

Minute calling for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian access to the civilian population of Gaza The following Minute was approved by the Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) on November 5, 2023. (2023.11. 1) Albuquerque Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) join with the national and international community of Friends, represented by the American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker United Nations office, Canadian Friends Service Committee, British Yearly Meeting (British Quakers), and expressed through their letter of October 17, 2023, in “calling for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian access to the civilian population of Gaza.” As a faith community committed to peace and justice, we also join in their call for “action to address the underlying injustice of occupation and inequalities underlying this situation in the long term.” We note that since the release of the October 17 letter, the civilian death toll in Gaza has risen to over 9,000 persons and continues to rise by the day and hour. Neither exchanges of dehumanizing rhetoric, including all expression of anti-Semitism or Islamophobia, nor further military action will bring peace any closer. These actions undermine any hope for stability and healing. We call on President Biden and our members of Congress to recognize the humanity of every person affected by this conflict, to use the persuasive and the financial power of the United States to bring about a ceasefire by all parties, to assure that vital humanitarian aid is allowed into Gaza and made available to all located in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and surrounding regions who have been uprooted by this conflict. We further urge use of the diplomatic resources of the United States, the United Nations and the nations and organizations within the region to work toward a lasting, equitable, sustainable resolution to all conflicts dividing Israelis and Palestinians, with whatever legal and geopolitical structures are most appropriate to all those living in this conflicted region. The Presiding Clerk of Albuquerque Friends Meeting shall share this minute and the letter from AFSC/FCN/QUNO/CFSC/British Quakers with the members of our Congressional Delegation, with the President of the United States and with the wider community as appropriate.