Honorable Representative (or Senator) [name],

As your constituent, I am responding to the ongoing devastating violence in Israel and Palestine, and in Gaza in particular, by urging you, as our representative in Congress to take the following actions:

* In the U.S. House of Representatives: Co-sponsoring and supporting the Ceasefire Now Resolution (HR 786), championed by several Congressional officials, including Representatives Cori Bush, Rashida Tlaib, André Carson, Summer Lee, and Delia C. Ramirez.
* Oppose any new military aid to Israel, as it would only be used to commit further war crimes targeting Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Over 8,500 Palestinians have been killed, including more than 3,500 children and 2,200 women. As of Jan. 12, 2024, the Israel/Palestine conflict continues with Palestinian fatalities exceeding 23,000 since Oct. 7, 2023, including more than 9,000 children and 5,300 women.
* Acknowledge the loss of lives and recognize the humanity on both sides, including Israelis and Palestinians.
* Demand that the United States reassert its leadership role as a negotiator in pursuit of a lasting peace. This includes addressing the root causes of violence and ending Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and its apartheid policies.

The primary goal of the Ceasefire Now Resolution, sponsored by a diverse group of dedicated members of Congress, calls on the Biden Administration to urgently seek a de-escalation and ceasefire in Israel and occupied Palestine. It also emphasizes the vital need for sending humanitarian aid to Gaza, with a primary goal of saving innocent lives caught in the crossfire of the ongoing conflict.

Every day is a new atrocity, and the death toll keeps climbing. No location is spared as Israel targets hospitals, schools, churches, mosques, and even refugee camps all while denying 2.3 million people access to food and clean water. The U.S. cannot continue to be complicit in war crimes. Now is the time to act. Now is the time for a ceasefire.

Your Name  
Your Address  
Your Telephone

**Background information**

The conflict in Palestine is not new; it has its roots in the occupation of Palestinian land over seventy years ago. Before making public statements about the current crisis, it is essential to understand the heart-breaking reality of life in Gaza.

* Palestinians have endured decades of illegal land seizures and dehumanizing, abusive checkpoints that limit their free movement.
* Israel and Egypt have maintained a 15-year-long land, sea, and air blockade of Gaza, restricting their access to food, clean water, electricity, and medicine--creating what Human Rights Watch has described as “the largest open-air prison.”
* According to the UN, between 2008 and 2021, the death toll from the Israel/Palestine conflict is disproportionately borne by Palestinians, more than 23:1.
* Since Oct. 7, 2023, a significant escalation in violence has resulted in a catastrophic humanitarian disaster in Gaza. As of Jan. 12, 2024, the updated figures reveal a tragic toll, with Palestinian deaths surpassing 23,357, while Israeli deaths from the Oct. 7 attacks are estimated to be 1,200. The bombardment of Gaza has displaced 1.9 million people, destroyed critical infrastructure like hospitals, schools, bakeries, mosques, and churches, and caused a life-threatening humanitarian crisis. Human rights organizations and advocates from all over the world have stated that Israel’s cutting off of food, water, fuel, and healthcare amounts to war crimes.  These current statistics highlight the ongoing impact of the conflict, underscoring the urgency for resolution and international attention.
* The United Nations has repeatedly deemed Israel's aggressions in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank as "illegal under international law" and a "substantial obstacle to peace,” with Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, B’Tselem, and others unequivocally declaring Israel an apartheid state.