

**Written Testimony for the Public Hearing of LD #1383 An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations**

**Submitted January 20, 2026**

I am writing today to all of you because there is blood on my hands. Yours too.

For over 2 years, many of us have watched horrors unfolding through our screens. In 2025, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry, a body dedicated to investigating violations of International Law, has confirmed, unequivocally, what many of us have known for decades: That a genocide is being perpetrated by Israel in Gaza.

When international law, the underpinning of all of our (yours and mine) human rights to life and dignity, is violated through the atrocity of genocide, it is the *legal* obligation of all member states of the United Nations to take the action necessary to end the genocide.

However, for the past 2 years, our government has not only allowed, but sponsored, encouraged, and enabled this genocide to continue. The current administration AND the one before it have funneled our tax dollars, our hard-earned, much-needed money, into the killing machine, sending billions of dollars, BILLIONS of dollars, of our money, to murder men, women, and children indiscriminately.

We are facing a cost of living crisis, while those in charge - across the aisle - line their wallets with money made from investments into weapons and oil, the very things that are killing us, here, in Maine, and in Gaza. Not only is our federal government failing to take action against the current genocide in Gaza, they are facilitating the killing, they are profiting from it.

The blood is on our hands, but this greed is not our greed.

As the current administration deploys its pitifully untrained military police under the guise of national security and the name ICE, the American people are showing that we are not going to lie down and accept violations of our rights. We won't allow our government to kill with impunity, on American soil or anywhere else.

Hundreds of thousands of us are mobilizing across the country, from LA to Minneapolis, to here in Maine, against fascism. When, across the globe, governments have failed to take concrete action to stop the genocide in Gaza, where nearly HALF of the victims have been children, and when our own government has shown that in the White House, there is no moral compass - the people have to take matters into our own hands.

We can end our own complicity, start pouring our money back into our own communities, rather than killing machines overseas, and wipe our hands clean. Maine is, and has always been, a leader in this country, and with LD 1383 we have a real opportunity to draw the line against fascism. Thank you for listening.