

The Amateur Computerist

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Support for Student Encampments Spring 2024

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Introduction

At 4 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, a group of Palestinian, Jewish and other students at Columbia University in NYC began to

construct a “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.” A large poster read, “We demand: 1. Financial divestment, 2. Academic boycott, 3. Stop the displacement, 4. No policing on campus, and 5. End the silence.” The peaceful encampment was on the small East Lawn not blocking any building or any walkway. On Thursday April 18, the University authorized the NYPD to enter the campus and clear the encampment. The police arrested 108 protestors without any resistance. The arrest of students peacefully demonstrating for an end to the genocide of Palestinians and for the end of Columbia University’s investment in Israel and the war industries contributing to that genocide, triggered similar encampments and demands on many U.S. campuses, at some of which the police were called. In April and May 2024, in the U.S. there were more than 120 encampments and more than 3,000 people arrested or detained at campus protests.

This issue of the *Amateur Computerist* begins with a list of over 130 universities in the U.S. and in other countries where students set up such encampments in support of the people of Palestine and for an end of the war against Gaza. The list is followed by a collection of public statements made during the encampments in support of the student led pro-Palestinian movement and in defense of the rights of peaceful assembly and free speech on campuses.

The issue ends with three articles and a blog post, “I Can’t Sleep,” which document the source of the anger and frustration that is motivating people all over the world to seek ways to help end the inhumanity being imposed on Gaza and on the Palestinian people in the West Bank.

Gaza Solidarity Encampments at 130+ Universities (April and May 2024)

American University
Arizona State University
Auraria Campus (Denver)

Barnard College
Berklee College of Music
Brown University

Bryn Mawr College
Cal Poly Humboldt
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Community Collage of Denver
Cornell University
CSU Sacramento
CUNY (CCNY Campus)
D.C. Encampment
DePaul University
Drexel University
Duke University
Emerson College
Emory University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Florida State University
Fordham University
Gallaudet University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Hamline University
Harvard University
Haverford College
Howard University
Indiana University - Bloomington
Indiana University - Indianapolis
Johns Hopkins University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University
Mass Institute of Technology (MIT)
Metropolitan State Univ of Denver
Miami University
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
New York University (NYU)
North Carolina
North Carolina State
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University

Persons The New School for Design
Pitzer College, Claremont
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rhode Island
Rice University
Rutgers University
San Francisco State University
Smith College
Sonoma State University
Stanford University
Stony Brook University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University + SUNY ESF
Temple University
The New School
The University of Connecticut
Triangle Solidarity Encampment
UNC Chapel Hill
Tufts University
Tulane Encampment
University of Albany
University of Arizona
University of California - Irvine
University of California - Riverside
University of California - Berkeley
University of California - Los Angeles
University of California - Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Colorado
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois Urbana
- Champaign
University of Mary Washington
University of Maryland
University of Maryland - Baltimore
University of Massachusetts - Amherst
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of New Mexico
University of New Orleans
University of North Carolina

- Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina - Charlotte
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Texas - Arlington
University of Texas - Austin
University of Texas - Dallas
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Madison
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Washington University
Wayne State University
Wesleyan University
Yale University

University of Melbourne
University of Quebec in Montreal
University of Queensland
University of Sydney
University of Tokyo
University of Valencia
University of Warwick

American University in Cairo
Beirut Arab University
Concordia University
IPSI - Institut de Presse et des
Sciences de l'Information - Manouba
Tunisia
Istanbul Teknik Üniversitesi
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Kuwait University
McGill University
NYU Berlin
NYU Buenos Aires
Quebec Encampment
Sciences Po (Paris)
Selçuk University
Sorbonne University
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Jordan

University of California Faculty Statement on Protests*

(April 24, 2024)

Faculty across the University of California system have signed onto the statement, “Support Students’ Right to Nonviolently Protest at the University of California.”

[Nonviolent student protests at the University of California change the world. Entire academic departments owe their existence to nonviolent student protests at the University of California. The nationwide student movement to end the Vietnam War can trace its beginnings to nonviolent student protests at the University of California.]

As faculty and staff at the University of California, we believe that the ability to protest nonviolently is essential to our democracy and a basic human right that must be respected and protected. We bear the responsibility of ensuring the safety, welfare, and basic human rights of our students. After more than 108 students engaged in a peaceful protest were arrested, suspended from their courses, and evicted from university housing on April 18, 2024 at Columbia University, with NYPD Chief of Patrol, John Chell, stating that “the students that were arrested were peaceful, offered no resistance whatsoever, and were saying what they wanted to say in a peaceful manner,” we believe that this basic human right requires our active protection.

Arresting or punishing students who protest peacefully and nonviolently on our campuses is antithetical to our university’s highest ideals of learning and scholarship and violates our university’s fundamental values of decency and respect. Especially during difficult moments of intense political contestation, it is essential that all members of our university community respect each other and not engage in authoritarian power plays. Our university has witnessed acts of police violence against students protesting peacefully (Davis in 2011), suspensions, evictions, and mass firings without due process (Santa Cruz in 2015 and again in 2020), and

the use of university facilities as a field jail (Los Angeles in 2020). These infamous and disgraceful actions damage our confidence in each other and must not be repeated. In every action we take, we express our values as members of our treasured community.

As our students stand up and use their voices, we will always do our best to support them and their basic human rights, and thereby support our university and our democracy.

[*https://dailynous.com/2024/04/29/university-of-california-faculty-statement-on-protests/](https://dailynous.com/2024/04/29/university-of-california-faculty-statement-on-protests/)

Statement by Wesleyan University President Michael Roth* (April 29, 2024)

Dear friends, This morning you can find pro-Palestinian protesters camped out behind North College. The students there know that they are in violation of university rules and seem willing to accept the consequences. The protest has been non-violent and has not disrupted normal campus operations. As long as it continues in this way, the University will not attempt to clear the encampment. The University will not tolerate intimidation or harassment of students, staff, or faculty. Protesters assure us that they have no intention of engaging in these kinds of actions. We will continue to monitor the situation to keep everyone safe and will send updates as necessary. There will be many on campus who cheer on the protesters, and many who are offended or even frightened by their rallies and messages. But as long as we all reject violence, we have opportunities to listen and to learn from one another. This may not happen during the chanting and drumming, but it can happen during some of the planned discussion sessions and deep conversations that will take place throughout the week. This is a challenging time in world affairs and in the lives of many – including college students – concerned about their own relation to the brutal war in the Middle East. May we at Wesleyan find ways to learn

from this difficult moment – determining what it is we can do to serve the goal of a sustainable peace – even as we finish out this academic year.
With hope, Michael S. Roth, President

* <https://roth.blogs.wesleyan.edu/>

See blog post on Apr 29, 2024

Connecticut College Faculty and Staff Statement of Solidarity with Students and Colleagues Across the Nation* (May 2, 2024)

The undersigned Faculty and Staff at Connecticut College stand in solidarity with our colleagues and students across the nation who have been subjected to arrests, violence, and repression. We echo the national Faculty for Justice in Palestine positions that state:

1. Institutions of higher education have never been apolitical spaces, and choosing to remain neutral in the face of a genocide is, itself, a political position.
2. Criminalizing students for peaceful protest demonstrates these institutions' deplorable commitment to the repression of academic inquiry and the shackling of critical thought.
3. Student activism, and student protest in particular, is a time-honored social and political tradition in the United States.
4. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the recent spate of arrests of peaceful student activists, faculty, and staff at Columbia, Barnard, Emory, Tustin, Princeton, Northeastern, Emerson, USC, and many more. These students assembled on campus property to voice their opposition to institutional study abroad programs in Israel that violate college nondiscrimination policies; college and university investments in U.S. companies that produce weapons for sale to Israel; and Israeli companies that develop surveillance and policing technologies deployed to advance the ongoing

genocide of Palestinians.

5. The criminalization of nonviolent student protesters constitutes a willful and cynical flouting of the mission of universities as speech havens, where the strong protections of academic freedom must apply and be upheld. It also gravely impacts the criminalized students' careers and sustenance, contributes to the moral panic that conflates criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism and terrorism, and reinforces the rise of the new McCarthyism across society.

6. Policies for the future protection of speech, including and especially dissent are vital to the functioning of educational institutions.

7. Divestment is a tried and true political strategy. Faculty play a crucial role in supporting student demands for universities and colleges to divest from companies supporting Israeli state violence, genocide, apartheid, and occupation.

We also stand in solidarity with Israeli organizations and activists who oppose Israeli apartheid and Jewish supremacy such as Shoresh. At Connecticut College in particular, we are firmly committed to combating any form of racism, including anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-Blackness, and white supremacy. We are also firmly committed to combating all forms of oppression, including caste hierarchies and those targeting sexuality, trans and non-binary gender identification, and disabilities of any kind. We strongly reject any claim by our administration that a critique of Zionism is anti-Semitic or that Zionism is "part of Jewish shared ancestry and religion" (email on "Public Inquiry and Freedom of Expression Policy Interpretation Guidance") rather than a historically constructed political reality. We are firmly committed to support and encourage the free exploration of ideas without fear of intimidation or censure, most especially for our students. We are also committed to pursuing transparency in our own institution's investments.

Faculty Statements of Support for Student Protestors and other relevant statements:

UT Austin – Statement from Concerned Faculty

UT Austin Faculty Response to Police Violence

Columbia University AAUP Letter

Columbia University Faculty & Staff for Justice in Palestine Call for Boycott of Commencement
Columbia University Apartheid Divest Divestment Proposal
Letter to Boycott Columbia signed by thousands
Columbia & Barnard AAUP condemnation of student suspensions and NYPD sweep
AAUP Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students
FJP Statement About Campus Repression
AAUP Statement, Legislative Threats to Academic Freedom: Redefinitions of Anti-Semitism and Racism
AAUP Statement, Polarizing Times Demand Robust Academic Freedom
CUNY Statement on the Arrests
UPenn Statement on Suppression of Student and Faculty Dissent
NYU Letter from Chairs and Directors
University of California Support for Nonviolent Protest
Washington University Faculty Response
Vanderbilt University Faculty Letter to Administrators
Faculty for Justice in Palestine Network Chapters

* <https://thecollegevoice.org/2024/05/02/faculty-statement-of-solidarity-with-student-protestors/>

Statement of Members of the Department of History in Response to the Attack on the UCLA Encampment on 30 April, 2024* (May 1, 2024)

We, members of the History Department, a number of whom were present during the events of the night of 30 April to 1 May, strongly condemn the mob attack on our students and the university's failure to support our students' right to protest peacefully and to be kept safe while doing so.

The encampment itself had been a model of its kind: it was limited to members of the university community through the checking of IDs to gain

access; participants made continual efforts to avoid engagement with hecklers; and it maintained its focus on its own concerns. This orderly and self-disciplined environment seemed to have the support of the university administration, which initially praised its decorum. This policy on the part of the UC and UCLA administration earned high praise for its restraint and for its clear dedication to protecting the rights of students to protest peacefully.

