

NBI# 38

2024 FORM FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

MTA solidarity and mobilization in support of student protests and a ceasefire in Gaza 4/26/24, 3:46 PM

NBI Name		Date and Time	
Miranda Alpert		Sharon Teachers Association	
Delegate Making the Motion	Cell	Email	Association Represented or Retired
Merrie Najimy, Joe Herosy, Nicholas Cream		Lexington Education Assoc., Retired, Holyoke Educators Assoc.	

Delegate Seconding the Motion	Cell	Email	Association Represented or Retired
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According to the MTA Standing/Special Rules:
With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.

MOTION

MOVED:

In line with our union's call for a ceasefire in Gaza, the MTA will publicly denounce the nationwide attacks on students organizing in protest of the genocide in Gaza. We will state our support for and defense of our colleagues and students at universities who are being disciplined, arrested, and suspended for standing in solidarity with the people of Gaza and will encourage our members to mobilize in support of the students, faculty, and staff under attack.

The MTA will also encourage members to attend and organize protests, marches, rallies, and other actions to demand a ceasefire, no more military aid to Israel, the return of all hostages, and humanitarian aid to Gaza. The MTA will reach out to other unions such as the United Auto Workers and United Electrical workers, who have both signed onto the call for a ceasefire, to visibly stand together as organized labor in support of the above demands.

SUBMITTER'S RATIONALE:

The worsening war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza is a labor issue. The NEA, MTA, and some of its locals are part of the National Labor Network for Ceasefire. This group supports an immediate, permanent ceasefire, restoration of basic human rights, return of the Israeli hostages and unimpeded humanitarian aid to Gaza. The NLNC includes the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), Association of Flight Attendants (AFA-CWA), National Nurses United (NNU), International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), United Auto Workers (UAW), United Electrical Workers (UE) and many more.

The MTA and NEA should call for an immediate stop of US military aid to Israel. Earlier this week, the US Senate bipartisanly passed a \$95.3 billion foreign aid package, which President Biden has now signed into law. The bill includes \$15 billion in military aid to Israel. An additional \$9 billion is allocated for "worldwide humanitarian aid", but the bill specifically bans funding from going to the primary UN agency that supplies aid to Palestinians in Gaza. We should have a say in where our tax money goes. US workers do not want to fund a war which devastates innocent civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Additionally, unions representing tens of thousands of student workers across the nation have called for a stop to the arrests and suspensions of students demonstrating for the end of the war on Gaza. The repression of free speech and assembly on higher ed campuses is increasing. As educators, we should defend our students' and fellow education workers' exercise of basic civil and democratic rights.

DUES IMPACT: \$0

SUBMITTER'S COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE: \$10,000 for signs expressing MTA support for a ceasefire

MTA COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE (For MTA use only):

MTA Cost Estimate: \$0

MTA Staff Time Estimate: 0