

# VETERANS FOR PEACE



## **NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Susan Schnell - President  
Michael Wong - VP  
Paul Cox - Secretary  
Mike Tork - Treasurer

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Nyamekye Anderson  
Ellen Barfield  
Gerry Condon  
Michael Dempsey  
Nick Mottern  
Ken Mayers  
Matt Southworth  
Joshua Shurley  
Brian Trautman

### **ADVISORY BOARD**

Andrew Bacevich  
Medea Benjamin  
Phyllis Bennis  
Roy Bourgeois  
Jackson Browne  
Paul Chappell  
Charlie Clements  
Marjorie Cohn  
John Dear  
Phil Donahue  
Jane Fonda  
Kathy Gilbert  
Chris Hedges  
Matthew Hoh  
Ann Jones  
Kathy Kelly  
David Krieger  
Paul Norton "Pete" McCloskey Jr.  
Raymond McGovern  
Tom Morello  
Ralph Nader  
Miko Peled  
Jeremy Scahill  
Margaret Stevens  
Oliver Stone  
David Swanson  
Cornel West  
Mary Ann Wright  
Rev Lennox Yearwood

### **NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

Mike Ferner

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contacts: Susan Abulhawa: +1.267.391.5386**

**Suzanne Adely: +1.773.510.7446**

## **VETERANS FOR PEACE JOINS INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION ATTEMPT TO REACH RAFAH BORDER CROSSING WITH GAZA**

VFP board member, Gerry Condon, is among an international delegation of writers, lawyers, journalists, activists, students, and organizers who arrived in Cairo, Egypt this week with the goal of reaching the Rafah border crossing with Gaza to exert pressure to open the border for the immediate entry and sustained flow of urgent humanitarian aid—food, water, fuel, and medical aid to 2.3 million Palestinians facing starvation and death as genocidal Israeli airstrikes continuously pound defenseless civilians.

In response to the Palestinian and Arab calls for civil society to challenge Israel's deadly occupation by heading immediately towards the Egyptian-Palestinian crossing to bring urgent humanitarian relief to 2.3 million people, we have just submitted a request to the Egyptian authorities for permission to travel to Rafah.

Israel's wanton bombing has killed over 11,000 people, a shocking number of whom are children who were gruesomely buried alive in their bombed homes or had their bodies shredded by these bombs. Thousands more remain unreachable under the rubble, and over 27,000 are injured. Water, food, fuel, and medical supplies have been cut off, with only a trickle of aid trucks making it through the Rafah crossing.

The healthcare sector has completely collapsed, either through direct Israeli bombing or from lack of medicine and electricity to treat patients. Israel's targeting of civilians includes destruction of more than 50 percent of homes in Gaza, nearly all bakeries, water treatment plants, schools, clinics, and other infrastructures for life.

-MORE-

As Palestinians in Gaza teeter on the brink of life, without sustenance or shelter, we call for an immediate end to Israel's barbaric bombing and invasion of Gaza. We call on the world to intervene in any and every capacity to end the ongoing genocidal attacks against a defenseless civilian society, which has been unrelentingly terrorized for 35 days.

We urge all peoples and governments to act urgently to end this horror. There are hundreds of aid trucks currently parked in the desert waiting to enter the Rafah crossing. We demand they be allowed to reach Palestinians whose needs are dire and desperate.

Stop Israel's genocidal war on Gaza Now! Open the Rafah border Now!

-end-

**Participating organizations:**

National Lawyers Guild

Veterans For Peace

International Action Center

US Peace Council

Black Alliance for Peace

Samidoun

International Association of Democratic Lawyers

Workers World Party

Sanctions Kill

Palestine Writes

United National Antiwar Coalition

Association for Investment in Popular Action Committees

Philly Palestine Coalition

Free Julian Assange Committee