish and Muslim peace and human rights organizations**, calling on the Biden Administration and the U.S. Congress to facilitate a ceasefire, President Biden and the vast majority of U.S. congress members have not done so.

As the conflict continues to worsen each day, the risk of a wider regional war escalates. We act in solidarity with all people of conscience everywhere—Israeli and Palestinian, Muslim and Jewish, people of faith or none—who are calling for a ceasefire now and advocating nonviolent solutions to end this war and **bring about a just peace.**

[RSVP here](#)

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