

Indianapolis Groups Join Palestinian Day of Resistance

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Indianapolis, IN – On Thursday, October 12, Hoosiers will gather in Indianapolis to support Palestinians and oppose the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The protest, led by Students for Justice in Palestine-Butler University and co-sponsored by Jewish Voice for Peace-Indiana, the Party for Socialism and Liberation Indianapolis, and ANSWER-Indianapolis is in response to the 75 years of displacement, dispossession, and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. Members of the Palestinian, Jewish, and allied communities will speak at the event in solidarity with Palestinians here in the US and around the world.

On Saturday, October 7, following 16 years of Israeli military blockade, Palestinian fighters from Gaza launched an assault. Hundreds of Israelis were killed and wounded, and civilians were kidnapped. The Israeli government declared war, launching airstrikes. Since then, hundreds of Palestinians have been killed, thousands have been wounded. Israel has cut off water, electricity, fuel, and food to Gaza and have been relentlessly bombing residential buildings, hospitals, and neighborhoods. Israeli officials have been threatening to commit additional war crimes against besieged Palestinians in Gaza.

We mourn all of the Palestinian and Israeli lives lost this past week. We recognize that this Palestinian response is a direct result of over 75 years of Israel's brutal occupation of Palestine. Unconditional US support of Israel's apartheid regime has directly paved the way for this violence and the only way to end it is to address the root cause of it: Israel's violent occupation.

We reject the two-dimensional and racist narrative that is being presented by the US media. Any narrative that does not include the colonization of Palestine and subsequent apartheid state is misleading. We condemn the portrayal of all Palestinians as terrorists and affirm their right to resist colonization in line with the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and UN resolution 3314 and 37/43.

We further condemn the racist language that is being used against the Palestinian people. Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant stated, "We are fighting human animals and we act accordingly". These comments highlight the very ideology that is fueling Israeli apartheid.

Palestinians have called for mass mobilization for freedom and justice on a global scale. As allies to the Palestinian liberation cause here in Indianapolis, we will join hundreds of cities worldwide in expressing solidarity with Palestine. Our message to our government and leaders is unambiguous: end US military funding for Israel and hold the Israeli government accountable for its violations of human rights and war crimes against Palestinians.

We call on the Indianapolis community to join us for this Day of Resistance and express support for the Palestinian liberation. We hope to see all fellow justice-seekers join us in demonstration this Thursday, October 12th at Monument Circle at 5:30 PM.

#StudentDayofResistance #DayofResistance #FreePalestine

November 7, 2023

Statement of Solidarity

Dear Butler University and Indianapolis community,

We write this statement as a collective of organizations and individuals that are dedicated to fighting all forms of oppression. As supporters and advocates of justice and freedom, we stand in solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle.

We mourn all of the lives lost in the past 32 days. We recognize that the only way to end the cycle of violence is to address the root cause of it: Israel's brutal occupation.

Settler colonialism is an inherently violent process. Over the greater part of the past century, illegal Israeli settlements have been brutally colonizing indigenous Palestine, committing war crimes in the process. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed and millions have been displaced due to Israel's colonial project.

What Israel is doing in response to the attacks of October 7th is genocide. After they demanded that 1.1 million Palestinians leave Gaza, they proceeded to bomb and kill people trying to follow this order. They continue to bomb hospitals, schools, refugee camps and residential areas in Gaza. Thousands of Palestinians have been killed, and many more have been wounded. Israel has cut off water, electricity, fuel, and food to Gaza. Israel has additionally enforced a total media blackout, almost entirely cutting off Gazans from the outside world.

We reject the two-dimensional and racist narrative that is being presented by the global and American media. Any narrative that does not include the brutal colonization of Palestine and the subsequent apartheid state is misleading. We staunchly condemn the portrayal of Palestinians as terrorists and affirm their right to resist colonization in line with the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and UN resolution 3246 and 37/43.

We also condemn the racist language that is being used against Palestinian people. Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant commented "We are fighting human animals and we act accordingly". These comments highlight the very ideology that is fueling Israeli apartheid.

We call attention to the fact that this is not an issue of religion, but rather that of a system of apartheid and settler colonialism.

To stop the rapid loss of life, it is imperative to administer an immediate ceasefire. No humanitarian or peacebuilding actions can effectively be accomplished until there is a ceasefire.

