

RESOLUTION 20-03.23

Resolution affirming the need for Israeli and Palestinian leaders to return to direct mutual negotiations to discuss peace, refugee rights and final borders

1 WHEREAS following the Arab-Israel Conflict of 1948, the United Nations passed a 15 paragraph non-
2 binding Resolution 194, suggesting “refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with
3 their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation
4 should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property....”
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6 WHEREAS, even though the Palestinian leadership and allied governments rejected Resolution 194, and
7 established international law has limits to such rights of return based on recency of the displacement and
8 impact of massive population shifts, many activists have demanded a unilateral “Right of Return” into
9 Israel, a country of 8.7 million, for the 5 million descendants of the 750,000 Palestinians displaced over
10 70 years ago, without meeting the other requirements of the non-binding resolution or any mutually
11 negotiated settlement.
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13 WHEREAS it has been the policy of the U.S. government since 1949 and the Democratic Party as recent as
14 2019 to have any such disposition of property, compensation and rights of refugees be directly
15 negotiated between the Palestinians and Israelis as a part of a larger peace agreement incorporating a
16 two state solution and the rights of the parties to live in a secure peace with each other in dignity,
17 recognizing international human rights standards and opposing any attempt by Israel to unilaterally
18 annex the West Bank and the demands of the Palestinian Authority and its allies to forcibly integrate
19 Israel, a majority Jewish state, and the Palestinian Territories into a single, majority Arab state, directly or
20 indirectly.
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22 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party opposes unilateral annexation of
23 territory on either side of the 1948 Israeli-Palestinian conflict and reiterates that any related rights of
24 refugees should solely be determined through bilateral, direct negotiations between the parties that
25 justly address compensation, rights of return and final borders in a manner that ensures the safety,
26 security and dignity of the parties involved.
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party supports the dignity, security, and self-
29 determination of both the Israeli and Palestinian people each in their own viable state, and affirms that a
30 lasting peace can only be achieved through direct negotiations among all parties in the region.

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