In a sharp reversal, on 30 April, President Drake issued a statement declaring that the encampment was “unlawful,” and Chancellor Block called it “unauthorized.” Such statements withdrew official protections from these peaceful student activities, making the students vulnerable to attack. Later that night, the campus was invaded by a violent mob of individuals including many not affiliated with the campus community. History faculty who were present reported that many were middle-aged men; some shouted white supremacist slurs; and others brandished flags linked to violent, right-wing organizations. The security personnel who had been stationed around the barricade left the scene, abandoning it to attack. The violent mob used toxic spray, fireworks, pieces of the barricade, pipes, boards, and bottles to assault the students and faculty inside the encampment. They tore the barricades apart to get at the students inside. During this time, the security personnel and campus police made no effort to stop them. Student journalists and faculty observers outside the encampment were also threatened and assaulted. When police finally arrived many hours later, they watched the attacks, failing to come to the aid of those in the encampment. Some history department faculty who were at the scene reported that police, far from putting a halt to the violence, seemed to be marching alongside the mob. No emergency aid was provided to the students who were bleeding, gassed, or concussed. Today we heard many first-hand accounts of the violence and the lack of support from police and security forces.

We want to object in the strongest possible terms to this travesty. We are horrified that Chancellor Block abdicated his responsibility to protect and support students. His statements (and those of President Drake) opened the way to these attacks on our community. The exemplary nature of this encampment made it a target for those who oppose the free exercise of views other than their own. We demand that the Chancellor and the

President be held accountable for their actions in sacrificing student safety and liberties to political expediency. We call for the resignation of Chancellor Gene Block.

We want the university to stand up for the safety and the rights of the campus community by defending the continuing existence of the encampment. The encampment must be protected and the rights of peaceful protests upheld.

Signed by over 40 Members of the UCLA Department of History

* <https://history.ucla.edu/2024/05/01/statement-of-members-of-the-ucla-department-of-history-faculty-in-response-to-the-attack-on-the-encampment-on-30-april-2024/>

Statement in Solidarity With Student Protests for Gaza*

(April 29, 2024)

We, the undersigned organizations, stand in solidarity with the students nationwide and globally who are bravely protesting in encampments and otherwise to condemn Israel’s ongoing bombardment of Gaza – actions which human rights organizations, a federal U.S. court, and the International Court of Justice have said “plausibly” constitute genocide.

We commend the students who are exercising their right to protest peacefully despite an overwhelming atmosphere of pressure, intimidation and retaliation, to raise awareness about Israel’s assault on Gaza – with U.S. weapons and funding. These students have come forth with clear demands that their universities divest from corporations profiting from Israeli occupation, and demanding safe environments for Palestinians across their campuses. The students’ courage and determination in the face of adversity inspire us all to take action and speak out against injustice wherever it occurs. As they risk everything right now, it is critical that all of us do everything we can to support them.

We join them in calling for an immediate and lasting cease-fire and an end to the U.S. government’s and institutions’ role in the ongoing

genocide of Palestinians in Gaza.

As we stand in solidarity with the students protesting in encampments across the country, we reaffirm our commitment to amplifying their voices, condemn the university administration officials' violent response to their activism, and demand that universities remove the presence of police and other militarized forces from their campuses.

In solidarity

Signed by more than 250 organizations, listed at:

<https://www.mpowerchange.org/gazastudentprotests>.

* <https://www.mpowerchange.org/gazastudentprotests>

American Association of University Professors Statement “In Defense of the Right to Free Speech and Peaceful Protest on University Campuses”*

(April 29, 2024)

The AAUP and its chapters defend the right to free speech and peaceful protest on university campuses, condemn the militarized response by institutional leaders to these activities, and vehemently oppose the politically motivated assault on higher education.

Our colleges and universities are places of free and open expression, inquiry, and debate. Even in sharp disagreement, our goal is communication in service of learning and understanding. The critical evaluation of different points of view and the questioning of even the most deeply held beliefs are essential to learning. So too is our students' right to protest and to express their political convictions.

In a democratic society based on the fundamental value of free speech, it is unacceptable to respond to demonstrations with violent repression. When the Speaker of the House of Representatives equates

protesters at Columbia University with terrorists, he irresponsibly incites violence. When politicians demand the resignation of university presidents, they threaten the autonomy of private universities. These actions continue an alarming and decades-long trend of undermining the shared governance, academic freedom and independence that have made American higher education globally preeminent. These recent interferences and threats are part of an ongoing partisan, political attack intended to dismantle higher education in service to the public interest, and make our institutions beholden only to corporate, political and private interests. They are an existential threat to democracy.

We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the heavy-handed, militaristic response to student activism that we are seeing across the country. At this critical moment, too many cowardly university leaders are responding to largely peaceful, outdoor protests by inviting law enforcement in riot gear to campus and condoning violent arrests. These administrators are failing in their duty to their institutions, their faculty, their students, and their central obligation to our democratic society. When university administrators limit when, where, and how free speech may be exercised, and require advanced applications for permission of such expression, they effectively gut the right itself. To insist that harsh discipline and violent repression are necessary to combat hate on a college campus is a pretext to suppress protest and silence speech.

Harassment and hate have no place on college campuses or anywhere. Universities have carefully developed policies and disciplinary procedures based on due process to address these long-standing problems and these must be used now and allowed to run their course. Policies enacted unilaterally after October 7 violate principles of shared governance, and institutions should enforce only mutually-approved policies which, on a college campus, should be focused on restorative justice and learning in service of understanding.

We are alarmed at the shameless exertion of pressure on university leaders by the nation's politicians, by the universities' most powerful donors, and by other interest groups. We are even more alarmed at how quickly our institutional leaders have capitulated to that pressure. In just a few months, too many university leaders have abandoned long-standing principles of academic freedom and shared governance that are meant to

protect colleges from such outside influence. Policies guaranteeing academic freedom and free speech mean nothing if they are not upheld in times of stress. We call on institutional leaders to reinstate student organizations shut down in recent months for political activity, to drop charges against peaceful protesters, to observe due process in disciplinary actions, to keep armed law enforcement off campuses, and to uphold fundamental freedoms for students and faculty.

AAUP stands with our chapters and members nationwide who are defending free speech, the right of assembly, and associational rights for students. The way forward is through education and dialogue, not through zip-ties and fear-mongering. We invite all AAUP members, AAUP chapters, higher-education unions and any organizational ally to endorse these positions by signing this statement.

Signed by at least 100 AAUP Chapters and other groups.

* <https://www.aaup.org/media-release/defense-right-free-speech-and-peaceful-protest-university-campuses>

Letter Signed by Over 1400 International Faculty Supporting Columbia Students' Protest Encampment*

(April 23, 2024)

We, the undersigned, stand in solidarity with members of the Columbia University community demanding that the University divest from Israel's U.S.-backed genocide in Gaza and the West Bank. We write to announce our initiation of an academic and cultural boycott of Columbia University and Barnard College.

Israel has undertaken a systematic campaign to destroy the Palestinian education system. Thousands of students, teachers and professors have been martyred, and 80% of educational facilities in Gaza have been partially or wholly destroyed, including every university, the Gaza

Municipal Archive and hundreds of libraries, bookstores, and publishing houses.

We are appalled by the Columbia administration's decision to call the NYPD's Strategic Response Group onto campus, in full riot gear, to arrest over one hundred peacefully protesting students. At the time of the arrest, NYPD representatives stated that "students were peaceful, offered no resistance whatsoever" and that the assessment of "danger" was the University's alone. We are appalled by the decision to summarily suspend these students at both Barnard and Columbia, and further, to evict Barnard students from their student housing. We reject the false language of "safety" President Shafik has invoked to justify these actions. Likewise, we reject as ludicrous the idea that the Columbia administration was forced to call in the NYPD because of the need to "protect students from rhetoric that amounts to harassment and discrimination." Indeed, it is the University's own decision to arrest, intimidate, criminalize, and punish students that has endangered their safety. If a university would rather arrest its own students than listen to their demands – if it would rather imitate the military tactics of a state that has destroyed every university in Gaza, burying students and colleagues under the rubble, than divest from it – then is it still a university? We see the administration's actions for what they are: an embarrassing attempt to appease donors, trustees, and members of Congress by cracking down on students peacefully protesting the University's complicity in genocide.

To this end, we are initiating a boycott of Columbia University and Barnard College until the following demands are met:

1. Barnard College, Teacher's College, and Columbia University must reverse and expunge all suspensions and charges from protesting students' records, and immediately restore these students' campus privileges. This includes reversing the suspension of the student groups Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine and Columbia Jewish Voices for Peace.
2. University administration must remove police presence from campus and end the targeted repression of students involved in anti-genocide protesting, both on and off campus.
3. Presidents Minouche Shafik (Columbia) and Laura Rosenbury (Barnard) must resign.

We call on academics of conscience worldwide to join us.

Until these demands are met, our boycott comprises the following actions, and will affect all non-clerical members of University administration, as well as tenure and tenure-track faculty.

1. We will not participate in academic or other cultural events held at or officially sponsored by Columbia University or Barnard College.

This includes, but is not limited to, workshops, conferences, talks, screenings, and invited lectures.

2. We will not collaborate with Columbia or Barnard faculty who hold positions within the university administration in addition to their academic appointments.

This includes but is not limited to: invitations to academic events at our universities; collaboration on any new grants and workshops; co-authorship of papers.

3. Some signatories may further engage in common sense boycotts of faculty independently of their administrative role based on faculty members' particular complicity with Columbia and Barnard's repression. Likewise, some signatories may engage in common sense boycotts of publications affiliated with Columbia University.

We endorse and reiterate the demands of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment: divest all of Columbia's finances, including the endowment, from companies and institutions that profit from Israeli apartheid, genocide and occupation in Palestine; and ensure accountability by increasing transparency around financial investments.

We stand in full solidarity with the brave students, clerical staff, graduate workers, post-doctoral workers, and faculty at Columbia, Barnard, and Teacher's College resisting genocide, from Gaza, from Palestine, to Morningside Heights.

* https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jvYNy_3KxUQu4d0fgBZqlmMXXOGleip3571B2WobrQ/edit

Statement in Solidarity With Student Protest From the University of Wisconsin-Madison Community*

(April 30, 2024)

We, the faculty, staff, alumni, and donors of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, proudly and enthusiastically affirm the rights of student activists to protest Israel’s genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and its continuing occupation, assassinations, land dispossessions, and arrests in the West Bank. We are heartened to see our students’ commitment to critical thinking and civic engagement on display, alongside that of their peers across the nation. Our student protestors embody the university’s commitment to the Wisconsin Idea in action through the fight for human life and dignity. They exemplify our shared philosophy that education must “... influence people’s lives beyond the boundaries of the classroom.”

