

*Please see the following Open Letter from a number of USAID staff urging the Biden Administration to join growing calls for a ceasefire between the State of Israel and Hamas. Please note that this letter remains anonymous. If you choose to 'sign' your identity will be protected. Drafters request that you 'sign' by filling out this anonymous [googleform](#). Thank you.*

Currently signed by 934 Staff of the United States Agency for International Development [As of 7:30 pm, November 7, 2023.]\*

\*[This letter was written collectively by several USAID staff members. Signatures went live 10am November 2, 2023. Since then, the letter has been shared informally colleague to colleague. The letter is still open for signature and sharing.]

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### **An Open Letter from USAID Staff**

We are USAID personnel across different hiring mechanisms coming together from various professional and personal backgrounds. We are compelled to raise our collective voices and moral consciousness to urge USAID, the State Department, and the Biden Administration to join the [growing calls](#), nationally and globally, for an immediate ceasefire between the State of Israel and Hamas.

As development, public health, and humanitarian assistance professionals, we are alarmed and disheartened at the numerous violations of international law; laws which aim to protect civilians, [medical](#) and [media](#) personnel, as well as [schools](#), hospitals, and [places of worship](#). At the time of writing, an alarming number of civilian deaths have been documented in the Gaza strip, and [entire Palestinian families](#) wiped off the civil registry. According to [Save the Children](#), 3,197 children were killed in Gaza in just 3 weeks which supasses the annual number of children killed in conflict zones globally since 2019. The United Nations [reports](#) that the health system is on the brink of collapse. Twelve of Gaza's 35 hospitals are no longer functioning. Since the beginning of Israel's indiscriminate bombing campaign, the World Health Organization reports that there have been [34 attacks on healthcare facilities](#), including 21 hospitals; while [73 healthcare workers](#) have been killed. Further, we are incredibly alarmed at the lack of functioning maternity and newborn units due to Israel's siege, and a growing number of [pregnant women forced to undergo emergency C-sections](#) without anesthetics. We are also deeply concerned about Israel's unlawful use of white phosphorus, documented by [human rights organizations](#).

While we appreciate and acknowledge efforts by USAID to call for an urgent humanitarian response in Gaza and understand that the Agency is working tirelessly to make this happen, we must remember that humanitarian assistance efforts and life-saving aid are largely rendered moot in situations of escalating and indiscriminate bombing and violence. For USAID efforts to be effective and for lives to be saved, we need an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities. We believe that further catastrophic loss of human life can only be avoided if the United States Government calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of Israeli hostages, and the restoration of water, food, fuel, and electricity to the people of Gaza by the State of Israel. In the longer term, we call on the United States Government to join the international community and human rights organizations in holding all

parties, including the State of Israel, to international law, which includes ending Israel's [illegal occupation](#) of the Palestinian territories and settlements on occupied land.

We join our colleagues and peers on Capitol Hill who have expressed [similar concerns](#). Like them, we sign this letter anonymously out of concern for our personal safety and risk of potentially losing our jobs due to our plea for an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities that, as **of November 6, 2023, have now claimed the lives of more than [10,000 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis](#)**.

Sincerely,

**934** Staff of the United States Agency for International Development

[As of 7:30 pm, November 7, 2023. Signatures went live 10 am November 2, 2023]

To add your 'signature,' fill this [googleform](#).

Contact: [usaidopenletter.ceasefire@gmail.com](mailto:usaidopenletter.ceasefire@gmail.com)

Current signatories are from the following USAID Bureaus, Offices, and Missions:

<b>Washington Bureaus and Offices</b>	<b>Missions</b>
Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization	Peru
Bureau for Global Health	Mexico
Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security	Uganda
Bureau for Planning, Learning, and Resource Management	Malawi
Bureau for Management	West Bank and Gaza
Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance	Egypt
Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance	Tunisia
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs	Syria
Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnership, and Innovation	Ethiopia
Office of the Administrator	Yemen
Office of Human Capital and Talent Management	Tanzania
Office of the Inspector General	Ukraine
Office of Policy	Zambia
Executive Secretariat	Guatemala
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization	Ghana
Office of Security	India
Office of Civil Rights	Nigeria
Asia Bureau	Indonesia
Latin America & Caribbean Bureau	Azerbaijan
Africa Bureau	Zimbabwe
Europe and Eurasia Bureau	South Africa

Middle East Bureau	Kosovo
	Democratic Republic of the Congo
	Burundi
	Mozambique
	Moldova
	Jordan
	Cambodia
	Benin
	Albania
	Colombia
	Philippines
	Honduras
	Côte d'Ivoire
	Nepal
	Namibia
	Brazil
	El Salvador
	Liberia
	Botswana
	Somalia
	Pakistan
	Haiti
	Afghanistan
	Morocco
	Kenya
	Vietnam
	Niger
	South Sudan
	Iraq
	Senegal
	Bangladesh
	Lebanon
	Mali
	Middle East Regional Platform
	Southern Africa
	West Africa
	Regional Development Mission of Asia

	Central Asia
	El Salvador and Central America & Mexico Regional (ES-CAM)