

The Central Student Association, Palestinian Student Society Association (PSSA) and Muslim Student Association (MSA) at the University of Guelph stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. We condemn the Israeli-sanctioned violence that has resulted in the murder of 248 Palestinians, 66 of whom were children and the displacement of 90,000 Palestinians in Gaza over the course of 11 days. We condemn the continued forced expulsions of generational residents in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan and the brutal raids on Al-Aqsa Mosque. We condemn the mass arrest campaign organized by the Israeli government with the purpose of 'intimidation and terror against the Arab public'. We condemn the granting of Israeli settlers the weapons and authorization to assault and harass Palestinians.

We acknowledge that the violence practiced by the Israeli government is not recent nor singular. According to the Human Rights Watch, Israel has broken 65 UN resolutions and has pursued policies of apartheid since its establishment in 1948. Decades of Palestinian dispossession from land and life, ethnic cleansing, and ecological devastation committed by the Israeli settler colonial state cannot be reduced to 'a conflict'. We reject the usage of neutral terminology in describing the numerous crimes of Israel. We acknowledge and oppose the long history of colonial and settler colonial violence and the role of the Canadian government in supporting and maintaining the Israeli occupation of Palestine. We firmly stand by our responsibility to speak out against such human rights violations. This comes from the conviction that a political critique of Israeli apartheid and settler colonial state violence cannot and should not be conflated with the racist speech of anti-semitism.

We call on the University of Guelph to take action in support of Palestinians against settler colonial crimes. Our demands are as follows:

1. End any and all exchange programs and institutional relations with universities in the colonial state of Israel.
2. Do not recognize Ariel University and refrain from any institutional relations with it.
3. Issue a complete portfolio of all the university's investments.
4. Divest from companies, organizations, ect. that fund the Israeli government, directly or indirectly.