



Board of Directors 2023-2024
Resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Gaza strip

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Approved: TBD

Respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors of the California State University, Los Angeles
Associated Students, Incorporated and Approved on February 8th, 2023

WHEREAS, Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) is the recognized voice of nearly 25,000 students; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the ASI Board of Directors to advocate and provide responsible and effective leadership for a diverse student population while igniting students' potential and empowering their voices for the betterment of CSULA students; and

WHEREAS, Associated Students Inc. (ASI) recognizes the events unfolding in the SWANA region have caused tremendous tension and pain for many students across the CSU system; and

WHEREAS, as of February 7, 2024, Anti-Palestinian and Anti-Muslim hate crimes and discrimination have risen by 180% in the United States three months after October 7th (AJ Plus). On October 13th, A six-year-old Palestinian toddler, Wadea Al-Faiyome, was stabbed 26 times in Chicago. On November 25th, three (all age 20) Palestinian college students, Hisham Awartani, Tahseen Ali Ahmad, and Kinnan Abdalhamid, were shot while wearing keffiyehs while walking down Vermont. Awartani is now permanently paralyzed from the waist down due to the Zionist hate crime that has been at an all-time high. On February 4th, *just 3 days ago*, a Palestinian American father, Zacharia Doar, was walking out of his car along with three other Muslim Americans, all of whom were notably attacked for wearing keffiyehs and called slurs, leaving Zacharia stabbed (The IMEU)¹; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2024, college students at Columbia University, who were peacefully protesting against the Gaza Genocide, were sprayed with a chemical weapon known to be manufactured solely by the state of Israel. This weapon is commonly employed as a means of collective punishment against Palestinians and as a tool to forcibly displace them from the Occupied West Bank, facilitating illegal settlements. Two perpetrators, former Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), disguised themselves as Pro-Palestinian protesters to deploy this terrorist weapon. Currently, 14 students remain hospitalized, experiencing symptoms such as burning eyes, extensive nausea, rapid heart rate, and an enduring foul odor reminiscent of sewage, despite repeated attempts at washing. Columbia University has failed to publicly acknowledge this terrorist attack, and there is a conspicuous absence of national outrage surrounding the incident, which remains shrouded in secrecy. Notably, this chemical weapon is

¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/26/three-palestinian-men-shot-in-vermont-us-amid-israel-hamas-truce>
<https://sprout.link/theimeu>



exclusively available only from Israel, as medical professionals in the United States lack the expertise to rid the stench and effects of the weapon. Consequently, students have been unable to attend classes for over two weeks. (Prism Reports, OpenDemocracy)² and;

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2024, according to Gaza's Health Ministry and The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 27,000 Palestinians have been murdered, including 11,500 children and 258 babies (aged 0), with over 66,000 wounded in Gaza, including over 1,000 children with one or both legs amputated since October 7 by the Israeli Occupation Forces. In total, over 100,000 Gazans have been killed, injured, or are still trapped under the rubble of their homes or displaced shelters they were promised were safe by the IOF, beneath grocery stores deliberately and intentionally destroyed by the IOF. What was supposed to be a safe space has all been destroyed with the genocidal intent of killing Palestinians (Al Jazeera). Additionally, in areas where Hamas is not present, 266 people have been slaughtered, and 3,365 have been wounded in the Occupied West Bank³; and

WHEREAS, the state of Israel has displaced 1.9 million Palestinians (out of 2.3 million), cramming them into a small city, Rafah, to seek refuge from indiscriminate and inhumane bombings. Now, Israel has called for the invasion of Rafah and also dropped an estimated 500,000 leaflets urging evacuation to Dair al-Balah, where only 500,000 Palestinians remain cramped up, making it impossible for all 2.3 million Palestinians to fit into this small town. With no way out across the Rafah Border without the Border Patrol bribing Gazan families thousands of dollars per person to escape, Gazans will be stuck in an inevitable concentration camp. 2.3 million Palestinians are being held **hostage, not just since October 7th, but since the start of the illegal besiegement of Gaza**⁴; and

WHEREAS, Whereas, for 16 years the Zionist regime has imposed on Gaza by land, sea and air-meaning that the Zionist state controls how much food and medicine enters Gaza. The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Palestine, Jamie McGoldrick states, "Israel has added insulin pens for children to the list of prohibited items that are not allowed into the besieged and war-torn Gaza strip" (The Palestinian Information Center). On February 6th, a young Palestinian man, Rami al Nagla passed away in Gaza due to not being able to retrieve insulin as a result of Israel's blockade (Mint Press). McGoldrick goes on to say, "Humanitarian workers are being sent into very hostile areas and they have

