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Accessed date:

7/25/24

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4/30/2024

Hunter College (CUNY) Arabic Program faculty statement on the CUNY Gaza Solidarity encampment at CCNY

The undersigned faculty of the Arabic Program at Hunter College (CUNY) fully support the CUNY Gaza Solidarity encampment that was established at CCNY on Thursday 4/25/24. We call on the CUNY administration NOT to dismantle the encampment (either via CUNY security or the NYPD), and to negotiate in good faith over the students' demands. We stand with our students there and endorse their five demands as laid out below:

1. “Divest! Immediately divest from ALL companies complicit in the imperialist-zionist genocide, including weapons, tech and surveillance, and construction companies. Commit to full financial transparency regarding CUNY's institutional investments.
2. Boycott! Ban all academic trips to the Zionist state, encompassing birthright, Fulbright, and perspective trips. Cancel all forms of cooperation with Israeli academic institutions, including events, activities, agreements, and research collaborations.
3. Solidarity! Release a statement affirming the right of the Palestinian people to national liberation and the right of return. Protect CUNY students and workers who are attacked for speaking out against the genocide in Gaza and in solidarity with Palestinian liberation. Reinstate professors who have been fired for showing solidarity with Palestine.
4. Demilitarize! Demilitarize CUNY, Demilitarize Harlem! Get IOF and NYPD officers off all CUNY campuses, and end all collaboration, training and recruitment by imperialist institutions, including the CIA, Homeland Security and ROTC. Remove all symbols of US imperialism from our campuses: Rename the Colin Powell School of Global and Civic Leadership at CCNY and reinstate The Guillermo Morales and Assata Shakur Community and Student Center!
5. A People's CUNY! We demand a fully-funded, free CUNY that is not beholden to zionist and imperialist private donors! Restore CUNY's tuition-free status, protect the union, and adopt a fair contract for staff and faculty.”

Christopher Stone

Alexander Elinson

Aliaa Dawoud

Deadra Brown

Irene Siegel

Kate Wilson

Hager Abouelkhair