



**Council on American-Islamic Relations
Greater Los Angeles Area**

2180 W. Crescent Ave, Suite F, Anaheim, Ca 92801
Tel: 714.776.1847 Fax: 714.776.8340 info@losangeles.cair.com

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email: mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

May 19, 2019

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

We were deeply offended at your recent endorsement of the unilateral decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. This place, what Palestinians call Al Quds, the Holy City, is sacred to Christians and Muslims alike, not just to Israeli Jews. It is a site that has been home to Palestinians for centuries upon centuries, a site that is a centerpiece to the hope of achieving peace in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

We were distraught when hearing of this news from you, our Mayor, especially in the month of Ramadan.

Part of the U.S. Embassy lies in what international human rights agencies and the United Nations have declared as Occupied Territory, and it is illegal for Israel to annex any part of the land as an occupying force. In endorsing the embassy move, you are affirming the death of the very peace you advocate for.

We strongly believe that the status of Jerusalem is a matter for negotiations between the government of Israel and representatives of the Palestinian people. The Trump Administration's decision to move the US Embassy undercuts our government's reputation and ability to act as a trusted broker for a revived peace process. It also supports the racist intentions of the Netanyahu government and its supporters who would ethnically cleanse the Palestinian people from their homes in Jerusalem.

As Mayor of Los Angeles, you must represent all Angelenos. As a mayor who has engaged with diverse Angelenos and put an effort to protect their rights, your declaration of support for Jerusalem as the capital of Israel tarnishes your record of speaking for all of us in the City of Angels.

Therefore, we request that you, in the spirit of cooperation and respect for all people and faiths, retract your support for this dangerous and offensive action, apologize to your Christian, Jewish and Muslim constituents whose views and values you are supposed to represent and hold a meeting with the interfaith community to discuss your statements.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

- Hussam Ayloush, Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Greater Los Angeles Area



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- Estee Chandler, Founder of Jewish Voice for Peace – Los Angeles
- Dr. Ahmed Soboh, Board Chairman of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California
- Randall Heyn-Lamb, Los Angeles Chapter Convener of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship's Palestine Israel Network
- Joe Roos, Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Chapter of Friends of Sabeel North America
- Rashad Al-Dabbagh, Executive Director of the Arab American Civic Council