The statement below, signed by Vassar College faculty members, was originally acquired from the public link HERE.

**AMCHA Initiative Note:** The Palestine & Praxis open letter (referenced as “Scholars for Palestinian Freedom”) endorsed in the statement below includes a commitment to academic BDS, which, if put into effect, would restrict the educational opportunities and academic freedom of students and faculty who want to study about or in Israel.

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**Letter to the Editor: Vassar Community Members’ Statement of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**

**By GUEST CONTRIBUTOR**

Posted on May 25, 2021 in Opinions

*The following is a letter submitted by a group of professors, and among the signatories are professors, alumni and students. The Miscellany News welcomes a variety of opinions, and articles and letters that appear in the opinions section do not necessarily reflect the views of the paper. If you would like to submit a letter to our opinions section please email misc@vassar.edu.*

As members of the Vassar community and people of conscience, we denounce the ongoing attacks on Palestinians by the Israeli armed forces. We especially condemn the recent extensive bombardment and killing of over 200 people and injuring of thousands more in Gaza, an open air prison of two million inhabitants, mostly descended from refugees expelled from other parts of Palestine. This intensification of violence follows the displacement of the residents of Sheikh Jarrah and the attack on worshippers in Al-Aqsa mosque during Ramadan. We situate these flashpoints in the broader context of the Nakba, Israel’s ethnic cleansing, dispossession, containment, and expulsion of Palestinians since 1948. Tragically, all we can hope for in the current ceasefire is a return to the unacceptable status quo ante, or a slowdown in home demolitions and killings.

We affirm that the Palestinian struggle is an indigenous resistance movement confronting settler colonialism, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing, and stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. This is not a symmetrical battle. Israel is one of the most heavily militarized states in the world and receives $3.8 billion in military aid annually from the United States. As we write, the US Congress is considering a $735 million arms sale to the Israeli regime. In the past decade alone, US aid has not
only underwritten the dispossession, jailing, torture, maiming, and killing of thousands of Palestinian men, women, and children throughout the region, but also the creation of an acute humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

We agree with Human Rights Watch, the Israeli human rights organization B’tselem, and the United Nations, which have all described Israel’s systemic discrimination and violence against Palestinians as apartheid, a recognized crime against humanity. In the occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, and within Israel, Palestinians resist daily humiliation and violence from the Israeli military, settler militias, and lynch mobs. We salute their bravery and steadfastness.

We recognize that peace can only be achieved with justice in Palestine/Israel. It is not possible under conditions of military occupation, blockade, discrimination, dispossession, and the enduring direct, structural, and cultural violence inflicted upon Palestinians.

We reject what the so-called peace process has become: an instrument of continued land grabs and state violence, propagating the fiction of a “two-sided conflict” and the perpetual postponement of a just solution.

We support the Palestinian right to return, the end of the occupation, and the right of all inhabitants of Israel/Palestine to live in dignity, safety and freedom. We stand with Palestinians, their Jewish Israeli allies, and all those around the world fighting for this noble goal.

We see the movement against racism, police brutality, and mass incarceration in the United States and the Palestinian struggle against apartheid as interconnected. We agree with The Movement for Black Lives’ declaration that “The fight for Palestinian rights and dignity is integral to the fight for human rights everywhere.”

We know that educators who teach and speak about Palestine do so at great risk in a climate of censorship. We stand with the statement issued by Scholars for Palestinian Freedom. We also join our colleagues at Yale, Princeton, the Universities of Illinois Chicago and Urbana-Champaign, Universities of California Santa Cruz, Berkeley, and Davis, Harvard, CUNY, and Gender Studies Departments around the country to express our solidarity with Palestinians.

All members of the Vassar community are invited to sign here. Below is a current list as of June 8, 2021.
In solidarity,