² <https://prismreports.org/2024/01/30/pro-palestine-students-at-columbia-university-speak-out-about-skunk-attack/>
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/skunk-water-stench-as-weapon-of-war/>

³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/2/5/israels-war-on-gaza-live-israeli-strikes-level-homes-in-deir-el-balah#:~:text=The%20UN%20says%20that%20since,by%20Israel%20to%20be%20addressed.>

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/palestinians-hope-blinken-visit-can-deliver-gaza-truce-before-rafah-assault-2024-02-05/>
<https://www.alhaq.org/monitoring-documentation/6818.html>



no radios, they have no communications that work for them to be seen to be safe” (The Palestinian Information Center). As of February 4th, 2024, 152 UN workers have been murdered in cold blood⁵; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has issued a provisional order against Israel to put in place effective measures to prevent all death, destruction in Gaza and must do everything within its power to “prevent genocidal acts against Gazans” and under the Genocide and Geneva Conventions, Israel must allow food, water, medical aid, fuel, and other humanitarian essentials without delay and that there must be no telecommunication blackouts⁶. The ICJ decreed that there is sufficient and plausible evidence to continue its investigation of Israel on charges of genocide against the Palestinian people; in which they have now charged genocide⁷; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2024, Israel has wrongfully accused the UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, of being Hamas-affiliated for solely helping Gazans. There has been zero evidentiary findings that allowed for this accusation to become, let alone allowed First World Imperial countries to withdraw their funding immediately. The EU, United States, and Germany have been the largest donors and have withdrawn their funds. The UNRWA has provided primary and vocational education, healthcare, social, and relief services. If they do not receive any funding soon, they will have to withdraw their services by the end of February⁸. (Reuters); and

WHEREAS, all universities and schools in the Gaza Strip have been completely destroyed or damaged⁹, a horrific form of genocide, named, “scholasticide,” the erasure and complete dismantlement of educational institutions and murdering educators. Over 231 educators have died and more continue to be relentlessly murdered. Israel has also used the Al-Israa University as a military base and “detention center” (concentration camps) to torture Palestinian men and children¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, there have been more than 600¹¹ attacks on the health system in both the Occupied West Bank and Gaza. All 36 hospitals in Gaza have either been completely shut down, demolished, or are not fully functioning to their fullest potential regardless of the

5 <https://english.palinfo.com/news/2024/01/25/313357/#:~:text=The%20UN%20Humanitarian%20Coordinator%20for,and%20war%20torn%20Gaza%20Strip.>

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/>

⁶ <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/experts-react/experts-react-what-the-international-court-of-justice-said-and-didnt-say-in-the-genocide-case-against-israel/#:~:text=Today%2C%20the%20ICJ%20ordered%20that,to%20destroy%20the%20Gazan%20people.>

⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/01/israel-must-comply-with-key-icj-ruling-ordering-it-do-all-in-its-power-to-prevent-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/#:~:text=The%20ruling%20issued%20by%20the,assistance%20to%20civilians%20in%20Gaza.>

⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/unrwa-could-shut-down-by-end-february-if-funding-does-not-resume-2024-02-01/>

⁹ <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/gaza-children-forced-to-learn-how-to-survive-bombs-hunger>

¹⁰ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/children-suffer-education-under-attack-west-bank-and-gaza>
<https://english.palinfo.com/news/2024/01/18/313005/>

¹¹ <https://www.un.org/en>



influx of injured civilians, lack of fuel and medical supplies being prohibited from entering Gaza by Israel¹²; and

WHEREAS, on February 2nd 2024, more than 30 bodies of women, men and children were found tied in black body bags killed execution-style in an already decomposed state *in a schoolyard*. This only adds on to the many confirmed accounts that were documented by the Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor of kidnappings of several Palestinian men and elderly, and kids to be tortured and shot dead¹³; and

WHEREAS, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres told the U.N. Security Council that Gaza is at a breaking point and that the total collapse of the humanitarian support system is inevitable. He has called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the name of humanity; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2023, in the UN General Assembly, an overwhelming majority of 153 to 10 voted in favor of calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire¹⁴; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 2024, The US House of Representatives rejected a \$17.6 billion aid to Israel, the vote count being 250-180¹⁵; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Associated Students Incorporated of California State University, Los Angeles support the following:

1. An immediate ceasefire in Gaza;
2. An immediate end to all U.S. aid to Israel;
3. Opening Israeli-controlled crossings to allow sufficient amounts of food, fuel and medical supplies into Gaza;
4. An immediate restoration of electricity, internet, and water that Israel cut off in Gaza;
5. Support for prisoner exchanges;
6. International, reputable and unbiased commissions to investigate war crimes;
7. Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions, including divesting Cal State LA and CSU funds from companies complicit in maintaining the Israeli occupation of Palestine; and
8. Additionally, we call on all university administrators to provide resources for those most impacted and to protect faculty, staff, students, and community members who are experiencing attacks on their personal and psychological safety and academic freedoms. These local examples of epistemic and physical violence are directly tied to the U.S.-funded genocide occurring in Palestine. An immediate and permanent ceasefire by Israel in its assault on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and attacks in the West Bank; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Associated Students Incorporated of California State university, Los Angeles also calls for the following:

