

On Wednesday, January 28, 2009, the ALA Council replaced and *adopted* 2008-2009 ALA CD#18.1, Resolution on the Connection between the Recent Gaza Conflict and Libraries, for 2008-2009 ALA CD#36 of the same name.

Resolution on the Connection Between the Recent Gaza Conflict and Libraries

WHEREAS, Libraries, archives, cultural treasures, schools and universities have been destroyed during the recent Gaza conflict, and

WHEREAS, ALA Council passed CD#18.8 of 2001-2002, Resolution on the Destruction of Palestinian Libraries, Archives, and other Cultural Institutions, in which the American Library Association called upon "the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to prevent further destruction of libraries and cultural resources and to provide material assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of these resources," and

WHEREAS, ALA is a member of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, which is affiliated with the International Committee of the Blue Shield, the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross, which provides emergency response to cultural property at risk from armed conflict, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Senate ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict on September 25, 2008, and

WHEREAS, More than 1200 Palestinians and 13 Israelis have died, more than 5300 Palestinians have been wounded, and thousands have been displaced, and

WHEREAS, The majority of the dead and wounded have been civilians including women and children, and

WHEREAS, While terrorism must be condemned on both sides, Israel's response is causing a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions, and

WHEREAS, The Israeli military is using U.S. weapons, and

WHEREAS, The resources wasted in this conflict could be used for rebuilding and greatly enhancing the libraries and educational and cultural institutions of Palestine and Israel, and

WHEREAS, The Middle East conflict can only be solved through diplomacy, and the Gaza conflict decreases the chances for a meaningful peace process, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the American Library Association

1. Calls for the protection of libraries and archives in Gaza, and urges the US Government to support the United States Committee of the Blue Shield in upholding the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and
2. Calls on the US Government to strenuously work for an immediate permanent ceasefire, and
3. Calls on the US Government to work toward disarmament in the region, and
4. Transmits this resolution to the U.S. President, U.S. Secretary of State, all members of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, the library press, and other appropriate individuals and organizations.

Moved by Alfred Kagan, SRRT Councilor, *Crowne Plaza Hotel*

Seconded by Elaine Harger, Councilor at-large

REVIEWED FOR CONFORMATION WITH
GUIDELINES
by Council Resolutions Committee