



# Statement Condemning Violent Arrest of Dr. Jill Stein

04/29/2024

We, Doctors Against Genocide (DAG), condemn the violent arrest of our colleague and fellow member, Dr. Jill Stein, during a protest advocating for an end to the genocide in Gaza at Washington University St. Louis.

On 4/28/24, Dr. Jill Stein joined a peaceful demonstration with hundreds of student protestors urging Washington University St. Louis to sever ties with corporations complicit in the genocide in Gaza and calling for a complete academic boycott of the Israeli Occupation.

In response to these peaceful protests, administrators called the police who then assaulted and arrested around 80 people from the group of demonstrators, injuring many. During these unjust arrests, police officers forcibly shoved a bike onto Jill Stein and others before aggressively grabbing and throwing protestors onto the ground.

This incident underscores the excessive violent treatment often faced by advocates for Palestinian rights and reminds us of the even more chilling challenges that Palestinian medical professionals endure in their homeland, Palestine. We cannot stand silent as protestors for peace and justice get met time and time again with police brutality.

Over the past 200 days, the world has witnessed unprecedented loss of life and devastation in Palestine. The people of Gaza are enduring tremendous suffering amidst widespread destruction, which the world now recognizes as acts of genocide. This crisis has resonated deeply on our college campuses, transforming them into vibrant arenas where students and academics assert their rights to free speech and assembly to advocate for justice in Palestine.

DAG stands in solidarity not only with Dr. Stein but also with the courageous demonstrators on college campuses worldwide. Protestors are championing the fundamental human rights of Palestinians to live freely and safely in their indigenous homeland, denouncing the war crimes committed in Gaza, and calling for an end to the Israeli Occupation of Palestine. It is inappropriate and deeply shameful that university administrations and law enforcement would respond to such calls with aggression rather than dialogue.

As health professionals, we recognize police brutality as one of many public health issues inequitably distributed across the entrenched class and racial hierarchies that shape Americans' daily lives. When administrators respond to peaceful demonstrations by involving law enforcement, they jeopardize the safety of Black and Brown communities on campus. We urge administrators to protect students from the risk of police violence--risks that will be disproportionately borne by marginalized communities on campus--by engaging in dialogue rather than escalatory tactics.

We reaffirm our commitment to opposing and eradicating injustices that threaten peace, health, and human dignity. We continue to advocate for the safety and rights of medical professionals, activists, and all individuals standing against genocide and for human rights globally.