



1 **Resolution XX: Acknowledging Palestinian** 2 **Suffering under Israeli Apartheid**

3 **Abstract:** Insisting Cornell to reevaluate their response to the Palestinian resistance efforts and 4
provide more historically accurate and balanced perspectives. This resolution explains the long 5
term implications of Israeli Occupation and provides actions to be taken to better Cornell's 6
responses to current events.

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Reviewed by: Name of Committee, DD/MM/YYYY

9 **Type of Action:**

10 **Originally Presented:** DD/MM/YYYY

11 **Current Status:**

12 **Whereas,** Last weekend, Hamas – an armed resistance front against illegal Israeli occupation 13
launched a wave of deadly attacks that marked a pivotal milestone in the ongoing Palestinian 14
resistance movement. The attacks claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent Israeli civilians and 15
even more Palestinians in its aftermath. While SJP mourns the tragic loss of lives **on both sides,** 16
these events did not unfold in a vacuum.

17 **Whereas,** Hamas's armed operations are a direct response to over 75 years of illegal occupation, 18
settler colonialism, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid governance endured by Palestinians. The 19 Gaza
Strip has been subject to the most violent and direct forms of oppression by the Israeli state 20 and
military. Gaza has been held under siege through a military blockade imposed by Israel since 21
Hamas seized control of the territory in 2007.

22 **Whereas,** The movement of people, goods, and aid is severely restricted creating what countless 23
human rights organizations have called "the world's largest open-air prison". Its people are 24
routinely subject to electricity cuts, military bombings of schools, hospitals, and civilian homes, 25
arbitrary raids and arrests, and unsanitary water supply that have claimed the lives of thousands 26 in
the past decade. Roughly 50% of Gaza's 2.3 million inhabitants are children living in 27 conditions
described by U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres "hell on Earth." These war

²https://www.huffpost.com/entry/israel-defense-minister-human-animals-gaza-palestine_n_6524220ae4b09f4b8d412e0a

³<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwifms3pn2BAxXaLFkFHXqoBoIQFnoECCwQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcornellsun.com%2F2022%2F11%2F16%2Fcorn>



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28 crimes committed by Israel have been recorded by the Human Rights Watch, Amnesty
International, B'tselem, and other
organizations.¹ 29

30 **Whereas**, Rather than acknowledging these root causes of violence, the increasingly far-right 31
Israeli government, with the support of the international community, has ordered a "[complete](#)" 32
[blockade](#) of the already besieged area that involves more bombing of Palestinians and the 33
complete severance of electricity, food, and fuel supplies, to a population that has no means of 34
escaping. "[When] we are fighting human animals", Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant 35
recently asserted, "we act accordingly." Whilst rushing to condemn the attacks by Hamas, the 36
international community is now silently watching the Israeli government conduct one of the
largest massacres of our time against the people in

Gaza.² 37

38 **Whereas**, Cornell is directly complacent in the systematic dehumanization of Palestinian people 39
that sustains the status-quo. This is evidenced in the administration's refusal to acknowledge the 40
Palestinian lives lost in the aftermath of this weekend's events and in the 75-year occupation 41
leading up to it. The words "Palestine" and "Palestinians" were not once uttered in President 42
Martha Pollack's statements in response to the unfolding tragedy. The statement is not only 43
explicitly biased towards Israel but is also ahistorical and completely void of context.

44 **Whereas**, Cornell, like many members of the international community, rightfully expressed an 45
outpour of support for Ukrainians resisting foreign occupation by any means necessary, whilst 46
systemically failing to extend that same right of resistance to Palestinians living under settler
47 occupation.³
colonial

48 **Whereas**, Cornell Students for Justice in Palestine stands in solidarity with the Palestinian 49
people who are victims of the **longest ongoing military occupation in modern history**. Our 50
hearts go out to all Palestinians, who have been subjugated, displaced, harmed, and separated 51
from their families. We continue to support Palestinians' right to self-determination and 52
resistance by any means necessary - a right legally acknowledged under international law. We 53
urge members of the international community to refrain from viewing the Palestinian struggle as 54
a religious, ethnic or military conflict between two equal partners. Instead, Palestinian resistance 55
must be understood as a struggle for decolonization waged by a settler-colonial state against an 56
indigenous population. We affirm unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and the 57
Palestinian resistance efforts to liberate Palestine from Israeli occupation. By coming together 58
and taking action, we are liberating Palestine collectively. In Solidarity, Cornell Students for 59
Justice in Palestine

60 **Be it therefore resolved**, That Cornell reassesses its response not only to this week's events, but 61

to the events leading up to it. We desire historically and politically informed responses to this

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³<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwifms3pn2BAxXaLFkFHxqoBoIQFnoECCwQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcornellsun.com%2F2022%2F11%2F16%2Fcornell-students-support-ukraine-through-dnipro-fund-scholars-for-ukraine%2F&usg=AOvVaw1cwpnSRnQVa5zCVSsBlcEB&opi=89978449>



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62 ongoing violence that denounce Zionism as an ideology and acknowledge Palestinians' right to 63
existence in their homeland. We urge Cornell to recognize the Palestinian right to resistance and 64
contextualize the violence as a direct response to decades of Israel's occupation. It is Cornell's 65
responsibility to issue balanced statements that do not silence and/or erase Palestinian grievances 66
and ongoing struggle.

67 **Be it finally resolved,** Cornell uphold its commitment to equal protection and support and 68
adhere to its Title VI (Prohibition against exclusion from participation in, denial of benefits of, 69
and discrimination under federally assisted programs on the ground of race, color, or national 70
origin) obligations, extending those rights to every student, including those who are Palestinian,

71 Muslim, Arab, and/or those advocating for the Palestinian cause. It is vital that Cornell takes 72
measures to guarantee the safety and well-being of these minority students, in alignment with 73
Title VI.

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76 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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