This action is a powerful new chapter in UW-Madison’s long and impressive history of student activism. On October 18, 1967, hundreds of students staged a sit-in at Commerce (now Ingraham) Hall to protest on-campus recruiters from Dow Chemical Company, a key manufacturer of Napalm for the U.S. Military in Vietnam. Like our students today, those students demanded that the university cease its material and ideological support for entities aiding mass murder in another country. They sought to achieve these demands through peaceful and conscientious protest. When Madison police arrived at the scene of the Dow Chemical protest in 1967, they quickly and viciously attacked student protesters with clubs and tear gas, injuring and arresting dozens, in a horrific display of coercive force. To this day, that unprovoked and unnecessary police violence remains a dark stain on the university’s history. Then-Chancellor Bill Sewell shared his “regret” for bringing police to campus and warned that such a response “must not be repeated.” We urge the university, which now proudly celebrates those students and their activism, to heed Sewell’s words today.

In affirming our students’ concerns and demands, we reject the

weaponization of antisemitism. It is neither antisemitic nor a danger to campus safety for students to engage in peaceful protest. Nor is it antisemitic to oppose the violent actions of the Israeli government and army that contribute to the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people. As many of us wrote in a letter on December 21, 2023, “We cannot have educational conversations if critical interrogation [sic] of Israel or Zionism are censored as antisemitic.” As scholars of nationalism – many of whom are members of our UW-Madison community – have shown, the distinction between a people and a nation-state is an essential framework for the spirit of critique.

We expect the UW-Madison administration, including the Dean of Students and University of Wisconsin Police Department, to honor our shared values of protecting students’ rights to free expression by refraining from the punishment of students, staff, faculty, and community members exercising their right to peaceful protest. We have seen alarming responses to peaceful protests from our peer institutions, including many of those with which we are in close community. As the Daily Cardinal recently reported, Chancellor Mnookin has the power to protect students from such harmful and drastic measures by allowing students, should they so desire, to erect tents. We call on our colleagues in the UW-Madison administration to listen to our students and engage with their demands. We ask them to seek to understand why the students are enacting historic strategies and tactics of organizing and activism.

Now is the time for our UW administration to live up to our institutional mission: “to provide a learning environment in which faculty, staff and students can discover, examine critically, preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom and values that will help ensure the survival of this and future generations and improve the quality of life for all.” Our students embody this commitment, and as they offer a tangible opportunity for us to do the same, we implore our university community to learn with and from them in this moment.

We, the undersigned, demand:

- No punishment of any UW-Madison community member (ie: student, faculty, staff, etc.) in the form of violence, arrest, suspension, expulsion, academic discipline, or the loss of residential privileges or employment.

- Administration liaise directly with faculty, staff, and student representatives in order to seriously and fairly take into consideration protest demands.
- Transparency in university finances, particularly in the disclosure of ties with and investments in companies that supply, coordinate with, and profit from Israeli apartheid and the ongoing violence in Gaza.

In Solidarity with the Students

Signed by 900 UW-Madison faculty, staff, alumni, parents and donors.

* <https://www.instagram.com/lachristagreco/p/C6ZTh3GAyoe>

In Solidarity With Students Calling for End to Complicity in Israel's Genocide Of Palestinians in Gaza*

(April 25, 2024)

New York, April 25, 2024 – In response to the crackdown on college students protesting Israel's genocide in Gaza, the Center for Constitutional Rights issued the following statement:

We stand in solidarity with the student activists facing repression for demanding that their universities end their complicity in Israel's genocide of Palestinians. In a futile attempt to mollify politicians and donors, college presidents like Columbia's Minouche Shafik have suspended students and called in the police to clear their encampments. Such repression is not new. Months before the first tent popped up on the lawn, Columbia suspended Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace, and universities started suppressing speech by Palestinian rights advocates years ago.

The furor over campus protests hit the news cycle just as Palestinians uncovered another mass grave in a hospital recently evacuated by Israeli forces, and families are searching for signs of their loved ones among

mutilated and decomposing bodies. Those condemning the students aim to draw attention away from the cause of their outrage: Israel’s genocide in Gaza and U.S. institutions’ unconditional support for it. In response to the lawsuit brought against President Biden by Palestinians and Palestinian human rights organizations, a U.S. federal judge found that “the ongoing military siege in Gaza is intended to eradicate a whole people and therefore plausibly falls within the international prohibition against genocide.” He then stated: “It is every individual's obligation to confront the current siege in Gaza.”

Students are doing just that. More headlines and outrage have focused on their nonviolent tactics than on Israel’s killing of 35,000 Palestinians, its campaign of starvation that could kill hundreds of thousands more, and its destruction of Gaza’s institutions and infrastructure. During his testimony in court, one of our clients described in agonizing detail how all the places in Gaza that Palestinians have known and loved – including their universities – have been wiped out.

After nearly seven months of incessant, deliberate obliteration of Palestinian life, students are demanding that their schools take action. Suppression of their advocacy only intensifies their resolve and inspires other students to join the effort. The movement is growing by the hour. Following in the tradition of the students who protested the Vietnam war in 1968 – including our former president, Michael Ratner – and those who compelled Columbia and other universities to divest from South Africa in the 1980s, today’s student activists stand on the right side of history. We commend their leadership and are proud to stand with them.

* <https://ccrjustice.org/home/press-center/press-releases/solidarity-students-calling-end-complicity-israel-s-genocide>

Columbia University Alumni Boycott Reunion

**Redirect All Donations to Aid for
Palestine Until Student
Demands Are Met*
(May 4, 2024)**

Organizers have planned an alternative event that will not financially support Columbia.

We Stand in Solidarity with Thousands of Alumni and Their Statements New York, NY – We, the alumni of Columbia University and Barnard College, write to announce a boycott of the upcoming Columbia College, SEAS, and Barnard alumni reunions, scheduled for May 31 to June 1. We will be redirecting the money that would otherwise have gone toward tickets to reunion events, as well as all other alumni donations, to direct aid to Palestine.

We are unable to reconcile the University's recent actions with the values and principles that defined our education at Columbia and Barnard. The University administration's brutal repression of student and faculty voices, and the use of law enforcement against peaceful protestors, have forced us to remove ourselves from any and all initiatives sponsored by the current Columbia University administration until these wrongs are rectified.

We join thousands of alumni from 20+ organizations in signing onto an alumni petition expressing our complete and unwavering support for students' right to free speech and assembly, and on-campus advocacy for the dignity and human rights of Palestinians.

We call upon the University to meet the demands of student protestors for divestment from companies supporting Israel's government, disclosure of those investments, full amnesty for students and professors unfairly disciplined for exercising their free speech in calling for freedom, safety, and self-determination for the Palestinian people, and all other demands outlined in detail in our petition.

We will be hosting alternative reunion events on Friday, May 31, and

Saturday, June 1, in solidarity with student and faculty protestors and unaffiliated with Columbia University. This alternative reunion is welcome to all who feel similarly or wish to learn more in good faith.

Our alumni donations and reunion ticket events will be redirected from Columbia University to the following causes:

United Nations Relief and Works Agency: UNRWA USA is an independent nonprofit supporting the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East through fund-raising, education, and advocacy.

Palestine Children's Relief Fund: The PCRf is a legally registered non-political, non-profit, 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization established in 1991 by concerned people to address the medical and humanitarian needs of Palestinian and Arab youths in the Middle East.

World Central Kitchen: WCK is an NGO, non-for-profit organization that recently resumed operations of providing meals to millions of Gazans facing starvation after losing seven of its members in an Israeli air strike.

* <https://bwog.com/2024/05/columbia-and-barnard-alumni-announce-a-boycott-of-university-reunions-and-plans-to-send-funds-from-alternative-events-to-aid-in-palestine/>

Union Theological Seminary Board of Trustees Endorses Divestment and Other Strategies for Companies Profiting From War in Palestine/Israel* (May 9, 2024)

Union Theological Seminary (UTS) in the City of New York has a long history of preparing religious and spiritual leaders for lives committed to creating a more just and peaceful world for all. This commitment is not just one among many; it is core to our very identity. In line with this, we have long sought to manage our endowment in a manner that reflects these values. Over the decades, we have developed what are called

“socially responsible investment (SRI) screens” to express our values and not financially support damaging and immoral investments, including our early divestment from the dehumanizing system of apartheid in South Africa. More recently, this has included screens against investing in for-profit prisons and fossil fuels, among many other screens. Indeed, we were the first institution of higher education to divest from fossil fuels in 2014. Our policies remain both consistent and evolving. When we proactively create screens, we intend for them, in principle, to be applicable in a global context and be sustainable over time. This makes our screens stronger, not weaker – and wider, not smaller.

Our screens already prevent investments in armaments, weapons, and defense manufacturers, as well as companies that participate in human rights violations. Managing our endowment in a manner that actively seeks the good and leverages our resources to reduce harm is an ongoing process, and we will remain committed to these principles into the future.

With respect to companies that are profiting from the present war in Palestine, we continue to hold these standards high and have taken steps to identify all investments, both domestic and global, that support and profit from the present killing of innocent civilians in Palestine, whose numbers are now over 34,000 – and a humanitarian crisis of ever-growing magnitude. Union’s president, faculty, and students have repeatedly made strong public calls for an immediate ceasefire and will continue to do so until this continually escalating war has stopped. These calls are supported by today’s decision by Union’s Investment Committees to withdraw support from companies profiting from the war. We have been working on this decision since November of 2023, a decision that has required research and exploration into our investment portfolio, and that research and monitoring will continue.

Let us share with you directly our multifaceted policy related to companies profiting from the war in Palestine adopted by the Board of Trustees Investment Committee today and endorsed by Union’s Board of Trustees:

We are revising the section of our investment policy statement section pertaining to responsible investing to include an overt reference to the Israel-Palestine hostilities, in addition to current robust policies regarding fossil fuels, military weapons, private prisons, etc.

We are directing our investment consultants and conferring with other resources to determine a list of those companies substantially and intractably benefiting from the war in Palestine that may not be captured by existing screens. We are also identifying resources to monitor changes to company activity over time.

We are directing our investment managers to exclude those companies from the portfolios managed on behalf of Union.

If relevant holdings are held in commingled accounts or mutual funds, we are directing the manager of those funds to divest, or we will find another alternative vehicle.

We are joining the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) so that in addition to our individual institutional divestments, we can align ourselves with other like-minded activist institutions engaging with corporations on their activities related to human rights. This strategy emerged from previous divestment and corporate engagement movements, which found collective leverage to be an important part of bringing needed pressure to bear on areas where we seek to create pressure and impact.

As we also learned from previous divestment actions, we are also exploring investments that proactively support humanitarian and entrepreneurial companies doing positive work in the region.