We condemn the rise in racist and Islamophobic rhetoric on Butler's campus and the wider Indianapolis area. The Butler University College Republicans recently released a statement that called Butler University's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine "pro-Hamas" and "pro-terrorist." They also called the peaceful protest that demonstrated opposition to Israel's war crimes in Gaza a "Day of Jihad". They have falsely claimed that SJP is in favor of the "kidnapping, rape, murder, and beheading of Israeli citizens". The Butler University College Republicans have also made false claims about chants at the protest that the Students for Justice in Palestine assisted in organizing. This harmful and dangerous rhetoric pushes stereotypes of Muslims, Arabs, and Palestinians as barbaric, violent, and sexually deviant. They go on to reference 9/11 in their statement. This is especially chilling because of the spike of hate crimes and illegal surveillance that Muslims, Arabs, South Asians, and Sikhs faced post-9/11. Finally, they ask Butler University to remove SJP's registered student organization status.

These attacks on SJP are not isolated. Jefferson Shreve, a mayoral candidate for Indianapolis, has also directly referred to Butler's SJP as "American devotees of a terrorist group". SJP has also received threatening emails calling for the expulsion of their members. On October 14, The Collegiate Commons, a student-run newspaper with contributors from universities in central Indiana, released an article referring to SJP's protest as "students celebrating violence".

It is not a coincidence that the majority of Butler SJP's executive board are Muslim. These false, unsubstantiated, and dangerous claims have created an environment where it is acceptable to single out and target people based on their religious beliefs and ethnicity for harassment. This extremely hostile environment has made Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian Butler students feel unsafe and targeted on campus.

This harmful rhetoric can be found throughout the media in the US and we have already seen the consequences. A six year old Palestinian-American boy was killed and his mother wounded by their landlord who targeted them because they were Muslim and Palestinian. The landlord said "You Muslims must die", before the brutal attack. We believe words matter, and the collective demonization of Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian people in the US has only led to more hate crimes. We mourn Wadea's senseless death and stand in solidarity with his family.

The Students for Justice in Palestine and all signed organizations and individuals support the Palestinian liberation struggle. We hold that all of our struggles for liberation are deeply interconnected, and we are united in our battle against systems of colonial oppression.

Together, we resist and fight back against the colonial narrative.

Until Liberation,

Butler University's Students for Justice in Palestine

Download PDF flyer

The unrelenting oppression, murder, torture and occupation carried out by the Israeli apartheid regime has precipitated a counter-offensive by Palestinian resistance forces. The Israeli war machine and its attendant systems of oppression are bought and paid for by U.S. imperialism. U.S. tax dollars fund the grinding oppression of the Palestinian people to the tune of \$4 billion each year.

Resistance to apartheid and fascist-type oppression was labeled "terrorism" by U.S. politicians when the African National Congress took up arms against the racist, apartheid regime in South Africa. The same false "terrorism" label is being applied to the Palestinian people.

The PSL says: Resistance to apartheid and fascist-type oppression is not a crime! It is the inevitable outcome for all people who demand self-determination rather than living with the boot-heel of the oppressors on their necks.

The people of the United States are going into the streets right now to say "free Palestine!", "cut all U.S. aid for the apartheid regime" and "free all Palestinian political prisoners!"

Israel is currently carrying out a massacre of historic proportions against Gaza and all throughout Palestine, slaughtering hundreds. The bombs and missiles that are raining down on Gaza right now are paid for by U.S. tax dollars. Instead of using money to meet people's needs, the U.S. government has shamefully extended Israel a long-term military aid agreement worth \$38 billion.

The corporate media and politicians want the public to believe that Israel is simply defending itself from "terrorism." That's a lie. The actions of the resistance over the course of the last day is a morally and legally legitimate response to occupation. It was brought about by escalating Israeli oppression on numerous fronts.

**Because we are funded solely by donations and members, we can operate as a truly independent, liberated community space.
Support us!**

**Thursday, October 12
5:30 pm
Monument Circle**

Today, we witness a historic win for the Palestinian resistance: across land, air, and sea, our people have broken down the artificial barriers of the Zionist entity, taking with it the facade of an impenetrable settler colony and reminding each of us that total return and liberation to Palestine is near. Catching the enemy completely by surprise, the Palestinian resistance has captured over a dozen settlements surrounding Gaza along with many occupation soldiers and military vehicles. This is what it means to Free Palestine: not just slogans and rallies, but armed confrontation with the oppressors.

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Join [Students for Justice in Palestine – Butler University](#), [PSL Indianapolis](#), [Jewish Voice for Peace – Indiana](#), the Indianapolis Liberation center, and [ANSWER Indiana](#) for a day of resistance in support of Palestine.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!