

Rabbis Talk of “death marches” and “extermination” in Gaza

Part of a statement from the Rabbinical Council of Jewish Voice for Peace

As rabbis we have taken on a sacred responsibility to protect our ancient tradition, to support our community, and to offer moral leadership amid crisis. ...

We call on you and all people of conscience to show up today and heed our tradition’s insistence that we **speak truth** – *dabru emet* (Zechariah 8:16), and choose life – *u’vacharta bachayim* (Deuteronomy 30:19). We must ask ourselves who we are: will we be like the courageous “righteous gentiles” who risked their personal safety to protect and save Jewish lives during the Nazi holocaust? Or will we behave like those who “didn’t want to get involved” or joined the Nazi party enthusiastically? There is no middle ground. We implore you: join us in speaking truth and choosing life. We need everyone.

Dabru emet, speak truth: The Israeli military is herding Palestinian men and boys into lines, and forcing them to walk toward pits. **These are death marches.**

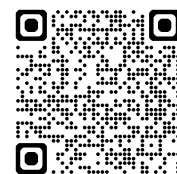
Dabru emet, speak truth: The Israeli military is forcing Palestinian families to flee again and again, even as there is nowhere safe from their bombs. **This is ethnic cleansing.**

Dabru emet, speak truth: The Israeli military is *burning Palestinians to death* in hospitals and displaced persons camps. The Israeli military is *burying Palestinians alive* in the rubble of their destroyed homes. The Israeli military is *abandoning infants to die and decompose*. **This is a campaign of extermination.**

These atrocities are crimes against humanity, a phrase codified within international law in response to the Nazi holocaust, seeking to prevent horror of this magnitude from ever happening again. *Lo ta-amod al dam re’echa* (Leviticus 19:16): we must not — we will not — stand by watching endless Palestinian blood shed. **So many lives can still be saved.**

We must honor our ancestors who were murdered by Nazis when the most powerful nations in the world allowed genocidal violence to escalate unchecked. We must honor all our ancestors who were displaced and killed because of racist, nationalist ideologies throughout our history. We must honor our ancestors by shouting the truth to the heavens and putting our bodies on the line to stop the Israeli government’s genocide of Palestinians now. *Ameinu*, our people, are those who stand up to stop genocide.

To see the whole Oct 2024 statement scan the QR Code



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Committee in Solidarity with Palestinians