RESOLUTION

Catina Taylor, MFT59 ESP President
Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and Educational Support Professionals, Local 59
612-749-8311

MINNEAPOLIS, November 2, 2023

Israeli-Palestinian Resolution
MFT mourns the loss of innocent life in Israel and occupied Palestine. We categorically reject violence against all civilians whether Israeli or Palestinian. We therefore call for an immediate ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza and to de-escalate the conflict. As Americans, we also condemn the role our government plays in supporting the system of Israeli occupation and apartheid, which lies at the root of the Palestinian Israeli conflict. Finally, we call on the Minnesota State Legislature to repeal anti-BDS (boycott, divest, sanctions) legislation as it stifles free speech and discriminates against Palestinian refugees, their families, and their supporters. The BDS movement is a peaceful and powerful way to affect lasting, positive change in the region.

Resolution on Palestine
We educators in MFT Local 59 condemn the Israeli government’s criminal military punishment of the Palestinians in Gaza including cutting off water, food, power supplies and medicines. We condemn the leadership of Hamas for its brutal Oct 7th attack on everyday Israelis, which only invites reprisals by the Israeli military. We condemn the threat by Israel to millions of Gaza residents told to flee their homes in the north to the south of the Gaza Strip ahead of a brutal land invasion. We condemn the Biden administration for their backing of the Israeli state’s war on Gaza. We, as educators, recognize that the cost for this militaristic and vengeful way of dealing with conflict falls hardest on student-aged kids and their families in both Gaza and Israel.
We call for:

• An end to the war on Gaza
• An end to U.S. military funding for Israel's war machine
• Solidarity against war and terror
• An end to the occupation and blockade
• A powerful, international, anti-war, anti-imperialist movement

The Palestinian people of Gaza are now facing an unimaginable human catastrophe as the Israeli military imposes a brutal blockade on Gaza and forced displacement, while heavily bombing the territory.

We condemn the brutal Israeli air and ground assault on the people of Gaza, and call for an immediate cease-fire, humanitarian aid to help Gazans recover, an end to US military aid to Israel, the release of all hostages on both sides, and an end to the Israeli occupation and subjugation of Palestinian lands.