

Original Link: <https://ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu/news-and-events/commentaries.html#A-DAY-OF-ACTION,-WE-GOT-YO-BACK>
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The Ethnic Studies community at UC San Diego supports the unequivocal right of Palestine and of the Palestinian people to self-determination, clean-water, safe schools, secure housing, economic justice, freedom from violence, and freedom from an apartheid system that seeks to dehumanize them in unconscionable ways.

Quoting representative Rashida Tlaib (Michigan):

"I grieve the Palestinian and Israeli lives lost yesterday, today, and every day. I am determined as ever to fight for a just future where everyone can live in peace, without fear and with true freedom, equal rights, and human dignity. The path to that future must include lifting the blockade, ending the occupation, and dismantling the apartheid system that creates the suffocating, dehumanizing conditions that can lead to resistance. The failure to recognize the violent reality of living under siege, occupation, and apartheid makes no one safer. No person, no child anywhere should have to suffer or live in fear of violence. We cannot ignore the humanity in each other. As long as our country provides billions in unconditional funding to support the apartheid government, this heartbreaking cycle of violence will continue" (<https://tlaib.house.gov/posts/tlaib-statement-on-ongoing-violence-in-israel-and-palestine>).

We too grieve the collective trauma, suffering, and inhumanity that we are witnessing. We call for an immediate end to the war crimes and genocide taking place against the Palestinian people (50% of whom are children).

We concur with Jewish Voice for Peace who state, "We call on all people of conscience to stop the imminent genocide of Palestinians. We demand our government work towards de-escalation, that it immediately stop sending weapons to the Israeli military. A future of peace and safety for all, grounded in justice, freedom and equality for all, is still the only option" (<https://twitter.com/jvplive/status/1712498249066553507>).

JVP STATEMENT:

"The Israeli government has declared a genocidal war on the people of Gaza. As an organization that works for a future where Palestinians and Israelis and all people live in equality and freedom, we call on all people of conscience to stop imminent genocide of Palestinians.

Jewish Voice for Peace mourns deeply for the over 1,200 Israelis killed, the families destroyed, including many of our own, and fears for the lives of Israelis taken hostage. Many are still counting the dead, looking for missing loved ones, devastated by the losses."

In our unwavering support for Palestinian American students, faculty, staff, and alumni who may be grieving and struggling with bearing witness to such unspeakable tragedies we join together with you in our collective grief and in our support for an end to the genocide in Gaza. We call for an end to all forms of violence against Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and Jews of all ethnicities.

As a community we join with others who seek peace, justice, and liberation calling for a day of action on **October 20th, 2023**.

In the call to action by #standwithpalestine for a General Strike to bring attention to the current and on-going violence happening in Gaza, they have asked for global participation. We are therefore suspending normal classroom sessions on October 20th, 2023 in lieu of other educational activities to be determined at the discretion of each instructor to promote learning and educational activities that will increase student engagement with this global conversation. More than ever, we in Ethnic Studies must not be silent in our work to transform the world to be a more just and equitable society. To this end, we have also agreed to continue to discuss our commitment to the following as a Department:

1. A series of yearlong educational programs (workshops, guest speakers, colloquia etc) focusing on issues and resources related to Arab/Arab American, Muslim/Muslim American, Palestinian/Palestinian American Studies, and other communities aligned with the foundations of the Ethnic Studies Discipline
2. An advisory body to identify and develop new courses in Palestinian American Studies, Arab American Studies, and Muslim American Studies as connected to Diaspora Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Settler Colonial Studies
3. Deeper and more Structured Faculty and Graduate Student Engagement with Undergraduate students on issues related to representation and underrepresentation
4. Consideration for the appointment of an Undergraduate student representative to Department Faculty Meetings to parallel Graduate student representation
5. Encourage and develop LRF and Lecturer positions in the mission critical areas of Palestinian American Studies and Arab American Studies through the possible development of a Palestinian American Studies Minor with the support of Palestinian scholars and faculty
6. Greater engagement with and encouragement of support mechanisms and structures for Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim graduate students, faculty, and staff who are often isolated and alienated within the larger campus climate.

We commit to engaging these action items in meaningful ways

We invite our Ethnic Studies community members to share with us any additional recommendations and suggestions via ajolivette@ucsd.edu

In kinship and struggle

10/20



Call for a
global **GENERAL STRIKE**

**To all workers and students,
to all businesses and to all
citizens worldwide:**

We call for a global general strike! This strike is a loud signal of our indignation against the genocide in Gaza and the repressive state terror of many Western states against everyone who shows and acts in solidarity with the Palestinians. The Palestinian solidarity movement is systematically harassed and criminalized. Our rights and freedom are being taken away.

**This is a call for civil
disobedience.**

We call on governments, politicians and political parties, state agencies and the police around the world to immediately stop this repressive actions and stand up for the rights of Palestinians in Palestine and around the world.

We call on all peoples to show solidarity with us and join our global general strike.

To all workers and students:
We ask you to take Friday off to participate in the general strike

This day is a day of solidarity with Palestinians in Palestine and around the world.

To all businesses: Do not open on Friday, October 20.

This day is a day of protest against repressive state terror against Palestinians worldwide.

To all citizens: Wear a symbol of international solidarity on this day.

Solidarity with Palestine!

#ISTANDWITHPALESTINE