

## **A Resolution in Solidarity with the Palestinian Community**

**WHEREAS**, in the past weeks, many Palestinian families were forcibly removed from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah by the Israeli military; and

**WHEREAS**, Israeli police forces attacked the Al-Aqsa Mosque on May 7, 2021, during the Holy Month of Ramadan when around 70,000 worshippers were attending Friday prayers. Israeli police officers used tear gas, rubber bullets, and stun grenades on Palestinian civilians, including women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, this recent violence between May 10-May 17 has left at least 212 people dead from Israeli airstrikes, the majority of them Palestinian, including at least 61 children, and destroyed 132 buildings in Gaza and have left 2,500 people homeless<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, a documented 58,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been internally displaced as a result of Israeli bombardment of the region<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, although a ceasefire has been called, the Israeli government has continued to mass arrest Palestinians inside the Green Line, many Palestinian citizens remain displaced, and the already broken infrastructure of Gaza has been damaged severely, impacting the ability of its residents to access resources such as hospitals and schools<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, an Israeli airstrike destroyed the offices of over twenty Palestinian media outlets located in Gaza in order to restrict coverage of the human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli government<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Palestinian communities continue to suffer from insufficient housing, health services, and a militarized police presence.

**WHEREAS**, the University has not done anything to show support for their Palestinian students at this time and has not even acknowledged the pain that Palestinian students are currently facing; and

**WHEREAS**, Palestinian students at UCLA have personal ties with the events occurring overseas

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<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/05/17/world/middleeast/israel-palestine-gaza-conflict-death-toll.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/17/tens-of-thousands-of-palestinians-displaced-in-gaza-strip>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/gaza-damage-infrastructure-bombs-israel-b1850795.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://theintercept.com/2021/05/18/gaza-journalists-israel-palestine-attacks/>

and have experienced distress and emotional turmoil, and have publicly demanded that university administration stand in solidarity with the Palestinian community.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED,** that the Undergraduate Students Association Council stands in solidarity with the Palestinian community and with our Palestinian students whose families and community are being severely impacted by the crimes of apartheid and persecution perpetuated by the Israeli military.

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED,** that the USAC calls on university administration, the Academic Senate, academic departments, and individual professors to practice academic leniency for Palestinian students and to take into account the needs of Palestinian students during this time. We strongly urge professors to simplify finals, and we condemn making remote finals more difficult and strenuous for students.

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED,** that the USAC calls on university faculty and administration to take a public stance in solidarity with the Palestinian community and Palestinian students, donate to causes that provide aid for the Palestinian community, and publicly denounce the apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and settler-colonialism that Palestinian peoples are currently facing.

**LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED,** that the USAC calls on Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to offer a greater number of counseling sessions to Palestinian students and to actively work to hire more diverse counselors in the future.

**LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED,** that the USAC calls on the university, systemwide administration, and students to exercise empathy in this distressing time for our Palestinian students, heed our demands to practice academic leniency, and stand in solidarity with the Palestinian community.