With the ICCR among our guides in this process to expand our responsible investor toolkit, we commit to making participation in our meetings with ICCR open to students and others, in addition to maintaining our present policy of having direct UTS student representation on our Investment Committee. We believe that teaching others how to responsibly and morally manage investments is a key dimension of Union's teaching mission and our commitment to transparency.

To be clear, as we take these actions, we remain unequivocal in our denouncement of the horrific killing by Hamas of Israeli citizens on October 7, 2023, and call for the immediate release of all hostages. With respect to both Palestine and Israel, we affirm their right to secure existence and self-determination. We also remain committed in all we do to stand against all forms of hatred, including antisemitism and Islamophobia. Our investment policies will continue to adapt, guided by our values, to strengthen the resolve that undergirds our decision today. We do not take this step lightly, and we do so with all humility, recogniz-

ing that our work on the global stage is far from finished. Although our investments in the war in Palestine are small because our previous, strong anti-armament screens are robust, we hope that our action today will bring needed pressure to bear to stop the killing and find a peaceful future for all.

* <https://utsnyc.edu/blog/2024/05/09/union-theological-seminary-board-of-trustees-endorses-divestment-and-other-strategies-for-companies-profiting-from-war-in-palestine-israel/>

Solidarity Statement Representing Library Workers Across the Columbia University Libraries System*

(May 12, 2024)

Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
— Library Bill of Rights, American Library Association (ALA)

The following is a statement by library workers in the Columbia University Libraries (CUL) system. We speak not as representatives of the system, but as individuals with common concerns grounded in our community membership and adherence to the values of librarianship. Library workers hold a range of opinions, emotions, and experiences. Recent events require us to speak in unison and with moral clarity.

As a collective of library workers within CUL, and members of the Columbia University community, we take seriously our role as stewards of knowledge. We are charged with encouraging critical thinking through the accessible provision of research materials and instructional tools for learning.

We are appalled by President Shafik's and the Columbia Board of Trustees' deployment of public and private security entities on our campus (cf. "Letter to the NYPD," 18 April, 2024, <https://publicsafety.col>

columbia.edu/content/letter-nypd). These actions stand in clear contradiction to all values espoused by academic institutions, impede us in serving the libraries' many communities, and undermine core library values of free thought, free expression, and right of access to information that we uphold in our daily work.

Student arrests and suspensions for protesting the University's complicity in the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people directly contradicts the administration's stated desire to encourage "thoughtful, rigorous debate." These actions highlight the University's hypocrisy when it promotes itself using archival materials that document its past suppression of student dissent (<http://tiny.cc/j5juxz>). Current policing actions to quell dissent also contradict intellectual freedom as a central value of librarianship. University officials' use of law enforcement on our campus and threats of State violence stand in the way of our commitment, grounded in ALA principles, to serving the public good of "creating informed, connected, educated, and empowered communities."

As library workers, we oppose the escalated and violent suppression of speech, as well as increasing crackdowns on the free exchange of ideas – two pillars of our academic community that Columbia claims to uphold – that have come to define the 2023-2024 academic year. Locked campus gates, whether against our Harlem neighbors or members of our university community, are a disturbing symbol of the anti-democratic and anti-intellectual climate the current Columbia administration are attempting to make the new normal.

We endorse Columbia University Apartheid Divest's six demands (<https://cuad.org/>).

We reject anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, anti-Black racism, anti-semitism, and Islamophobia. We reject the conflation of advocacy for Palestinian rights with anti-semitism, as thoughtfully articulated by the April 10 Jewish faculty op-ed in the *Columbia Spectator* (<http://tiny.cc/h7juxz>).

We stand in solidarity with students, faculty, and staff seeking unfettered access to our libraries, archives, and special collections.

We bear witness and will continue to work to hold those in power accountable.

We invite colleagues across the Columbia University Libraries to

affirm their support for this statement by signing onto this form:
<https://cryptpad.fr/form/#/2/form/view/yNLzKfb6AX81bByNgwicS3XEMy0FYQvbnRi8XPaZ9W0/>.
79 (and counting!) signatories as of 12 May, 2024

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* <https://cu-librarians-free-palestine.cargo.site/>

Statement by the Independent Student Workers of Columbia University*

(May 29, 2024)

On April 30, the NYPD invaded our campus for a second time, inflicting unprecedented violence on our students and community members. They did so at the behest of the Columbia administration, Board of Trustees, and powerful individuals unrelated to our community. In direct response, hundreds of student workers at Columbia coalesced to take action. In spite of our contractual obligations, in spite of the limitations of end-of-term labor actions, we came together and forged a strategy forward to tell Columbia: there is no threat, no contract, no suppression that will keep us from standing up for what is right and just.

We formed the Independent Student Workers at Columbia, a rank-and-file group of teaching assistants, researchers, graders, and instructors of record. On May 6, 2024, we announced the start of a sickout. A sickout, for those unfamiliar, is a labor action in which workers call in sick as a means to disrupt the functioning of their employer's business. On May 24, 2024, after two and a half weeks of successful labor action, we concluded the sickout.

We called this sickout because we were sick of Columbia. We were sick of the administration's reprehensible treatment of student-protesters. We were sick of the militarization of our campus. We were sick of the University's complicity and investment in genocide and apartheid. We called the sickout to demand amnesty for those facing disciplinary action for their participation in pro-Palestinian protest, including fired employees, and to demand the immediate and permanent removal of the NYPD from campus.

From the onset of the sickout, hundreds of graduate and undergraduate student-workers, faculty, and staff joined our movement to withhold labor. Together, we refused to submit grades, provide service work, or otherwise contribute to the administration's attempts to conduct business as usual. Through our combined efforts, we withheld over 6000 grades across at least 45 different departments. The administration knows this well, even as they desperately try to divert public attention from the

impact of these concerted actions.

Success, however, stems not only from what we interrupt, but also from what we gain. So, what did we gain from this action?

Over two and a half weeks, we saw numerous suspensions lifted, and watched as the NYPD slinked off campus. While we have not yet won total amnesty nor the permanent removal of the NYPD, the victories so far reflect the strength of our movement. Our message is clear: if Columbia does not resolve these demands, we will be back in the Fall. If we have learnt anything through years of labor organizing at Columbia, it is how to strike and how to win – with or without union protections. Indeed, as pressure mounted with our concerted action, we protected each other from threats of retaliation, and watched as the administration flinched.

We claim these victories alongside our faculty, staff, and undergraduate allies at Barnard and Columbia. Through these weeks, we have gained a robust alliance with these different constituencies that make up our campus community. Indeed, in the previous three weeks, faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduate students came together on short notice to launch the largest coordinated labor action on campus since the Fall 2021 SWC strike. Our sickout coincided with the first ever faculty and staff service strike, while undergraduates amplified both actions with letters to department chairs, deans, and university officials. Our sickout was but one of a wave of actions on campus. This the administration would be wise not to forget.

We gained, too, hundreds of new organizers. As the sickout took off, nearly 200 new graduate and undergraduate students and student-workers volunteered to organize their departments and friends in the name of divestment and justice. The political activation engendered by the sickout will carry us far. As we chant at our rallies and pickets, we will always stand up and fight back. This, too, the university would be wise not to forget.

Though the sickout has ended, we will all remember why we fell ill in the first place. Some became sick the moment they learned of the Nakba and of Columbia's investment in the settler-colonial state of Israel. Others fell ill this past fall, when the University banned SJP and JVP and began to suspend student-activists. Hundreds caught the sickness on April 18, when the NYPD flooded East Butler Lawn and arrested peaceful activists

en masse for the first time since 1968.

Many more fell ill on the evening of April 30. We fell ill when the administration locked down campus. We fell ill when pigs in riot gear created a militarized zone that stretched for blocks, preventing witnesses and journalists from documenting police brutality. We fell ill when the NYPD kettled us and threatened us on the streets outside our own university; when they threw our friends to the ground and arrested our colleagues for as little as calling for an EMT; when they prevented injured students from accessing medical care; when a bullet ripped through the air inside of Hind's Hall, fired by some careless or idiotic cop.

We fell ill because when our students cried out in protest – in an earnest plea for humanity – the administration ignored them, then threatened them, suspended them, tried to corral them into designated free-speech zones, and finally sicced the NYPD on them. This we will not forget.

When student-activists set up the first encampment on the morning of April 17, they helped set off an international student movement. Just as they had modeled their encampment on those that had come before, the Gaza Solidarity Encampment became a model for protests that would rise up after. In other words, these student-activists helped set a precedent for a wave of conscientious protests.

When Shafik called the police on those same students the next day, she established another precedent – one in which police violence became an acceptable response to student activism. University administrators across the country followed her example, and police violence toward students escalated rapidly.

On April 30, the Baroness set yet another dangerous precedent by inviting and then lauding the invasion of our campus by the NYPD, whose officers, like Shafik, are equal parts brutal and incompetent. She and the Board of Trustees sought to make the occupation of college campuses by armed police the new normal. They hoped to establish this new precedent in which the specter of police violence looms ever present. This is a direct threat not only to pro-Palestinian activists, but to any organization and any group that speaks against the administration, and indeed to any student at all. This, too, we will not forget.

The administration has worked hard to make us feel disempowered

and isolated as individuals. But as the Gaza Solidarity Encampment has demonstrated, as the faculty and staff service strike has demonstrated, and as our sickout has demonstrated, we are powerful together.

We conclude this sickout in a moment of strength and of hope. We conclude this sickout emboldened by our successes and poised for future actions. We remain in solidarity with our students, our faculty, and staff. Though campus has emptied for the summer, we will be back – all of us, together, undaunted, in the Fall. We will continue to mobilize and organize until then. On College Walk, in the streets of Morningside Heights, in dorm rooms and classrooms, in administrative buildings, in libraries and dining halls, we will be back, and we will continue our struggle for collective liberation until all halls are Hind’s Hall – until we are all free.

* <https://cuapartheidinvest.substack.com/p/until-all-halls-are-hinds-hall>

[Editor’s Note: The following is a press release issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on July 19, 2024. It can be seen online at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/gaza-killing-hind-rajab-andher-family-war-crime-too-many-warn-experts>.]

Gaza: Killing of Hind Rajab and Her Family – a War Crime Too Many, Warn Experts

GENEVA (19 July 2024) – The killing of five-year old Hind Rajab, her family and two paramedics may amount to a war crime, independent experts* warned today, denouncing Israeli claims that its troops were not in the area at the time as “unacceptable.”

They urged an immediate halt to the attacks against the civilian population in Gaza, which have already killed more than 38,000 Palestinians, including 13,000 children, warning that the systemic nature of the attacks may amount to a crime against humanity.

