

To our Palestinian friends and the U-M community at large,

As a continuation of the displacement of indigenous Palestinians since the Nakba—an event that uprooted 700,000 and killed 20,000 indigenous Palestinians in 1948—the actions of the Israeli occupying forces throughout Palestine are inhumane, international war crimes. Today, approximately 20 Palestinians, including nine children, were reported murdered by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza and two Palestinians were murdered in Al-Lydd. In the last week, there has been a severe increase in the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians with recent efforts to expel Palestinians in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. For the past 73 years, this violence has displaced, harmed, and killed indigenous Palestinians. This is not a “conflict”, but emblematic of Israeli settler-colonialism, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid.

In an effort to further suppress Palestinians, Israeli police and settler militias are currently targeting Muslims during the holiest month of Ramadan at the third most divine site in Islam; Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. Additionally, Palestinian churches and other houses of worship have been targeted. Israel threatens Palestinians of all religions, from those displaced in diaspora all over the globe to Palestinians in Palestine.

On our own campus, we recognize that anti-Palestinian sentiment has been allowed to run rampant, and we’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the harm that has been done. We recognize that Palestinian voices and discourse around Palestinian liberation has been profoundly marginalized through censorship and threats from other organizations on campus. Furthermore, we also must recognize CSG’s prior complicity with Israel’s violence through participation in events such as yearly trips to Israel that supported the settler-state in its apartheid and occupation.

By extension, the University of Michigan remains complicit by choosing to not divest from Israeli companies profiting off of the settler state’s occupation. As such, CSG is determined to correct these wrongs by working with SAFE and other organizations advocating for Palestinian liberation to curate actionable steps that will be released at a

later date. Consequently, we wholeheartedly support the advocacy coalitions on the U-M campus who tirelessly fight in allyship with Palestinians abroad and on campus.

The struggle for liberation is worldwide as the disenfranchised continue to fight the interlocked systems of deadly capitalism, colonialism, and imperialism that manifest in global oppression. However, Palestinians have been pushed out of the political discourse and have been censored. As a result, in solidarity, CSG will use its platform to uplift Palestinian voices throughout this administration. Our solidarity with Palestinians is late but necessary and we aim to do whatever is in our power to ensure that we remain in lockstep with them and their fight against oppression.

CSG urges students to text RESIST to 50409 in support of bill H.R.2590 to prevent taxpayer's dollars from being allocated to harming Palestinian children and promoting ethnic cleansing.

Remaining informed is also key, and students are urged to follow accounts like @eye.on.palestine, @theimeu, @jewishvoiceforpeace, @palestiniayouthmovement, and @mohammedelkurd on Instagram to get accurate and on-the-ground information. On Twitter, we recommend for students to follow @4noura, @m7mdkurd, and @BDSmovement to be updated with action steps and live journalism.

Signed,

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Zaynab Elkolaly, CSG DEI Coordinator

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Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE)

Arab Student Association

Muslim Student Association