Ismail Rashid, History
Joshua Schreier, History and Jewish Studies
Maria Hantzopoulos, Education
Katherine Hite, Political Science
Diane Harriford, Sociology
Eva Woods Peiró, Hispanic Studies
Patricia-Pia Célérion, French and Francophone Studies
Joseph Nevins, Geography
Sam Okoth Opondo, Political Science and Africana Studies
Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert, Hispanic Studies
Hiram Perez, Women, Feminist, and Queer Studies
Mario Cesareo, Hispanic Studies
Claire Sagan, Political Science
Erin McCloskey, Education
George Ciccariello-Maher, Political Science
Kirsten Wesselhoeft, Religion
David Tavárez, Anthropology and LALS
Mita Choudhury, History
Taneisha Means, Political Science
Kimberly Williams-Brown, Education
Vinay Swamy, French and Francophone Studies
Susan Hiner, French and Francophone Studies
Paulina Bren, International Studies
Barbara Olsen, Greek and Roman Studies
Kirsten Menking, Earth Science
John Andrews, Sociology
Pinar Batur, Sociology
Giovanna Borradori, Media Studies
Candice Lowe Swift, Anthropology, Africana Studies, International Studies
Lydia Murdoch, History
Catherine Tan, Sociology
Amitava Kumar, English
Elena Krell, Women’s Studies
Annie Brancky, French and Francophone Studies
Leonard Nevarez, Sociology
Gabrielle Cody, Drama
Wendy Graham, English
Sophia Siddique Harvey, Film
Jodi Schwarz, Biology
Seungsook Moon, Sociology, Asian Studies Program
Eréndira Rueda, Sociology
Mia Mask, Film
Jonathon Kahn, Religion
Tom Ellman, Computer Science
Miriam J Cohen, History
Lisa Collins, Art
Isatu Rashid-Mfon, Gordon Commons
Tim Koechlin, International Studies
Molly Nesbit, Art
Marcela Romero Rivera, Hispanic Studies
Ashley Fent, Geography
Maria Hoehn, History
Peipei Qiu, Chinese and Japanese Studies
Nancy Bisaha, History, Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Jasmine Syedullah, Africana Studies
Shona Tucker, Drama
Connie Ndonye, SILP
Denise A. Walen, Drama
Kathleen M Susman, Biology, Neuroscience and Behavior
Curtis Dozier, Greek and Roman Studies
Eve D’Ambra, Art
Ah-Young Song, Education
Nicholas Barone ’19, PhD student in History, Princeton University
Alexis Fernandez, ’18
Jonathan Alperstein, ’18, Graduate student in Anthropology, Dartmouth College
Abby Zorn, ’10
Isabel Schneck, ’19
Ephraim Cephas ’19
Sheharyar Imran, ’17 PhD student in Political Science, Johns Hopkins University
Olivia Moseley, ’04
Noor Mir, ’12
Leena*
Raphe Gilliam, ’19
Sally Gaston, ‘19
Lily Berman, ’19
Maya Smorodinsky, ’05
Chrissy Griesmer, ’19
Jen Estruth, ’07
Jordan Peve, ’18
Landry Levine, ‘17
Kota Lee *19
Ayela Faruqui, ’19
Elizabeth Fetterolf, ’17
Joshua Espada ‘18
Sharika Hasan, ’19
Michael Fracentese, ’16
Imrul Islam, ’17
Ali Sadek, ’21
Samuel Sylvester, ’19
Melissa S Turoff, ’07
Eliza Hardy Jones ‘02
Amy Miller, ’20
Kimberly Nguyễn ’19
Erin James ’07
Ethan Cohen ’16
Sarah Shanley Hope, ’01
Abrianna Harris, ’21
Maximilian Cordeiro, ’16
M. Gabriela Espín, ’11
Sabrina Castillo, ‘18
Isabel Bielat ’20
Cecil Carey, ’17
Wyatt Carey, ’21
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Hollace Francy ’15
Itamar Ben-Porath, 21
Wanda Noonan, 16
Jan Bindas-Tenney, 02
Erika Nagasaki ’17
Caitlin Munchick, ’17
Grace Sparapani, ’16
Shreya Suresh, 21
Ananya Suresh, 21
Rachel McCormick ’06
Naomi Dann, ’14
Rebecca Katz, ’10
Elena Schultz, ’19
Madeleine Cavanagh, ’18, JD Candidate at Harvard Law School
Ezra Mead, ’21
Sofía Gutiérrez, ’18
Sophia Steinert-Evoy, ’17
Sarah Barash, ’20
Sam Anderson ’09
Sophia Chambers, ’10
Mike Alberti, ’09
Alexander Steele, ’11
Kyle Chea,’10
Eva Grenier, ’09
Katharine Rooney, ’19
Mike Godbe, ’09
Ivanna Guerra ’20
Matthew Brill-Carlat ’19
Reilly A Hay, ’18
Mohtad Allawala
Clare Neal, ‘17
Abdulai Koedoyoma
Karen Gregory ’97
Hayley Craig, ’22
Noah Byck Mlyn, ’16 (transferred)
Brielle Quarles, ’22
Sawer Bush, ’22
Alex van Biema, ’22
Jake Ferguson, ’20
Spencer D McGrath, ’21
Sarah Kraemer, 07
Charmaine Chua, ‘08, UC Santa Barbara
Arianna Schlegel, ’03
Tamika Whitenack, 21
Leon Moore, ’24
Lena Stevens ‘21
Ella Xiao, ’21
Gwendolyn Collaço, ’11
Emily Frank, ’21
Hannah Hildebolt, ’21