“The absence of proper investigation and accountability, more than five months after the tragic killing of Hind and six other members of her family trapped in a car which came under Israeli fire in Gaza is deeply troubling and may in itself amount to a violation of the right to life,” the experts said.

Two paramedics from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society were also killed when their ambulance came under Israeli fire while attempting to save Hind’s family. Audio recordings of calls between Hind and emergency services suggest that she was the only survivor in the car before she was also killed.

Recent forensic analysis of the crime scene offers compelling evidence about the location of the family’s car stranded in the line of sight of an Israeli tank and how it was shot at from very close range using a type of weapon that can only be attributed to the Israeli forces.

“The brutality of these killings seem to illustrate how reckless the army has been in its Gaza campaign: all instances of extrajudicial killing must be duly investigated and accounted for,” the experts said.

“Hind’s family, like many others in Gaza, had been forcibly displaced multiple times since Israel’s military operations in the strip,” the experts said. “They were shot dead while fleeing the neighbourhood of Tal Al-Hawa seeking safety, in what seems to be part of a broader pattern of indiscriminate killings of civilians attempting to find shelter and escape the fighting in Gaza upon so-called ‘evacuation’ orders by the Israeli military.”

“These killings are not isolated cases,” the experts said. “We are extremely troubled by the pattern of apparent indiscriminate and targeted attacks against civilians in Gaza, including on locations used for humanitarian assistance or to shelter IDPs,” they said. “The firing of heavy-calibre projectiles at a humanitarian zone near an office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza, killing 22 displaced civilians, and most recently the attacks on IDP tents in Al Mawasi area, on Ash Shati’ Refugee Camp, and on the UNRWA Abu Oreiban school sheltering IDPs, among others, killing nearly 320 Palestinians, half of them women and children, have reinforced the fact that there is no safe place in Gaza” the experts said. “Such attacks amount to grave violations of international humanitarian law, must be promptly and reliably in-

vestigated, and should be severely punished.

“The willful or indiscriminate killing of protected persons, including civilians, medical personnel and humanitarian workers, amount to war crimes, and if systematic, crimes against humanity, and should be prevented at all costs,” the experts warned. “We remain deeply troubled by the total impunity and apparent lack of investigations, and prevention of these crimes. This is all the more worrisome in the context of the recent order from the International Court of Justice for Israel to take immediate measures to protect Gaza’s population from the risk of genocide,” the experts said.

“The Government of Israel and its armed forces must take immediate measures to protect the right to life of all protected persons in Gaza, including women and children” they said.

They urged the Israeli Government to allow access of independent experts, including international human rights monitoring bodies into Gaza to ensure that all violations of international law committed since the beginning of the Israeli military operation in Gaza are credibly investigated. The experts repeated their offer of technical assistance.

Renewing calls for an immediate end to the bloodshed and grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the unconditional release of all hostages, the experts urged the international community to ensure accountability for those responsible and protection and urgent assistance for the population in Gaza.

***The Experts:**

Morris Tidball-Binz, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

Ben Saul, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

Dorothy Estrada Tanck (Chair), Laura Nyirinkindi (Vice-Chair), Claudia Flores, Ivana Krstić, and Haina Lu, Working group on discrimination against women and girls;

Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;

Reem Alsalem, Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences.

The Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups are part of what is known as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the

largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures' experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.

[Editor's Note: On April 25, 2024, the advocacy group Palestine Legal* filed a civil rights complaint on behalf of some Columbia University students just after the NYPD arrested Gaza encampment protesters. The complaint alleges anti-Palestinian discrimination and harassment by fellow students, professors, and/or Columbia administrators. The following article is from the Palestinian Legal website at: <https://palestinelegal.org/news/2024/4/25/columbia-students-file-civil-rights-complaint-after-nypd-arrests-national-guard-threat>.]

Columbia Students File Civil Rights Complaint

April 25, New York, NY – Today, Palestine Legal filed a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), demanding an investigation into Columbia University's discriminatory treatment of Palestinian students and their allies, including by inviting NYPD officers in riot gear – for the first time in decades – to arrest over a hundred students peacefully protesting Israel's genocide last week.

The complaint comes one day after Columbia suggested the National Guard could be brought in to remove student protesters – implying state violence could be used on campus.

The complaint alleges how, for more than six months, Palestinian students, Arabs, Muslims, students perceived to be Palestinian, and students associated with or advocating for Palestinians, have been the target of extreme anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and Islamophobic harassment, including receiving multiple death threats, being harassed for wearing keffiyehs or hijab, doxed, stereotyped, being treated differently by high-ranking administrators including Columbia University President Minouche

Shafik, an attack with a chemical agent that led to at least 10 students requiring hospitalization and dozens of others, including a Palestinian student, seeking medical attention, and more.

Palestine Legal is representing four students and the student group Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), who have all been the target of anti-Palestinian discrimination and harassment by fellow students, professors, and/or Columbia administrators.

“As a Palestinian student, I’ve been harassed, doxxed, shouted down, and discriminated against by fellow students and professors – simply because of my identity and my commitment to advocating for my own rights and freedoms,” said Maryam Alwan. “I’m horrified at the way Columbia has utterly failed to protect me from racism and abuse, but beyond that, the university has also played a role in this repression by having me arrested and suspended for peacefully protesting Israel’s genocide in Gaza. The violent repression we’re facing as peaceful anti-war protesters is appalling. Palestinian students at Columbia deserve justice and accountability, not only for Israel’s decades-long oppression and violence against our people, but for the racism and discrimination we’ve experienced here on Columbia’s campus.”

Columbia has actively contributed to pervasive racism and discrimination against Palestinian students on campus, causing both mental and physical harm. For example, students have been arrested, assaulted, suspended, locked out of campus and their classes, forced to seek medical attention, and forced to drop classes and delay their own graduation.

After bringing NYPD officers in riot gear to violently arrest students peacefully protesting Israel’s genocide in Gaza, university leaders alarmingly threatened that the National Guard would be brought in to forcibly remove the peaceful students from their own campus. This disturbing threat of military violence is gravely concerning. Columbia University has a responsibility to protect all of its students – including Palestinians and their supporters – and should not threaten police or military violence to attack or intimidate them.

“Columbia’s vicious crackdown on student protests calling for Palestinian freedom amidst an ongoing genocide should alarm us all. Students have always been at the forefront of the most pressing social issues of the day,” said Palestine Legal Staff Attorney Sabiya Ahamed.

“We urge federal civil rights officials to do what Columbia has disgracefully failed to: ensure the rights of Palestinian and allied students are protected at a moment when their voices are most essential.”

The discrimination, intimidation, harassment, stereotyping, disparate treatment, and racial profiling described in the complaint are not isolated instances but are the product of both deep-rooted, dehumanizing bigotry against Palestinians and decades-long systematic efforts by anti-Palestinian groups and their allies to suppress advocacy for Palestinian rights on college campuses.

Palestine Legal has documented trends in repression based on the over 2200 incidents of suppression of Palestinian rights advocacy the organization responded to between 2014 and 2022, many involving harassment and censorship attempts by university administrations and right-wing organizations aimed at intimidating Palestinians and their supporters into silence and inaction. Since October 7th alone, the organization has received reports of over 1,800 incidents, over five times the number we received in all of 2022, reflecting an exponential rise in anti-Palestinian repression across the U.S.

In March 2024, Palestine Legal, together with NYCLU sued Columbia over its suspension of SJP and Jewish Voice for Peace for their peaceful protest.

UPDATE: The Department of Education informed Palestine Legal that the Office for Civil Rights has opened an investigation into Columbia University after students filed a federal civil rights complaint for extreme anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and Islamophobic harassment on campus. This comes less than 48 hours after Columbia called in the NYPD to violently arrest dozens of peaceful student protesters, with hundreds of police coming on campus, some with guns drawn, using sledgehammers, batons, and flash-bang explosives.

* Founded in 2012, Palestine Legal is an independent organization dedicated to protecting the civil and constitutional rights of people in the U.S. who speak out for Palestinian freedom. About the complaint contact Danya Zituni at Palestine Legal media@palestinelegal.org.

[Editor's Note: The following is a Media Advisory released on July 20, 2024, by CUNY4Palestine (C4P), Within our Lifetime (WOL Palestine), and National Students for Justice in Palestine (NSJP). The Week of Rage was to begin on July 22, 2024.]

Call for a National Week of Rage

We reject the smearing and caricature of the Student Intifada by mass media and continue to demand an immediate end to our universities' complicity in the Gaza genocide.

New York, New York – On Monday, July 22, CUNY4Palestine, Within Our Lifetime, and National Students for Justice in Palestine call for a Week of Rage to protest the filming of an *FBI: Most Wanted* episode at CUNY Queens College featuring a fictionalized Gaza Solidarity Encampment scene, complete with tents, a “chase and arrest” scene, and a mock-explosion. This is a clear attempt to simultaneously demonize and profit from the Student Movement against the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. This episode deliberately obfuscates and undermines the concrete demands of the Student Intifada: our universities must divest from settler colonialism and genocide and cut all ties with Israeli academic institutions.

In a recent email issued by Queens College, the VP of Student Affairs claimed that the episode being filmed on QC campus is about “climate” rather than about Palestine. Whether or not the fictionalized encampment is framed around Palestine solidarity or climate, the rental of the QC campus for this film shoot is a clear attempt to simultaneously demonize and profit from the student movement against the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. CUNY is obviously attempting to capitalize off of recent Pro-Palestine encampments while ignoring and erasing Palestine. Palestine, Stop Cop City, Indigenous Liberation, demilitarization and climate – our struggle is one. This is a slap in the face to all of our movements.

This exercise in copaganda comes as the Zionist-imperialist genocide in Gaza enters its 290th day and as our comrades from the CCNY encampment face ongoing criminalization – including felony charges – for organizing in solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle. The

portrayal of the student encampment by *FBI: Most Wanted* is designed not only to manufacture consent for the brutal repression of our movement for Palestinian liberation but to hasten the expansion of fascist policing of the working-class, Indigenous, Black, and Brown communities.

The media industry has a storied history of working hand-in-hand with the police and military to normalize and sensationalize the racist police state and U.S. empire, glorifying agents of state repression as heroes and further vilifying the state's victims. We understand corporate media to be the propaganda wing of the capitalist-imperialist state. It is the media's duty to legitimize and mock the violent repression faced by students and our broader communities at the hands of both the state and the Zionist/fascist vigilantes it enables.

The repression of our movements and communities will only be compounded by the construction of more than 69 Cop City projects of varying sizes across Turtle Island.* Under the guise of "training" and "developing security," private corporations and capitalists are pouring millions of dollars into these militarized police training centers and programs nationally. Queens itself is set to be the site of the latest cop city, providing training for 18 police departments at the cost of \$225 million.

