

LD1383

Committee on State and Local Government,

Hello,

My name is Ridgely Fuller, I live in Belfast and I ask you to join me in supporting LD1383

Some may characterize LD1383 as solely an attempt to discredit Israel. This characterization is dangerously misleading and very short sighted.

We must look at the destruction of Gaza as precisely the 'canary in the coal mine' leading to the destruction of humanity itself - Palestine rightly has opened our eyes to what happens when full scale genocide is allowed to continue with no accountability.. Rulings by the ICC, ICJ, expert human rights organizations and the continued protest of millions of people throughout the world, including Maine, have not been able to stop the perpetrators and complicitors. This has been years in the making. I continue to reflect on one visit to Palestine some 20 years ago when one night I witnessed teenagers throwing rocks at lines of Palestinian cars carrying terrified families to their annual religious celebration. In speaking with a teen who turned out to be an American from Brooklyn, I mused that he must know such behavior in the US would land him in jail, he replied simply "that's why we come here". A small incident but in hindsight for me, a likely harbinger of what now is. We see when human rights abuses multiply, get uglier and are allowed to become the norm, the practice spreads like untreated cancer.

Recognize it- it takes only a willing President with a huge military arsenal to trample on all laws, national and international: in the past year our President has illegally attacked Iran, Yemen, Somalia, Nigeria, Syria, Venezuela and is now threatening Greenland, Mexico, Cuba and Iran again. Our country has remained the number one exporter of arms for decades. Is this how we want to express our values and use our resources.?

With complete disregard for human rights, abroad, the impunity spreads into the US itself through ever expanding ICE with its masked armed agents terrorizing, injuring and killing our people and our communities. We are preparing for Maine to be next on this ever expanding list.

Given this international, national and state reality, Maine residents now turn to our state legislature with LD 1383 to divest from the corporations making such worldwide terror and destruction possible. Through financial divestment Maine will ~~be~~ proudly be the first state to publicly reclaim the very basic moral standard of protecting human rights and humanity itself.

Please act courageously as you have before.. Please Pass LD 1383.

Thank you,
Ridgely Fuller