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## Opinions on the Israel-Hamas War

It has been over six months since Hamas first attacked Israel on October 7, 2024, and a mix of people in the Boston area are ready for a cease-fire in Gaza.

Overwhelmingly, Boston residents have grown tired of the violence and growing counts of death throughout the Israel-Hamas war.

“The huge loss of civilian life is horrific, and I think that anyone should be able to look at it and see that,” Ivy Epstein (CQ), a 23-year-old teacher from Philadelphia who was reading a book on a bench in Back Bay said.

Epstein identifies as Jewish, and while not raised within a religious setting, she believes that many people are not aware that the war is not tied to Judaism as a whole.

“It is completely separate from the religious aspect of it, which I think people are forgetting,” Epstein said. “And I think that’s where it gets a little bit dangerous in terms of the conversation.”

Mark Germano (CQ), a 40-year-old real estate investor from Champaign, Ill. was enjoying the sunny weather in Boston Public Garden and was eager to share his views on the war.

“Yeah, so I’m a fan of all cease-fires in every form,” Germano said. “It doesn’t really bother me, like one side or the other. I just don’t think that resorting to violence is the way to solve anything.”

The war itself has a complicated history, which has caused confusion for some Boston residents.

“There’s a long history there that I don’t quite understand,” Rallee Holt (CQ), a 44-year-old school teacher from Boston said.

Holt originally stated that she did not want to take a side in the war, but reverted her statement after reflecting on current events.

“I think there’s a famine happening in Gaza, so I feel like they should be able to feed their citizens,” Holt said. “Israel should be able to defend themselves, but I don’t think taking their [Palestine’s] food and killing aid workers is helping the situation.”

Sarah Jensen (CQ), a 27-year-old medical laboratory scientist from Illinois who was sitting in the Boston Public Garden enjoying an iced coffee, supports a cease-fire, but has grown weary of listening to news about the loss of life.

“I kind of stopped paying attention a while back. A few months ago there was the attack on a hospital, as well as the overwhelming amounts of reports of children being killed,” Jensen said.

“There has to be a better way to go about this.”

Sam Bailly (CQ), a 34-year-old renewable energy developer from Cambridge is also hoping for a peaceful resolution.

“I think that there’s been enough bloodshed,” Bailly said. “I’m particularly driven by the humanitarian crisis that has been caused by Israel’s occupation in Gaza.”

When asked if she would call for a cease-fire in Gaza, Juliette Clements (CQ), a 20-year-old student at Emerson College from Plymouth, Ma. said that she supports the movement and feels that the war is unjust.

“I would say people around me definitely share the same view,” Clements said.

According to Clements, 13 students were recently arrested after protesting during Jay Bernhardt’s (CQ) inauguration as Emerson College’s new president. The students were upset that the college put out a statement in support of Israel, and protested the stance.

“I don’t really know much about the situation, but I’ve heard the statistics and I think that in itself speaks a lot,” Clements said.

Like other civilians in the Boston area, Ivy Epstein is ready for Israel to bring an end to the suffering in Gaza.

“In any capacity, that loss of life should be really alarming,” Epstein said. “It’s always been too much and it’s gone way too far.”