The malicious framing of this film shoot is especially egregious in light of QC President Frank Wu's forcible shutdown of all but one entrance at QC during the CCNY encampment, preventing further protests from materializing. Wu has also called for increased police presence at every QC student protest for Palestinian liberation and against genocide. Back in November, he called upon the NYPD to investigate the Muslim Student Association (MSA) over social media posts.

All of these actions culminate in a culture of pro-cop, anti-Palestinian repression; President Wu has shown that rather than protect his students, he will defend the interests of the empire.

Instead of heeding our encampment's Five Demands to divest, boycott, demilitarize, and reinstate a People's CUNY, the CUNY administration has invested millions more in "security," refused FOIA requests for disclosure of public records, and continued to build relationships with Zionist institutions – all while aiding and abetting the NYPD's brutalization of Palestine solidarity organizers city-wide.

In the face of the accelerating atrocities in Gaza and rising fascist

repression across Turtle Island, we must continue to organize and mobilize for an end to the genocide and for a free Palestine, from the river to the sea. The more they try to silence us, the louder we will be. Disclose, Divest, We Will Not Stop, We Will Not Rest!

* ‘Turtle Island’ is the name for the lands now known as North and Central America. It is a name used by some Indigenous peoples who believe their land was formed on the back of a turtle. Though regional versions exist, the core of this creation story relates to a time when the planet was covered in water.

“I Can’t Sleep”*

by Paul Biggar,** Dec 14, 2023

I can’t sleep. I’m lying in bed every night, and images of Gaza are running through my head. Fathers holding their babies, dead, caked in dust. Bombs dropped on homes,¹ on hospitals,² on schools.³ Tens of thousands of dead,⁴ in indiscriminate bombings.⁵ Children crying, pulling through rubble to find their families.⁶

The inhumanity of the soldiers is unbearable. They shoot civilians in the street,⁷ imprison and torture children,⁸ and strip and humiliate innocent men.⁹ But the soldiers are having fun.¹⁰ They’re posting to TikTok,¹¹ doing some war crimes,¹² then celebrating on the beach.¹³ I hate them. I hate them.

I can’t work. I code for five minutes before their bodies come back. I must work, but who can do a startup through a genocide, when 20,000 are dead,¹⁴ when the Israeli-imposed starvation is setting in.¹⁵ I try though; the distraction is good for me.

I look at my colleagues – the founders, the investors, my network, my friends, my advisors. I’m afraid to open their twitters. Each time I do, it’s a roulette: is it business as usual – a new fundraiser, the latest in AI, a new model released. The blasé posts are a relief. I can tell myself that they’re censored, afraid to speak up about the genocide. Unable or not knowing how to do it. That’s understandable.

The propaganda kills me. People I thought were friends, were allies. So much humanity for those killed on October 7, none for the people killed on the 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or in November or December.¹⁶ 20,000 people, killed by deliberate, indiscriminate bombing.¹⁷

None either for the people killed on Oct. 6, 5, 4.¹⁸ For the people massacred in 1948¹⁹ and since. No protest of the illegal occupation,²⁰ the illegal settlements,²¹ The razing of the villages²² and the olive groves.²³ They don't exist to them; they didn't happen.

Have they no questions about why two million people live in Gaza and how they came to be there.²⁴ How Israel carefully controls the calories allowed into Gaza,²⁵ keeping everyone starving. That Israel can turn off the water,²⁶ can turn off the electricity.²⁷ That this is something a country is able to do to a people. That this is something a country is willing to do to a people.²⁸

Is this what Israel is? The tech outpost, the U.S. ally, the beacon of democracy in the Middle East? A country that kills journalists³⁰ and writers in surgical strikes.³¹ That forces doctors away from ICU babies, leaving them to die and rot in their incubators.³² Whose snipers shoot children and grannies in the head.³³ Seventy nine year old Hadiya Nassar was killed by an Israeli sniper in December. Poet, writer, and professor Refaat Alareer was killed by a missile which also killed his brother, his sister, and her four children.

When the cofounder of Hamas was nine years old, his uncle was massacred by Israeli soldiers in the Khan Yunis massacre, along with 274 other unarmed Palestinians. He was shot in house-to-house searches. Others were lined up and executed. How many Hamas' are being created today.²⁹

When you read about the Holocaust and the Nazis, you like to imagine you'd be the good guy. You'd fight the Nazis, you'd free the concentration camps. But apparently I wouldn't. Apparently I would have just sat there paralyzed, incapable of doing anything about the genocide I see every day. Unable to think of any way to help. All I can do is retweet and protest and write a stupid blog post. I feel so stupid.

I wasn't ready to see that my friends are BrownsHIRTS.³⁴ That they actively cheer on the genocide.³⁵ The anger, the desire – the need even – for retribution against innocent civilians. I wasn't ready for my friends

being camp guards, party officials, propagandists.

The propaganda is real, and organized,³⁶ and obvious.³⁷ Posting about anti-semitism in universities to cover indiscriminate bombing of civilians – have you no shame. Repeating Israeli claims which have no proof, and no credibility.³⁸ Keeping the discussion anywhere except on Palestinians being murdered in Gaza. Denying the number of dead because the numbers are reported by Hamas.³⁹

Of course, everyone is Hamas now. The child ripped in two by an MK-84⁴⁰ is Hamas. The woman screaming for her sister, digging at the rubble – she’s Hamas. The orphaned nine year old, now the sole parent of her four year old brother. Both are Hamas. Death and trauma stalk Palestinian children.

Sometimes I work out how many people my taxes have killed.⁴¹ Intrusive thoughts. Maybe they’re used for roads or healthcare, but maybe I bought a bomb last year and it razed a city block in Khan Yunis. Maybe it killed 50 people. Maybe one killed 50 people.

My investors keep posting. How unsafe the kids feel at Harvard.⁴² Railing against “From the river to the sea” as they conveniently omit “Palestine will be free.”⁴³ Cancelling Tiktok for teaching the kids history instead of U.S. and Israeli propaganda.⁴⁴ “Members of the Haganah paramilitary group escort Palestinians expelled from Haifa after Jewish forces took control in April 1948 (AFP).” Middle East Eye

Anything to keep your eyes off the rubble that Gaza has become.⁴⁵ The trail of tears to an empty desert, bombed and shot as they go.⁴⁶ Anything to avoid their own culpability in this genocide. They are Hess. They post Israeli flags on twitter as Israel drops bombs on Gaza. They protest a cease-fire. **THEY PROTEST A FUCKING CEASE-FIRE.**

I don’t know what to do, but I know these are not my people. Who can work with people whitewashing genocide. Are we supposed to pretend it’s business as usual as we send our friends’ intros, frolic at conferences, discuss monetization strategy.

To Ed, Erica, Michael, and especially Matt, we’re done.⁴⁷ I’ll never pitch you again, never ask for help, never send intros or recommend you. I’m done with Boldstart, and DCVC, and Harrison Metal, and Redpoint. (I’m also done with Bessemer⁴⁸ and Sequoia⁴⁹ and First Round.⁵⁰)

I’m ashamed that these are some of my biggest supporters over the

years, the people who invested in me, twice, the people who helped, who advised. I cannot work with the people whitewashing a killing, the people who know it's happening, and who cover for it, who support the IDF and the U.S. administration which allows it, which funds it.

Oct. 7 was an atrocity, and so was every day since then. 20,000 Palestinians have been killed by indiscriminate, deliberate Israeli bombs.

Atrocities happened long before Oct. 7 as well. The occupation was no secret. Hundreds of Palestinians killed each year since the Nakba. The rest kept under the Israeli boot, stripped of their rights and homes and dignity.

Their politicians tweet about Palestinians like they aren't human. They discuss them like their lives don't matter. They call them "animals." They have killed thousands of Palestinians, and give every indication that they will continue the genocide.

They are saying it out loud.⁵¹ I can see it, and so could Ed and Michael and Matt and Erica. They simply choose not to.

Pro-Israeli investors have created a culture of fear in tech where supporters of Palestinian freedom feel unable to raise their voices. I have spoken to many people in tech who are afraid that if they speak up, they'll be unable to raise their next round, and lose 5-10 years of work on their venture, for their families and for their employees.

We must break the silence around the genocide in Gaza. I know this is a big ask. I know there are significant risks involved, and that's not your fault. But all the same, we cannot continue to be complicit in this genocide.

Above all, name it. Say publicly what you see happening, and say that what Israel and the U.S. are doing is wrong. Feel silenced? Say that!

Just like most in tech made "Black Lives Matter" statements in 2020, come out and say #Free-Palestine. Put a banner on your website.

Secondly, don't make money for investors who whitewash genocide, namely partners at Boldstart, DCVC, Harrison Metal, Redpoint, Bessemer, Sequoia, or First Round.

Tech workers: Don't work for companies who take funding from these firms. If you already work there, contact management and the founders, ask difficult questions in all-hands, anonymously if you need to. Threaten to get a new job – actually do get a new job.

Founders: don't take money from these firms. If you already have,

contact your partner to register your discomfort, and ask them to divest. Prevent them from investing in later rounds.

Attend a protest. Find your local (U.S.) Jewish Voice For Peace or international protest.

Call your representative and senator.

Follow Palestinian journalists and sources to follow what's happening in Gaza through their eyes:

- 1) Motaz Azaiza, https://www.instagram.com/motaz_aza_iza/,
- 2) Hind Khoudary, https://www.instagram.com/hind_khoudary/,
- 3) Bisan Owda, https://www.instagram.com/wizard_bisan1/,
- 4) Plestia Alaqad, https://www.instagram.com/byple_stia/,
- 5) Al Jazeera, <https://www.aljazeera.com/>,
- 6) Mohamad Safa, <https://x.com/mhdksafa>,
- 7) sippin on that <https://x.com/vivafalastin>,
- 8) missfalasteenia, <https://x.com/missfalasteenia>,
- 9) Nour Naim, <https://x.com/NourNaim88>,
- 10) Eye On Palestine, https://www.instagram.com/eye_on.palestine.

Finally, please share this post or my post on Twitter, Mastodon, Threads, Bluesky, LinkedIn.

Notes

1. See for example here (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/damning-evidence-of-war-crimes-as-israeli-attacks-wipe-out-entire-families-in-gaza/>) or here (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/people-in-gaza-describe-living-through-bombings-with-no-way-to-escape/>), but hundreds of apartment blocks were in Gaza before its destruction (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/satellite-images-devastation-gaza-israel-airstrikes-rcna119774>). +972 Magazine (<https://www.972mag.com/mass-assassination-factory-israel-calculated-bombing-gaza/>) reports that Israel has “A concerted policy to bomb family homes,” and details many accounts from those whose homes were bombed and families killed.
2. As of Nov 11, Israel had destroyed over half of hospitals (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/11/14/gaza-unlawful-israeli-hospital-strikes-worsen-health-crisis>.) in Gaza.
3. Israel bombed a UN school on Nov 19, killing “dozens” of women and children (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/18/world/gaza-school-strike-video/index.html>) sheltering there.
4. The official death count (<https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-gaza-health-ministry-health-death-toll-59470820308b31f1faf73c703400b033>) on Dec 13 is 18,600, including over 5000 children. however, officials have lost the ability to count.

