

A Resolution In Solidarity with UCLA and all Universities exercising Pro-Palestinian Encampments and Actions, and Their Right to Peaceful Protest

WHEREAS, protest and freedom of speech and expression is a right protected by the United States Constitution, specifically in the First Amendment,

WHEREAS, on April 17th, 2024, the establishment of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment occurred on the campus of the Columbia University in the City of New York with the intent of opposing the Israeli occupation of Palestine,

WHEREAS, on April 18th, 2024, 108 people were arrested, suspended, and/or evicted for participating in a peaceful pro-Palestinian protest on Columbia University's campus, demanding the school divest from corporations profiting from the genocide of Palestinians in the Middle East¹; and

WHEREAS, these arrests were preceded by the university president's pledge to balance students' safety with their right to free speech, but instead, the administration escalated to involving the NYPD to forcefully clear the protest, which included minimal resistance from students, and

WHEREAS, the Columbia administration is issuing new waves of suspensions to anyone that attempts to pick up their confiscated belongings. Many students including have laptops, medication, devices, and much more among these belongings, and

WHEREAS, these escalations taken by the Columbia University administration and NYPD, including the suspensions of students for peaceful protest, are a clear violation of the students freedom of speech, protected by the First Amendment, and

WHEREAS, the actions at Boston University, Miami University, Oxford, University of North Carolina, Ohio University, MIT, & Harvard where students are walking out of class today to protest the arrests of 100+ pro-Palestinian student demonstrators at Columbia University on April 19th all show that students are in joint struggle everywhere for the liberation of Palestine and rights of protestors, and

WHEREAS, the supposed power of these administrators pales in comparison to the combined strength of the students, staff, and faculty committed to realizing justice and upholding Palestinian liberation on campus, and

WHEREAS, Columbia is repeating its mistakes of '68 by bringing in masses of cops onto

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2024/04/18/columbia-student-gaza-protests-nypd/>

campus in order to brutalize and repress student speech against its complicity in genocide², and

WHEREAS, today, the University of California boasts about its students that helped bring an end to South Africa's Apartheid in the 1990s as a demonstration of its role in social movements and progress. While in actuality, the University of California opposed these protests during the 1990s,

WHEREAS, encampments set up by students of the University of California began in the Berkeley campus this past week, soon followed by the establishment of an encampment on the Los Angeles campus on Thursday April 25th by UCLA Students for Justice in Palestine. Currently, encampments have begun to be established on other University of California campuses such as the Irvine campus,

WHEREAS, the student-led and organized encampment at the University of California, Los Angeles at the Royce Quad have been confronted with acts of racism, homophobia, ableism amongst other acts of violence by non-university and non-student actors with the intent to harm student protestors. Furthermore, recognizing the encampment has been victim to physical and verbal acts of assault by these non-university and student actors through acts akin to biological warfare.

WHEREAS, currently there are over 140+ active encampments throughout the United States and in universities internationally with the ultimate goal of disclosure and divestment from the Israeli regime by universities,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Association supports the National SJP call to action that there should be encampments and de-occupations at every university. Faculty and administration should never expect students to learn as if everything is normal when our institutions are complicit in genocide. And that this is what should have been happening from the beginning.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Association condemns the violent actions taken against student protestors at the encampment both by non-university actors and university-affiliated actors alike, and

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council expresses its disagreement with University of California, Los Angeles administrators on their qualification of the student-led encampment as being unlawful and violating campus policy as well as an attempt to increase policing on and around the University of California, Los Angeles campus,

² <https://exhibitions.library.columbia.edu/exhibits/show/1968/bust>

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Association Council commits to supporting students on this campus in the case of similar administrative repression of protests, including but not limited to the swift release of a statement in support of them, and using their representative power to emphasize shared governance.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council condemns Gene Block, Chancellor, and his administration's neglect and intentional ignorance towards the violence students have been facing by the hands of zionists.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council stands with the people of Gaza, and the people of Palestine as they experience a genocide and atrocities at the hands of the Israeli regime. Palestine is always at the center of our work.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that liberation will not come from our institutions, it will come from us. It will come from student organizing and community organizing. It will not be televised, it will be ours. The Undergraduate Student Association Council.