

## **Dear OU Community,**

Today, SCPL and countless other organizations across over one hundred college campuses nationwide participated in a Walk-Out demanding the end of the siege on Gaza. Since October 7th, Israel has bombarded Gaza with force and impunity far more than any other time in the past 16 years since the siege on Gaza began. This is not a war between Israel and Hamas -- this is a genocide campaign. As countless human rights organizations such as B'Tselem, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International have reported -- Israel is an apartheid state, and no such state deserves unconditional support from our university or government. We are infuriated by all the lives lost, and as the human rights organizations above and countless experts and scholars have repeatedly stated, this was all preventable. As Israel continues to carpet bomb Gaza -- a strip of land made up of at least 70% refugees, almost half of whom are children -- we are reminded every second that this is not self-defense. Yet, our government and university stand with those who commit crimes against humanity.

The Student Coalition for Palestinian Liberation is a peaceful student organization that stands unwavering in our support for the liberation of Palestine. The purpose of today's walk-out and our organization's goal is to build solidarity on OU's campus for the Palestinian cause through education and demonstrations. As we have stated before and continue to affirm, Palestinian liberation is a fight against colonization and is not based on religion -- SCPL does not equate Judaism and Zionism. SCPL resolutely stands against antisemitism and anti-Muslim racism.

As members of the University of Oklahoma, we are ashamed of our University's response to and our government's enabling of the genocide of the Palestinian people.

The environment on this campus, from the loud silence of the OU administration, has caused pain to not only Palestinians on campus but also Arabs, Muslims, and countless other students. Our University partners with arms manufacturers that directly supply the Israeli army with weapons to massacre Palestinians; our University offers only one-sided, biased, and customized courses on Israel -- while none are offered on Palestine; our University sponsors study abroad trips to Israel and does not ensure those abroad will see what the Palestinians are forced to endure; our University sent Palestinian students an empty, passive, and humiliating email that did not even mention their homeland, Palestine. For these reasons and countless others, SCPL demands the following:

## **To The University of Oklahoma and President Joseph Harroz:**

- 1.** Make a statement condemning the crimes against Palestinians and express solidarity with Palestinian students, faculty, and staff.
- 2.** If the history of Palestine and Israel is to be taught at OU, instruction **MUST** be balanced and truthful.
- 3.** As there are classes about Israel that only Israeli professors teach, we demand classes dedicated to Palestine taught by Palestinian professors. Other universities do this easily; the University of Oklahoma must not be an exception.
- 4.** Halt the funding of study abroad trips to Israel and cut ties with partner universities in Israel.
- 5.** Completely cut ties with weapons manufacturers that arm Israel's genocide against Palestinians.
- 6.** Free mental health support tailored to Palestinian students, faculty, and staff by specialized Arab healthcare providers.

## **To The United States Government and President Joseph Biden:**

- 1.** Demand Israel end the occupation, annexation, and siege of the Palestinian land and people
- 2.** Demand the immediate restoration of basic human necessities that Israel has cut off from the Gaza Strip
- 3.** Stop blocking and bombing the entrance of humanitarian aid into Gaza
- 4.** Condemn the violence perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people
- 5.** Stop unconditional funding to Israel and invest in the people of the United States
- 6.** Enforce UN resolution 242 that ensures the right of return for Palestinians to their original homeland
- 7.** Stop spreading the unconfirmed accounts and AI-generated images published by Israeli media

**8.** We demand an end to US-backed impunity for Israel in international bodies.

We know that this genocide will not end without Palestinians achieving self-determination. This includes the end of the occupation, the end of the siege on Gaza, and the right to return for Palestinians. We stand with the Palestinian people and firmly defend their right to exist free and dignified. We are unwavering in our commitment to the liberation of the Palestinian people, along with all colonized people across the world. Palestine is a global issue that demands attention and solidarity from everyone on this campus and around the globe.

**In Solidarity,**

**The Student Coalition for Palestinian Liberation**