The accuracy of the Gaza Ministry of Health’s reporting of death tolls has been shown to be accurate by recent studies when looking at the 2008, 2014, and 2015 wars. U.S. medical journal *Lancet* ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(23\)02713-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(23)02713-7/fulltext)) reviewed and affirms the numbers provided in the current war.

“These figures are professionally done and have proven to be reliable,” said Omar Shakir (<https://apnews.com/article/israel-rael-amas-war-gaza-health-ministry-health-death-toll-59470820308b31f1faf73c703400b033>), Human Rights Watch’s Israel and Palestine director.

5. Even President Biden has called the attacks “indiscriminate,” (<https://apnews.com/article/biden-israel-amas-oct-7-44c4229d4c1270d9cfa484b664a22071>) though the death toll and pictures of a destroyed Gaza demonstrate that directly.

6. Example (<https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-buried-rubble-airstrikes-89c0e8d0934d573d94d2fbfeba44d933>).

7. Israeli soldiers have been recorded shooting civilians who pose no threat, including children (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/west-bank-palestinian-boys-shot-1.7044430>) and a mentally disabled man (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/05/middleeast/mentally-disabled-man-shot-west-bank/index.html>). They even shot an Israeli civilian (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/04/middleeast/castleman-israel-jerusalem-amas-shot-backlash-intl/>) in Jerusalem, who was unarmed and had surrendered, falsely believed to be Hamas:

“When the soldiers saw him I’m assuming they thought he was a terrorist. But then when Yuval realized that that’s what they’re thinking, he opened his jacket to show he had nothing underneath, and got down on his knees. He opened his hands, so they could see he had nothing in his hands,” said Itkovich.

“He was shouting in Hebrew. He was shouting ‘I’m an Israeli.’ He threw his wallet, his identification, on the way so they could see he’s an Israeli. And they just shot him. They gunned him down,” he said.

8. This well-referenced Human Rights Watch article (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/11/29/why-does-israel-have-so-many-palestinians-detention-and-available-swap>) (see similar on CNN (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/29/middleeast/palestinian-prisoners-israeli-judicial-system-west-bank-mime-intl/>) and NBC (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/israel-palestinian-hamas-prisoner-release-gaza-west-bank-rcna127353>)) contains so many harrowing descriptions of shocking treatment of prisoners that you should read the whole thing. These excerpts barely do it justice:

As of November 1, Israeli authorities held nearly 7,000 Palestinians from the occupied territory in detention for alleged security offenses.

Far more Palestinians have been arrested since the October 7 attacks in Israel than have been released in the last week. Among those being held are dozens of women and scores of children.

The majority have never been convicted of a crime, including more than 2,000 of them being held in administrative detention, in which the Israeli military detains a person without charge or trial. Such detention can be renewed indefinitely based on secret information, which the detainee is not allowed to see. Administrative detainees are held on the presumption that they might commit an offense at some point in the future.

More than 1,400 complaints of torture, including painful shackling, sleep deprivation and exposure to extreme temperatures [...]

[...] in 22 cases of detention of Palestinian children they documented in 2023, 64 percent said they were physically abused and 73 % were strip searched by Israeli forces while in detention.

Prisoners released by the IDF in November report being beaten:

Na'im told CBS News (<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/Israel-hamas-palestinian-prisoners-describe-imprisonment-hopes-for-future/>). "Any new prisoner was coming in, he looked beaten up. We requested medicine or other stuff and they refused to give it to us."

"He kept beating me for eight minutes with a stick and without caring where it lands," Mohammed Nazal told Al Jazeera (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/3/how-a-palestinian-teens-release-exposed-israeli-mistreatment-of-prisoners>) of how an Israeli guard tortured him.

"I was covering my head. The stick was aimed here, at my head, but my hands would receive the blow."

Ahmed Al-Salaima told PBS (<https://www.youtube.com/watch>) "After October 7, they started hitting female prisoners. And they started to reduce the quantity of the food. There were 9 of us in the room and they gave us two meals in small quantities. Before entering the jail, I was 158 pounds, but now I'm 121 pounds."

PBS has more testimony (<https://www.youtube.com/watch>) by released prisoners on their treatment.

New testimony from Gazan boys (<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/12/12/like-we-were-lesser-humans-gaza-boys-men-recall-israeli-arrests-torture>) captured on December 5 shows the torture continues. It is even described to politicians (<https://x.com/ragipsoylu/status/1724802180555985287>) who inspect the prisons.

9. The IDF captured (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/07/middle-east/gaza-israeli-soldiers-detained-men-intl/index.html>) a group of men, stripped them to their underwear, blindfolded them and put them in trucks. The IDF later admitted (<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-12-10/ty-article-live/israels-ground-offensive-in-gaza-deepens-as-arab-eu-leaders-push-for-a-cease-fire/0000018c-5187-df2f-adac-ffaf03700000>) that 85-90% of these men had no connection to Hamas, and provided no proof about the remaining 10-15%.

10. This compilation thread (<https://x.com/muhammadshehad2/status/1719679650794762643>) by Palestinian writer and Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor Comms Chief Muhammad Shehada (<https://x.com/muhammadshehad2>) shows social media of IDF soldiers torturing prisoners, followed by Israeli civilians mocking and memeing about it. This was confirmed (<https://x.com/muhammadshehad2>) by other media.

11. From ABC (<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/amid-outcry-gaza-tactics-videos-soldiers-acting-maliciously-10612152>: (page no longer available)) (Same article at The Hill at: <https://thehill.com/homenews/ap/ap-international/ap-amid-outcry-over-gaza-tactics-videos-of-soldiers-acting-maliciously-create-new-headache-for-israel/>).

In one, soldiers ride bicycles through rubble. In another, a soldier has moved

Muslim prayer rugs into a bathroom. In another, a soldier films boxes of lingerie found in a Gaza home. Yet another shows a soldier trying to set fire to food and water supplies that are scarce in Gaza.

12. This isn't the only video (<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israeli-army-in-west-bank-uses-palestinian-detainee-as-human-shield/3049924>) I've seen of Palestinians being used as human shields by the IDF in the occupied Palestinian territories, but I'm trying to restrict most of the references in this piece to legacy media sites.

13. Example: <https://www.tiktok.com/@hussainbol37/video/7300293728646728992>.

14. This CNN chart (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/07/middleeast/palestinian-israeli-deaths-gaza-dg/index.html>) updates as the death toll increases.

15. Israel blockaded Gaza (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/u-n-stops-delivery-of-food-and-supplies-to-gaza-as-communications-blackout>) from receiving food after October 7, (<https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/>) though a small amount (about 20 trucks a day, for a region that needs 100 trucks a day for subsistence) was allowed through during the Humanitarian pause. Gazans on the ground (<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/12/12/photos-israel-is-bombing-starving-palestinians-in-southern-gaza>) report they are starving.

16. By Oct. 17, over 3,000 Gazans had been killed by Israel (<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/how-many-palestinians-have-died-gaza-war-how-will-counting-continue-2023-12-06>). By Dec 12, that number had risen to over 18,000.

17. Even President Biden, a self-described Zionist and friend of Israel, has referred to Israel's actions as "indiscriminate bombing (<https://apnews.com/article/biden-israel-hamas-oct-7-44c4229d4c1270d9cfa484b664a22071>)."

18. Labib Dmaidid was shot dead on October 6 by Israeli settlers. (<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/12/1/my-son-was-killed-on-october-6-there-was-no-hamas>). Dozens have been killed each year, (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/07/middleeast/palestinian-israeli-deaths-gaza-dg/index.html>) including in 2014 when thousands were killed.

19. The Deir Yassin massacre (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/9/the-deir-yassin-massacre-why-it-still-matters-75-years-later>) in 1948 was committed by the forces that would become the IDF, in which at least 107 people were massacred.

"Women and children were stripped, lined up, photographed, and then slaughtered by automatic firing and survivors have told of even more incredible bestialities," the report said. "Those who were taken prisoners were treated with degrading brutality."

This was part of the Nakba, (<https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-nakbas-coming-stages-patterns-process-and-predictability/>) in which 15,000 Palestinians were killed and 750,000 were forced to flee.

20. Israel has been deemed to violate many of the UN Conventions (https://itisaparthoid.org/Documents_pdf_etc/IsraelViolationsInternationalLaw.pdf) that were specifically drawn up after World War II to prevent the Nazis' actions from happening again. Occupying land annexed by force (including Gaza and the West Bank) is illegal.

21. Israel supports (https://www.btselem.org/publications/202111_state_business) "settlements" (<https://www.cnn.com/2017/02/01/middleeast/settlements-explainer/index.html>)

to expand possession (<https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/the-extreme-ambitions-of-west-bank-settlers>) of Palestinian territory, despite being against international law (<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/gross-violation-israels-occupation-west-bank-illegal-new-un-report-finds>). The settlers (<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/france-weighing-sanctions-address-west-bank-settler-violence-2023-12-11/>) are frequently violent, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hilltop_Youth) and they are often armed or accompanied by the IDF (https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2023/10/23/israel-hamas-war-settlers-speed-up- eviction-of-palestinian-bedouins-in-west-bank-hills-amid-war_61957_80_4.html). There are now 500,000 settlers in the West Bank.

22. During the Nakba, pre-Israeli militias razed villages (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_towns_and_villages_depopped_during_the_1947%E2%80%931949_Palestine_war) to prevent the returns of Palestinians to their land.

From 1947 to 1949, some 750,000 (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/15/nakba-mapping-palestinian-villages-destroyed-by-israel-in-1948>) Palestinian Arabs were made refugees, and more than 500 Palestinian towns and villages were depopulated, most through direct attacks by Zionist militias that later became the Israeli Army.

23. From the Yale Review of International Studies: Israel's Campaign Against Palestinian Olive Trees (<http://yris.yira.org/global-issue/6018>). Remarkably, olive trees contribute to 14% of Palestine's economy. Beyond the monetary value, olive trees have become symbolic of Palestinians attachment to their land. Since 1967, more than 800,000 Palestinian olive trees have been illegally uprooted by the Israeli authority. In August 2021 alone, more than 9,000 have been removed.

24. Gaza is a tiny strip of land that was occupied by Egypt in 1948, and so was one of the only safe places for refugees from the Nakba to go. After 750,000 fled from Israeli massacres throughout Palestine, over 200,000 settled in Gaza.

25. From *The Guardian* in 2011 (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/oct/17/israeli-military-calorie-limit-gaza>):

The Israeli military made precise calculations of Gaza's daily calorie needs to avoid malnutrition during a blockade imposed on the Palestinian territory between 2007 and mid-2010, according to files the defense ministry released on Wednesday under a court order.