¹² <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/12/22/world/society/gaza-hospitals-function-stop/>

¹³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/1/palestinians-demand-international-inquiry-after-mass-grave-found-in-gaza#:~:text=At%20least%2030%20bodies%20were,civilians%20%E2%80%9Cexecution%2Dstyle%E2%80%9D.>

¹⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1144717>

¹⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-house-rejects-republican-led-effort-pass-israel-only-aid-bill-2024-02-07/#:~:text=The%20vote%20was%20250%20to,and%2046%20Democrats%20supported%20it.>



- **That** Cal State LA leadership and the City of Los Angeles officially join this call for an immediate ceasefire, an unwavering stance against genocide, and to prevent any additional loss of life.
- **For** Los Angeles City Council members to advocate against rising instances of Anti-Arab, Anti-Palestinian, and Islamophobia, and all other acts of hate in the community.
- **We** demand local and national news outlets to commit to honest reporting on Gaza that does not include racist anti-Arab, anti-Muslim tropes. We have been seeing a white supremacist and orientalist rhetoric being pushed that dehumanizes Palestinians to manufacture consent to erase Gaza and genocide its people. Creating propaganda to demonize victims is fundamental to oppression such as:
 1. The Israeli Prime Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant called all Palestinians in Gaza “human animals”. <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/newsfeed/2023/10/9/israeli-defence-minister-orders-complete-siege-on-gaza#:~:text=%E2%80%9CWe%20are%20fighting%20against%20human,attack%20by%20 Hamas%20on%20Israel.>
 2. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described all Palestinian children as “the children of darkness” to incite validity of the relentless murder and torture of Palestinian children. - <https://www.newarab.com/news/netanyahu-deletes-palestinian-children-darkness-tweet>
 3. New York Times Columnist and Zionist, Thomas L. Friedman wrote a racist and genocidal article on February 2nd, 2024 titled, “Understanding the Middle East Through the Animal Kingdom” describing resistance fighters in the Middle East as “wasps” and “caterpillars” and he prefers to watch “Animal Planet” when “contemplating the Middle East.” <https://www.newarab.com/news/thomas-friedman-nyt-middle-east-animal-kingdom-enrages-arabs>
- **That** Cal State LA and the wider community work together to be informed and educated on the history and atrocities experienced by the Palestinians and how indigenous sovereignty and self-determination globally and historically are all interconnected. It is inherently paradoxical that our campus displays a sign in big letters, “Tongva Land,” to acknowledge the indigenous territory we stand upon, while simultaneously grappling with the historical reality of settler-colonialism. The acknowledgement of Native Americans’ realities and the loss of their land must not be performative. This shallow acknowledgement merely emphasizes a fundamental hypocrisy: the CSU recognizes indigenous peoples’ historical and ongoing plight for sovereignty and “land back” rhetorically and academically, but turns a blind eye to the actual realities on how our institution fails to adequately rectify the systemic injustices perpetrated against them.
- **Be it further resolved**, we continue to condemn the horrific acts of genocide committed by Israel and the United States complicity in enabling this genocide by providing unequivocal support through military funding for the senseless massacres against Palesinians in Gaza. We remain unequivocally committed to promoting student’s right to freedom of speech, and right to a sense of safety and belonging on and off campus. Disagreement and discourse are a critical part of higher education. We, therefore, implore students to treat one another with dignity and respect during these difficult times.



Resources:

Educational Resources:

- <https://imeu.org/>
- <https://www.middleeasteye.net/>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/>
- <https://www.mintpressnews.com/>
- <https://english.palinfo.com/>
- <https://slowfactory.earth/>
- <https://www.newarab.com/>
- [Fake Or Real? How To Self-Check The News And Get The Facts- NPR](#)
- [Is it legit? Five steps for vetting a news source- News Literacy Project](#)

Palestinian Journalists

- Bisan Owda
- Khind Khoudary
- Wael Al-Dahdouh
- Motaz Azaiza
- Saleh Aljafarawi

Palestinian Educational Toolkit(s)

- <https://palestinianfeministcollective.org/all-out-for-palestine/>
- https://actionnetwork.org/user_files/user_files/000/060/430/original/PFC_Toolkit_PDF.pdf
- <https://www.intersectionalenvironmentalist.com/toolkits/ecofeminism-and-environmental-liberation>

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