

Dear Student Media,

We, Students for Justice in Palestine at Florida International University, write to express our support for the recent American Studies Association resolution on the academic boycott of the State of Israel. As a Palestine solidarity movement working to bring about the liberation of Palestine, we stand by the ASA's criticism of, and opposition to Israeli state policies that have resulted in grave human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people, many of which have severely infringed upon the academic freedom of both Palestinian students and scholars. This resolution acknowledges the illegality of the Israeli occupation, and its harmful implications for Palestinian academic freedom. Bill Mullen, a professor of English and American studies at Purdue University and a member of the ASA's Caucus on Academic and Community Activism, which first put forward the boycott resolution, said, "American scholars now understand the physical violence that's part of the Israeli occupation; they understand the massive restrictions on academic freedom for Palestinian scholars that is part of living under an illegal occupation. These facts are now irrefutable to so many people that the vote indicates a kind of coming to consensus around the illegitimacy of Israel's occupation of Palestine."

Palestinians have been brutally victimized by the Israeli settler-colonial state since the dawn of its unilateral declaration of statehood in 1948. It has systematically dispossessed Palestinians from their lands and villages through illegal settlement building, home evictions and demolitions, and through the construction of the illegal annexationist wall. It has systematically appropriated Palestinian natural resources in violation of international law. In addition, Israel has subjected the Gaza Strip's 1.8 million Palestinians, most of whom are refugees and internally displaced persons, to the largest open-air prison in the world's most densely populated city. Israel has severely cut access to electricity and fresh drinking water for the Palestinians of Gaza, and has murdered entire families with American taxpayer-funded weaponry. Conditions in the Gaza Strip are so dire, that the United Nations claimed that by 2020, Gaza would no longer be livable. We stand with the Palestinian people as they continue to resist the longest occupation in modern history. Recognition of the Palestinian struggle alone will not bring about Palestinian liberation from the yolk of Israeli colonization. We denounce all violations of academic freedom by Israel. In conjunction with Palestine solidarity groups here and abroad, we strive to put an end to these violations by mobilizing our communities and demanding accountability for Israeli human rights abuses.

We remain unyielding in our opposition to Israeli settler colonialism and state terrorism against the Palestinian people, and we remain steadfast in our support for full Palestinian self-determination. For these reasons we stand in support of the ASA's call for an immediate boycott of Israeli academic institutions that have

demonstrated complicity in the Israeli occupation of Palestine. This resolution brings us one step closer to a more peaceful, stable, secure, and just world. It represents a victory for Palestinian civil society, which initiated the call for an academic boycott of Israel in 2005.

On December 26, 2013 a statement from our President and Executive President was issued expressing its opposition to an academic boycott of Israel. They claim to speak on behalf of the students, but they do not represent us. As students with a conscious for human rights and global justice, we demand accountability for this disturbing statement.

Sincerely,

Students for Justice in Palestine at Florida International University