26. Israel controls the water in Palestine (https://www.btselem.org/publications/202305_parched). West Bank Palestinians get access to only a third of the water that Israelis can use, and only 82% of the WHO recommended minimum.

From *Amnesty International* (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/11/the-occupation-of-water/>) in 2017:

In Gaza, some 90-95% of the watersupply is contaminated and unfit for human consumption. Israel does not allow water to be transferred from the West Bank to Gaza, and Gaza's only fresh water resource, the Coastal Aquifer, is insufficient for the needs of the population and is being increasingly depleted by over-extraction and contaminated by sewage and seawater infiltration.

From *Human Rights Watch* (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/11/16/israeli-authorities-cutting-water-leading-public-health-crisis-gaza>):

After October 7, the Israeli government shut off the pipes that supply Gaza with water.

It has since only resumed piping water to some parts of southern Gaza while some water has entered via Egypt, but it's not reaching everyone and is not nearly enough to meet the needs of Gaza's population, requiring many to rely on the local water supply. According to the UN however, more than 96 percent of the water supply in Gaza is "unfit for human consumption."

27. Israel controls access to fuel in Gaza, as it has for two decades.

From Al Jazeera (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/25/gaza-is-out-of-fuel-out-of-time-under-israels-bombardment>):

Israel classed diesel as a "dual use" good that can be used for military as well as civilian purposes. Therefore, it is heavily controlled or restricted.

However, Israel wrote the rule book on "kosher fuel" for Gaza, a highly complex system of approvals and monitoring put in place to guarantee that "civilian use" fuel flows only to Gaza's sole power plant.

28. From *Times of Israel* (https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/):

"I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed," [Defense Minister] Gallant says following an assessment at the IDF Southern Command in Beersheba. "We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly," he adds.

29. The Khan Yunis massacre (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khan_Yunis_massacre) was documented in Footnotes In Gaza (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Footnotes_in_Gaza) by Joe Sacca, containing many first-person accounts, including a conversation in the foreword with Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdel_Aziz_al-Rantisi) [see note 2], co-founder of Hamas (along with Sheikh Ahmed Yassin). He stated "I still remember the wailing and tears of my father over his brother. I couldn't sleep for many months after that It left a wound in my heart that can never heal. They planted hatred in our hearts."

30. At least 68 journalists (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_journalists_killed_in_the_2023_Israel%E2%80%9393Hamas_war) have been killed in Gaza since the war began. Reporters Without Borders claims Israel is "eradicating" (<https://rsf.org/en/israel-eradicating-journalism-gaza-ten-reporters-killed-three-days-48-start-war>) journalism in Gaza.

31. The killing of Refaat al-Areer (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refaat_Alareer) on December 7, a well-known Palestinian poet and writer. It is alleged (<https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/6014>) that he was targeted in a surgical strike which destroyed only the apartment at which he was staying. The Israeli missile strike also killed his brother, his sister, and her four children.

32. Israeli soldiers forced doctors and staff to leave Al Nasr hospital on November 10. Two weeks later (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/abandoned-babies-found-decomposing-gaza-hospital-evacuated-rcna127533>), 5 babies were found decomposing in the ruins of the hospital.

33. Hadiya Nassar, a 79 year old Palestinian woman, was shot by an (<https://www.palestinechronicle.com/older-than-israel-elderly-palestinian-woman-in-viral-video-killed-in-gaza/>) Israeli sniper. Israeli soldiers have also been seen killing children and elderly men (<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-palestine-war-army-kills-elderly-taking-pr-photo-safe-corridor>).

During the Great March of Return, Israeli snipers shot over 6000 unarmed civilians (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2018/10/gaza-great-march-of-return/>), killing at least 150. The testimony of the soldiers (<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2020-03-06/ty-article-magazine/.highlight/42-knees-in-one-day-israeli-snipers-open-up-about-shooting-gaza-protesters/0000017f-f2da-d497-a1ff-f2dab2520000>) is horrifying, as was a video shared of an onlooker cheering (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/10/video-appears-show-cheers-israeli-sniper-shoots-palestinian>). This has been happening a long time, such as this story from 2005 (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2005/jun/28/comment.israelandthepalestinians>).

34. Nazis

35. I recommend reading the report from Jewish Currents, calling the invasion a genocide (<https://jewishcurrents.org/a-textbook-case-of-genocide>). It has also been called a genocide by the International Federation for Human Rights (https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/fidh_resolution_on_israel_s_unfolding_crime_of_genocide_and_other_crimes_in_gaza_and_against_the_palestinian_people.pdf), Director of the New York office of the High Commission for Human Rights Craig Mokhiber (<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/24103463-craig-mokhiber-resignation-letter>).

36. Lee Fang and Jack Poulson uncovered the pro-Israel information machine (<https://www.leefang.com/p/inside-the-pro-israel-in-formation>), a collaboration between pro-Israeli investors, tech executives, activists, and government officials. They collaborate to fire anyone arguing in favor of Palestinian freedom, including Courtney Carey from Wix, and Paddy Cosgrave from Websummit, and to put public pressure on any comments deemed anti-Israel.

37. When folks suddenly start talking about anti-semitism at universities, or maligning slogans of Palestinian freedom, we know it's to cover up the genocide that's going on in Gaza.

38. Joseph Massad, professor of modern Arab politics and intellectual history at Columbia University, makes the case (<https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/israeli-claims-no-credibility-outside-of-west-gaza>) that Israeli propaganda has been repeatedly shown to be false, and that they have no credibility apart from what is parroted by Western news organizations.

39. The accuracy of the Gaza Ministry of Health's reporting of death tolls has been shown to be accurate by recent studies (<https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-gaza-health-ministry-health-death-toll-59470820308b31f1faf73c703400b033>) when looking at the 2008, 2014, and 2015 wars. U.S. medical journal *Lancet* ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(23\)02713-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(23)02713-7/fulltext)) reviewed and affirms the numbers provided in the current war.

“These figures are professionally done and have proven to be reliable,” said Omar

Shakir (<https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-gaza-health-ministry-health-death-toll-59470820308b31f1faf73c703400b033>), Human Rights Watch’s Israel and Palestine director.

40. A 2000 lb. bomb (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_84_bomb). From the *NY Times* (<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/25/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-death-toll.html>):

Israel’s liberal use of very large weapons in dense urban areas, including U.S.-made 2,000-pound bombs that can flatten an apartment tower, is surprising, some experts say.

“It’s beyond anything that I’ve seen in my career,” said Marc Garlasco, a military adviser for the Dutch organization PAX and a former senior intelligence analyst at the Pentagon. To find a historical comparison for so many large bombs in such a small area, he said, we may “have to go back to Vietnam, or the Second World War.”

In fighting during this century, by contrast, U.S. military officials often believed that the most common American aerial bomb – a 500-pound weapon – was far too large for most targets when battling the Islamic State in urban areas like Mosul, Iraq, and Raqqa, Syria.

41. An MK-84 costs \$16,000, so your taxes can kill more civilians than you think.

42. I’ll note that the same conservatives screaming about freedom of speech for the last decade were the first to ask for freedom of speech to be shut down at universities.

43. “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” is deliberately misconstrued to imply the genocide of the the Israel people. When taken at face value, it can clearly be seen to aim for Palestinian freedom. Jewish Currents has a good article (<https://jewishcurrents.org/what-does-from-the-river-to-the-sea-really-mean>) on this from 2021.

44. Tech leaders such as the Information’s Sam Lessin called out Tiktok’s foreign ownership, complaining that it is a major national security threat. My understanding is that this referred to the significant difference between pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian hashtags, with #freepalestine winning by a margin of 4-1.

Tiktok responded essentially that the kids are alright (<https://twitter.com/lessin/status/1718810964060156243>), and that millennials are much more likely to sympathize with Palestinian oppression.

Which I suppose is Lessin’s point.

45. See *The Guardian* (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/07/widespread-destruction-in-gaza-puts-concept-of-domicide-in-focus>).

46. After Israel demanded that civilians evacuate, they dropped bombs (<https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/16/middleeast/israel-palestinian-evacuation-orders-invs/index.html>) on fleeing refugees.

47. Matt Ocko’s (<https://genocide.vc/matt-ocko-of-dcvc-believes-palestinians-are-sub-human/>) statements are quite something. I can’t believe someone would say that out loud, never mind post it on Twitter.

48. Bessemer Ventures’ Adam Fisher was named as one of the leaders in the pro-Israeli propaganda group uncovered by Lee Fang and Jack Poulson (<https://www.leefang.com/p/inside-the-pro-israel-information-com>).

49. Shaun Maguire

50. AFAICT, First Round's Josh Kopelman was instrumental in canceling (https://twitter.com/joshk/status/17137579607263395_89) Paddy Cosgrave for saying "War crimes are war crimes even when committed by allies, and should be called out for what they are," (https://twitter.com/paddycosgrave/status/17127905398446_12553) and being one of the few people in tech saying so. It took about a day for Cosgrave to be fired.

51. A selection of quotes by senior Israeli officials:

"Human animals must be treated as such. There will be no electricity and no water [in Gaza], there will only be destruction. You wanted hell, you will get hell." – Major General Ghassan Alian (https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/cogatchief-addresses-gazans-you-wanted-hell-you-will-get-hell/), Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories

"I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly." – Defense Minister Yoav Gallant (https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/)

To be clear, when they say that Hamas needs to be eliminated, it also means those who sing, those who support and those who distribute candy, all of these are terrorists. [...] They should all be eliminated – Itamar Ben-Gvir (<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/anyone-who-supports-hamas-should-be-eliminated-israeli-minister/3051463>), Minister of National Security.

There will be no Palestinian state here. We will never allow another state to be established between the Jordan and the sea. We will never go back to Oslo – Shlomo Karhi, Minister of Communications, Likud Party (https://twitter.com/shlomo_karhi/status/1734631075043778670).

Right now, one goal: Nakba! A Nakba that will overshadow the Nakba of 48. Nakba in Gaza and Nakba to anyone who dares to join! – Ariel Kallner (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/in-israels-call-for-mass-evacuation-palestinians-hear-echoes-of-their-original-catastrophic-exodus>), Likud Party [Tweet preserved here] (<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20231009-israel-mk-calls-for-a-second-nakba-in-gaza/>).

*<https://blog.paulbiggar.com/i-cant-sleep/>

** Paul Biggar is an Irish tech entrepreneur, software engineer and founder of at least two tech startup companies. His advocacy for justice for Palestine led him to start Tech For Palestine, a loose coalition of over 5,000 founders, engineers, product marketers, community builders, investors, and other tech folks working toward Palestinian freedom. See: <https://techforpalestine.org/>.

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