



Statement in Solidarity with Student Protests

04/29/2024

We, Doctors Against Genocide, stand in solidarity with protestors on campuses across the world fighting against the genocide occurring in Gaza. Their multi-faith movement for peace and justice is an inspiration to all around the globe. We echo and reaffirm the importance of their demands for divestment from the state of Israel and international companies that sustain the Israeli regime's system of apartheid, which has led to the genocide unfolding in Gaza today.

Six months since the genocidal campaign in Gaza began, Israel has killed more than 34,000 Gazans in indiscriminate airstrikes targeting densely populated residential areas, hospitals, universities, schools, and critical infrastructure. Mass graves have been discovered at Nasser Hospital and Al-Shifa Hospital, with evidence of extrajudicial execution of civilians and patients. More than 1 in 100 children in the Gaza Strip lay dead. Most of the infrastructure in the Gaza Strip lays in waste. Despite glaring evidence of human violations and utter disregard for international humanitarian law, the American government continues to protect Israel diplomatically and financially, allowing the genocide to continue with impunity.

College students have long formed the backbone of social change as generations have progressed. From opposition to the Vietnam War, French Austerity measures, Tiananmen Square in China, and the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, generations of students have bravely raised their voices in the face of state repression to advocate for justice, often at great personal risk.

All of Gaza's universities have been destroyed in Israel's latest military offensive in Gaza, which has systematically targeted and dismantled every element of critical infrastructure. Many of our future colleagues, the medical students of Gaza, have been killed in the ongoing genocide, have had their education interrupted, and are fighting for their own and their families' survival daily. In this context, we must stand in solidarity with our peers and colleagues whose channels for advocacy, activism, and civic participation through the university and every other institution have been eliminated and amplify their calls to end the genocide.

As doctors, we know how important it is to find a voice within a university environment. Our first forays into expression and discovering what we loved in the medical field were done at universities. More importantly, much of our knowledge about inequities and advocacy came from collaborating with fellow college students and organizers, which helps us treat and advocate for patients from diverse backgrounds.

In this vein, we strongly urge universities and politicians to respect and uphold the right to free speech and assembly. The wide array of arrests, suspensions, and expulsions are being used as tactics to repress dissent, infringe upon these rights and stifle the voices of those calling for an end to institutional complicity in genocide. As healthcare providers, we witness the myriad of ways in which our patients' health is impacted today by centuries-long histories of racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and Islamophobia across the U.S. and implore administrators to consider how the presence of law enforcement and the potential for police brutality places communities of color, undocumented individuals, and other marginalized groups at a disproportionate risk of state violence. Administrators should prioritize the safety of these communities and respond to protests with dialogue rather than escalatory responses involving law enforcement.

We urge medical providers to support protestors by treating them from police-inflicted injuries, volunteering as encampment medics, and standing against violence and hate speech. We will not let this genocide pass without deliverance of justice.