

PRESS RELEASE

“This is great news and, we hope, a permanent step away from future purchases of Israel’s government bonds and an end to investment in American corporations doing business with Israel,” said Jasmin Hummos of American Muslims for Palestine, Toledo Chapter and the statewide No New Bonds Coalition. “We applaud the principled decision of Lucas County leaders to stop supporting war crimes and genocidal acts that have killed more than 40,000 Palestinians according to the Gaza Health Ministry, with the figures likely significantly higher according to experts.”

“Lucas County still has perhaps \$2 million invested in Israel Bonds which will mature in a year or so. We will continue to advocate that when they mature, the County doesn’t reinvest the money in the Israel quagmire,” noted Terry Lodge, attorney for the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition. “The International Court of Justice recently ruled that Israel’s settlements on Palestinian lands in the West Bank are completely illegal and must be abandoned. Those illegal settlements are supported in part by bond purchases. Investing public funds in illegal activities is itself illegal. We believe the Lucas County Commissioners are exercising responsible leadership.”

“I commend the dedicated efforts of the local organizers in Toledo and congratulate them on this milestone. Their dedication has not only led to a significant victory in Lucas County but also serves as a powerful example for other communities nationwide. We are committed to amplifying the voices of the rest of our chapters and communities, ensuring that these grassroots successes inspire and empower others to take bold, principled action, and shift the status quo. The decision by Lucas County is a testament to the strength of collective, and consistent, grassroots advocacy, and we hope it marks the beginning of a broader, stronger ripple effect to divest from entities that practice injustice and oppression.” - Ayah Ziyadeh, Advocacy Director of AMP National

The No New Bonds campaign is a statewide coalition effort. Among the many grassroots supporters are Toledo's American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), the Toledo-based Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition, the Fremont-based People for Peace & Justice of Sandusky County, Cleveland Peace Action, and the Cleveland Palestine Advocacy Community. The coalition consists of dozens of organizations and thousands of people across Ohio who seek to end the use of local and state tax revenue to support the ongoing Israeli genocide of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the occupation of Palestinians.

