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Netanyahu termed Israel's slaughter of tens of thousands of innocents as a holy mission and invoked the old testament. "You must remember what Amalek has done to you," says our holy bible. "Now go and smite Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have and spare them not; but slay both man and women, infant and suckling, ox and sheep and camel and ass."

This is the very definition of genocide. And as the past year and a half has shown us the U.S. has become guilty of violating the laws of war. The U.S. has systematically given weapons, military intelligence, and financial support to the tune of ten's of billions of dollars to commit the crime of genocide against Palestinians, by creating conditions of life calculated to destroy the people. The U.S. is a co-belligerent, giving weapons that are used to kill vastly disproportionate numbers of civilian Palestinians compared to any legitimate military objective. We are looking at an area, 20x6 square miles with the highest population density, in which the equivalent of two atomic bombs have been dropped. This is not a natural disaster this is a policy choice made by Israel with the full support of the U.S. government.

Criticism of Israeli human rights violations is not anti-semitic. Criticism of Saudi violations is not islamophobic, criticism of Myanmar violations is not anti-buddhist, criticism of India violations is not anti-hindu. If any of those are true, then there is no human rights framework. And if only the case of Israel is true then that's a racist proposition, that only Palestinians can't have their rights.

A vast majority of people protesting the genocide have been Jewish Voices for Peace. If this bill passes then we will further criminalize and strip all people of their right to free speech, to criticize any government that commits the gravest of crimes against humanity. This bill will further embed racist ideologies into our state in an era where we, as humankind, should be progressing not regressing. Does Maine want to be known as a state where we wrapped the US flag around the people's face?