

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 29

Approved January 21, 1974

Resolved,

That

WHEREAS, the Syrian Nation is in violation of the Geneva Accord of 1949, in its treatment of Israeli Prisoners of War, which has brought criticism to it from various veterans, social and political sources; and

WHEREAS, they have refused to make known their Prisoner Lists, to permit Red Cross inspections, and otherwise are in violation of all rules of humanity and civilized treatment of Prisoners of War,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Syrian Delegate to the United Nations and the Premier of Syria are hereby fervently requested that the Prisoners of War captured in the Israeli Conflict be immediately freed and returned to their native country, and that the President of the United States of America, the Secretary of State, and the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation be urged to make all adequate efforts to cause proper treatment to said Prisoners of War and all others similarly situated.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 17 1974

FILED AND RECORDED

FILE

Vincent Vespi  
CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

Joseph A. Paolillo Jr.  
JAN 21 1974

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Caution Pearlman

January 24, 1974

Senator Claiborne Pell  
325 Old Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 29, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

January 24, 1974

Senator John O. Pastore  
3215 New Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Pastore:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 29, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

January 24, 1974

Congressman Robert O. Tiernan  
417 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tiernan:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 29, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

January 24, 1974

Congressman Fernand J. St. Germain  
2136 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D C. 20515

Dear Congressman St. Germain:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 29, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

January 24, 1974

Secretary of State, Henry A. Kissinger  
Department of State  
2201 C Street  
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary of State:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 29, Approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 1, 1974

Dear Fellow American:

Secretary Kissinger has asked me to reply to your communication concerning Israeli prisoners-of-war in Arab countries.

We share the deep concern of many of you about the safety and humane treatment of Israeli POW's. Our recent experience with POW's in Viet-Nam makes us especially sympathetic to any efforts to hasten the release of prisoners. We have urged all parties to the October War to comply with the Geneva Convention governing the treatment of war prisoners and to make available lists of prisoners. Our efforts in effecting a prisoner exchange between Israel and Egypt have been very successful.

Syria, however, has taken the position that it will not release the names of the Israeli prisoners of war it holds until Israel complies with the Geneva Convention on occupied territories and with UN Security Council Resolution 340 which calls for a return to the lines of October 22 when the initial cease-fire resolution was passed. The United States has done everything it can, and will continue to do so on behalf of the POW's. We have talked with the Soviet Union, with the Egyptians and with the Syrians to try to find a way to reconcile these competing claims. We are hopeful that the prisoner-of-war issues in Syria will be resolved through such diplomatic contacts and through our efforts toward a general settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol C. Laise".

Carol C. Laise  
Assistant Secretary  
for Public Affairs



January 24, 1974

President Richard M. Nixon  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I submit, by direction of the City Council, the accompanying duly certified copy of Resolution No. 29, approved January 21, 1974, the same being self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence

VV:pf

Enclosure

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# Congress of the United States

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 30, 1974

Mr. Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

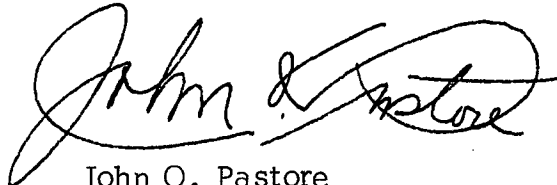
Dear Mr. Vespia:

Thank you for your letter of January 24 and for sending to me a certified copy of the resolution of the City Council of the City of Providence concerning the plight of Israeli soldiers held prisoners of war by Syria.

I am in complete sympathy with the resolution and, in fact, I have contacted our State Department to see what can be done to expedite the return of these Israeli prisoners to their homes.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John O. Pastore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Pastore" being more prominent and written in a larger, more stylized script than the first name.

John O. Pastore  
United States Senator

JOP:mtl

ROBERT O. TIERNAN  
2ND DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
417 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

January 30, 1974

Mr. Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island  
02903

Dear Vinnie:

Thank you for sending along to me copies of  
Resolutions No. 29 and 30.

I appreciate the humanitarian feelings of the  
Council and assure you that I am in agreement with  
the views expressed and will act accordingly.

Sincerely,



ROBERT O. TIERNAN  
Member of Congress

T/lka

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MIKE MANSFIELD, MONT.  
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ROBERT P. GRIFFIN, MICH.

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF  
ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

February 4, 1974

Mr. Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

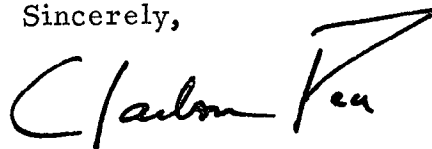
Dear Mr. Vespia:

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the Resolution adopted by the Providence City Council regarding Israeli prisoners held by the Syrian Government.

I share the concern of the City Council. The main problem is to determine the most effective way of exerting pressure in a situation where the United States has no diplomatic relations with Syria and only limited economic ties. I know that Secretary Kissinger is fully aware of the urgency of the problem and is applying his energetic diplomacy in finding a solution. I certainly will do everything I can to help.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,



Claiborne Pell

FERNAND J. ST GERMAIN  
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

2136 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

200 JOHN E. FOGARTY BUILDING  
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02903  
TEL.: 528-4323

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

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**BANKING AND CURRENCY**  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON BANK  
SUPERVISION AND INSURANCE

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS**

January 31, 1974

Mr. Vincent Vespia  
City Clerk of Providence  
City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Mr. Vespia:

Thank you for taking the time to send me a copy of the Resolution adopted by your City Council with regard to the treatment of Israeli Prisoners of War by the Syrian Nation.

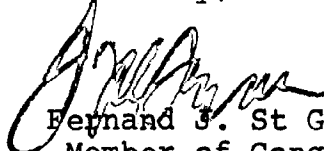
For Americans the memory of our POW's held in North Vietnam prison camps is still a fresh and bitter memory. We are too familiar with the years of suffering, the inhumane treatment, and in many cases, the refusal to even disclose the names of prisoners so that their families would know that they were still alive.

That period of darkness, which Americans can never forget, has now been thrust upon the people of Israel by the barbaric behavior of the Syrian government. That government obstinately persists in holding over 100 Israeli prisoners of war, and, in gross violation of the Geneva Conventions, we hear that the Syrians have tortured and murdered 42 other captives.

It is too much to find words to comment on such despicable acts. We can only hope and pray that the protests and outcries from people around the world will bring the Syrians sufficiently to their senses so that they will release their remaining Israeli captives unharmed.

Meanwhile my heart goes out in deep sympathy to the friends and families of the Israeli POW's. And, joining with the City of Providence, I want to associate myself fully with your position.

Sincerely,

  
Fernand J. St Germain  
Member of Congress

FJStG:bWh