

6 Sandstone Way

Exeter, NH 03833

USA

24 May 2024

The Chairperson of the Select Board of the Town of Exeter, NH

Dear Chairperson and Board members,

Re requested humanitarian resolution

Only on Friday night did I see the recording of your last meeting. The above referenced request is an important matter and so I am writing to you on Saturday and I hope to attend your next meeting on Tuesday.

International matters should not be for this Board to consider unless they affect the town directly. There have been no resolutions by the Board regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine nor the civil wars in the Sudan nor Syria, as far as I am aware.

Our Secretary of State has made a huge number of visits to the Middel East since October 7 to try to negotiate a ceasefire and the release of the hostages. Many proposals have been put forward but they have been rejected by both sides at different times. The resolution, as worded, calls for actions that are already being taken by the federal government so the recommendation of the Town of Exeter is not going to enhance the federal government's actions.

The request for you to take action outside the town is, I believe, the reason that would necessitate the holding of a special town meeting. I doubt that a Judge would consider this matter to be urgent and an emergency that requires such a meeting.

However, I do believe that you could pass a humanitarian resolution without the outside actions requested. In passing such a resolution you need to be constantly aware of possible 'unintended consequences'.

As you know there has been a huge increase in antisemitic acts and talk in the last 12 months - even before the October 7 attack. It is important that a resolution that you pass cannot be cited or construed as adding to the excuses for antisemitic actions here or elsewhere. Criticism of the government of Israel is no basis for antisemitic attacks on Jews in USA.

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The resolution's wording and the words spoken by Dr Manzur give the impression that the only thing that has happened is the imminent starvation of civilians caused by Israel's actions in Gaza. That ignores the causes of the current conflict.

- a) On October 7, Hamas operatives invaded Israel and attacked civilians who were going about their ordinary business and some were having a dance party. That attack is a War Crime.
- b) The attack itself was brutal, horrendous and unspeakable with burning alive, rape, killing of children and babies. That is a War Crime.
- c) Hamas took over 250 civilian men women and children hostage. That is a War Crime.
- d) For many years, and even now, Hamas has been sending rockets into Israel aimed at residential areas. That is a War Crime.
- e) Hamas has been using schools, hospitals and even UN property to warehouse munitions and weapons. That has resulted in inappropriate criticisms of Israel for destroying these facilities.
- f) Hamas has used and is still using the ordinary population of Gaza as shields of their military operations. That is a War Crime.

The situation in the Middle East is very complex and beyond the understanding of most of us in USA. We wish all people to be free and have their human rights respected. We here in Exeter cannot accuse or encourage one sided thinking.

For all these reasons, I ask you to reject the resolution as written.

Sincerely,


Ivor W Freeman