

## Statement of Solidarity with the Palestinian People from UCSC Anthropologists

We, the undersigned members of the UCSC Anthropology Department, stand in support of the Palestinian people as they live under multiple forms of violence imposed on them by Israel. Considering our discipline's historical and ongoing complicity in colonial and imperialist projects, we anthropologists have a unique responsibility to oppose colonial violence from the land our department occupies on Turtle Island to the settler colonial violence Palestinians have experienced for more than seven decades. This violence is facilitated by unwavering U.S. financial, military, and political support, which we vehemently oppose. In addition to our individual calls for the U.S. to sanction Israel and cease all military funding to the Israeli settler state until Palestinian apartheid is abolished, **we demand that the University of California withdraw all investments in securities, endowments, mutual funds, and other monetary instruments with holdings in companies profiting from the violent occupation of Palestine.**

For 11 days leading up to the ceasefire on May 21, the Israeli military bombarded Gaza, densely populated and under a full blockade now for almost fifteen years. Palestinians are trapped by colonial borders as they try to survive each day during these attacks. So far, during this most recent shelling, at least 248 Palestinians, including at least 66 children, have been murdered in Gaza and over 1700 have been wounded; Israeli forces have also murdered at least 25 Palestinians in the West Bank and wounded hundreds more. Over 90,000 Palestinians have been displaced in the midst of a deadly pandemic. A ceasefire may have been brokered for now, but ethnic cleansing continues apace across Palestine, including but not limited to the displacement of Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah. The IDF attacked Palestinians at Al-Aqsa mosque yet again just hours after the ceasefire took effect. In the cities of Haifa, Lydd, Akka, and Yaffa, Palestinians are under constant threat by armed right-wing Israeli mobs looking for Arabs to attack.

We see and condemn the [censorship of Palestinian activists](#), Palestinian scholars, Palestinian studies, and [Arab American Studies](#) in our classrooms and in the U.S. academy more broadly. As humans opposed to all war crimes and civilian deaths, we condemn the killings of Israeli civilians as well, but the deaths and injuries at this time are disproportionately found among Palestinians, at rates greater than 20:1. Israel's Iron Dome has intercepted the majority of the rockets sent by Hamas, but Gaza has no protection from the barrage of bombs dropped by the Israeli military. For this reason, we reject the language of clashes, conflict, and "both sides." As we oppose policing and prisons, Indigenous dispossession, and racialized violence, from Turtle Island to Palestine, we refuse to use [objective language](#) that would render us silent as Palestinians continue to experience an ongoing Nakba.

We stand with the uprisings across Palestine, and around the world, in solidarity with Palestinian freedom struggles in the face of ceaseless violence. The escalating violence against Palestinians demands urgent collective action and radical solidarity. As anthropologists endorsing Scholars for Palestinian Freedom's "[Palestine and Praxis: Open Letter and Call to Action](#)," we affirm that "scholarship without action normalizes the status quo and reinforces Israel's impunity." We must [act: protest, boycott, donate](#). We must refuse to continue "business as usual" in the face of ongoing Israeli state violence against the Palestinian people.

Signed

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