

Ohio to Palestine Solidarity Statement

Racial justice organizations in Ohio speak out on May 18th, 2021, for a day of action in solidarity with the Palestinian uprising & general strike

Today, after the recent escalation of the Israeli state's campaign of colonial and apartheid violence and slaughter, the Palestinian people have [called for](#) a general strike and uprising. Those of us in freedom struggles in Ohio, on occupied lands ourselves, answer their call for international support and stand with their fight for self-determination.

We recognize the connections between our struggles: Palestinian, Black, Indigenous, immigrant, working class and other oppressed people are subjugated and controlled through surveillance, confinement, imprisonment, policing, and dehumanization, all propped up by the funding and support of the U.S.

When we saw the images of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin kneeling on George Floyd's neck and Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldiers using similar techniques on Palestinians, we understood that our fight against racist and militarized policing in the US is connected to theirs. Our police departments train with Israeli forces, and both receive military-grade equipment from our government while harming and killing people with impunity. Over the past five years, the Columbus Division of Police has killed the second most children of any police department in the country, and this week already Israeli forces have killed at least 61 children in Gaza, a number sure to increase. We speak the names of Ma'Khia Bryant, Julius Tate Jr., Ty're King, Tamir Rice, Ali Ayman Abu Aliya, Rahaf al-Masri, Ibrahim al-Rantisi, and thousands of other children, adults, and elders. Their lives were precious, and so are the lives of those who survive and continue to be terrorized by armed officers of the state.

When Ohio responded to the pandemic by abandoning incarcerated people and keeping them locked inside our violent, over-capacity prisons, jails, and immigration detention centers, we understood that the Palestinian fight against incarceration was connected to ours. Israel has turned Gaza into an open-air prison, and has always used prisons as a key part of its settler-colonial regime against Palestinians. This evokes the mass incarceration of Black and Indigenous people in the US, including the political imprisonment of revolutionaries both here and there.

When Ferguson erupted into Black-led uprising after the killing of Michael Brown in 2014, Palestinians noticed the tear gas police used on protestors here was the same used on them, and shared techniques to keep each other safe. Some of those canisters are made just across the Ohio border in Jamestown, PA and have been used on people in over 100 countries, despite being banned in warfare by the Geneva convention. We are in continual unity with protestors from the U.S. to Palestine to Colombia, who are taking to the streets to challenge the systems that inflict premature death on our people.

To our community: it is with *our* resources that the Palestinian people are occupied and colonized. We never seem to have enough money for clean water, adequate food, supportive schools, housing, reentry programs, alternatives to incarceration, mental health services, and living wages, but have \$3.8+ billion dollars to arm and fund Israeli apartheid. Ohio specifically sends \$108,326,244 in weapons to Israel, which could [pay](#) for 1,462 clean energy jobs, 1,339 teachers, or 45,694 children receiving healthcare. We call upon our people and institutions to participate in BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) so these billions of dollars are used to sustain life, instead of to create death.

We, the undersigned, join activists around the world in recognizing that our freedom is bound up with the freedom of the Palestinian people, and stand with today's uprising and general strike for their liberation.

Juvenile Justice Coalition

Students for Justice in Palestine OSU

The Freedom BLOC

The Freedom ROC

The Way of Mind and Body

Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio

River Valley Organizing

UnHarming Ohio

HeartbeatMovement Incorporated

People's Justice Project

InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia (IRTF Cleveland)

OPAWL - Building Feminist AAPI Leadership in Ohio

Ohio Immigrant Visitation

Cuyahoga County Jail Coalition

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Northeast Ohio

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Ohio

Feminist Flag Corps

Ohio Women's Alliance

Central Ohio Revolutionary Socialists

Central Ohio Freedom Fund

Palestine Solidarity Group - Columbus (PSG)

NO EVIL EYE CINEMA

Women Have Options / Ohio

Serve the People Akron

Justice, Unity and Social Transformation (J.U.S.T)

Sunrise Movement Columbus Hub

Stop Hate OSU

Stone & Water Collaborative

Ohio Youth for Climate Justice

Guardians of Heart

Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

CPD Out of CCS

Students for a Democratic Society @ OSU

Affirming Pathways Psychotherapy, LLC

Columbus Democratic Socialists of America

Pakistani American Students Association at OSU

SURJ Columbus, OH

Ohio Immigrant Alliance

Smart Development

Motherful

To add your organization, email kenza@jjobio.org or fill out the form [here](#).

Ways to take action

Share this statement:

- [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)

Events organized by various groups around Ohio this week:

- [Warren](#): 5/18/21, 4pm
- [Columbus](#): 5/18/21 Ohio Statehouse, 5pm
- [Cincinnati](#): 5/18/21, Washington Park, 6pm
- [Toledo](#): 5/18/21, Promenade Park, 8pm
- [Columbus](#): 5/21/21, Goodale Park, 6:30pm
- [Cleveland](#): 5/21/21, Willard Park, 4pm
- [Athens](#): 5/22/21, 3pm