

An Open Letter to Senator Fetterman from “Fetterman for Senate” Staff:

We, former staffers of the Fetterman for Senate campaign, write this letter to you with deep grief and anguish over the Palestinian and Israeli lives lost over the past two weeks. We watched the October 7 Hamas attack in horror and continue to pray for those affected and for the safe return of the hostages. We have also been devastated to watch the Israeli government’s brutal collective punishment of Palestinians in Gaza in response.

Since October 7th, the Israeli government has cut off access to water, food, and electricity from Gaza; restricted internet access inside of Gaza and outside journalists from entering Gaza to observe the conditions and document the air siege; used white phosphorus on civilians, in violation of international law; displaced over one million people, half of them children, in Northern Gaza; and bombed innocent Palestinians in their homes, churches, hospitals, and along so-called evacuation corridors; all while blocking life-saving humanitarian aid from reaching Gazans.

Watching the United States military apparatus beat the drum for war – promising the Israeli government unconditional weapons support, a blank check for more destruction that will lead to the killing of more innocent Israelis and Palestinians including children – has been heart wrenching. Watching you lead that charge has felt like a gutting betrayal.

These are not the values that we believed you to hold, and these are not our values. On the trail, your overarching promise was to “Forgotten Communities” – people and places that get overlooked, written off, and left behind. You can’t be a champion of forgotten communities if you cheerlead this war and the consequent destruction of Palestinian communities at home and abroad. We are speaking out now because we played important roles in electing you. We cannot in good conscience stay silent at this moment.

Senator, it is not too late to change your stance and stand on the righteous side of history. The horrors unfolding against Palestinians are only getting worse by the day. Continued violence and bloodshed does not serve the Israeli or Palestinian people, it will only continue to kill civilians on both sides. We call on you to use the position we elected you to to champion peace, not war; and demand a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, the de-escalation of violence, safe return of Israeli hostages, and the safe passage of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Our hearts ache for a world free from antisemitism, islamophobia, hate, and violence in all forms, where Jews and Muslims and Palestinians and Israelis are able to live in freedom, safety, and dignity. The path to that world begins with peace.

Sincerely,
Fetterman Alumni for Peace