

## **Statement of Solidarity with Palestine**

Content Warning: The following statement has content on genocide, ongoing violence in Palestine and incitement of violence against Palestinian people.

As of May 15th, it has been 73 years of ongoing Nakba - Palestinian people have been subject to apartheid, ethnic cleansing, land theft, and a violation of their basic human rights by the Israeli state. As every second passes, the violent Zionist colonial occupation continues committing said crimes against the Palestinian people. The silence of western media and the involvement of colonial states further contributes to the violent motives of the apartheid state. The silence of western media and the involvement of colonial states further contributes to the violent motives of the apartheid state. The people of Palestine and the diaspora alike continue to resist the state-sanctioned violence and genocide that has been forced upon them for decades. Collectively representing over 112,000 students, the York Federation of Students, the York University Graduate Student Association, the Continuing Education Students' Association of X\*, the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union, the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students and the Ontario College of Art and Design Students' Union reaffirm our utmost solidarity with the Palestinian people and their fight for liberation, justice, and safe return.

On May 2nd, Palestinian families living in the neighborhoods of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan in Jerusalem were met with forced evictions from their homes, by both settlers and the enforcers of the apartheid state. This is just another example of Israel's protracted genocide of the Palestinian people. We are seeing clearly how mainstream media is being used to censor the realities of what's happening on the ground. Journalists who are reporting accurately and truthfully are targeted by the state of Israel as an effort to hide the clear war crimes and human rights violations that are being committed - this can be seen in the most recent targeting and bombing of the Al-Jazeera building in Gaza. These same military forces are responsible for the killings of innocent Palestinian people and children, forced entries into Palestinian homes, arrests of peaceful protesters, and even attacking those praying in the Al-Aqsa mosque; all while zionists encourage "Death to Arabs!" and celebrate this attack.

The settler-colonial state of Canada, its government and public institutions are all complicit in this ongoing genocide and war crimes being committed on Palestinian soil by the Israeli state. Post-secondary institutions continue to use student money to invest in weapons and arms manufacturers that are contributing to the displacement and death of innocent people around the world. Not only have these institutions deterred students from protesting and raising awareness, they have made several attempts to censor the Palestinian student-community on their campuses and blocked the hiring of academics who have done work on the occupation of Palestine in order to appeal to private donors. It is clear that the institutions have chosen to pick and choose which progressive movements they will support for the sake of public relations.

Palestinians risk their lives every day by sharing active footage and experiences on-the-ground from the violent efforts of the Zionist state. Historically, students have been at the forefront of true and meaningful change. It is up to us as students to rise up against institutions that are complicit in apartheid and continue to spread awareness and support for the liberation of Palestine.

**For more information on the history of Palestine, visit:**

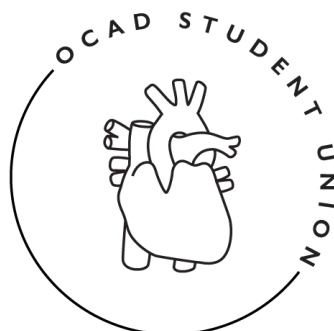
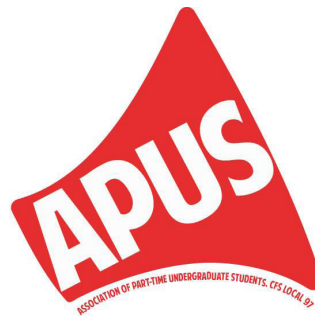
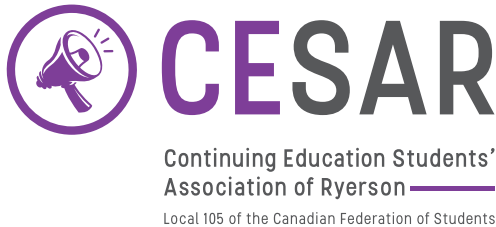
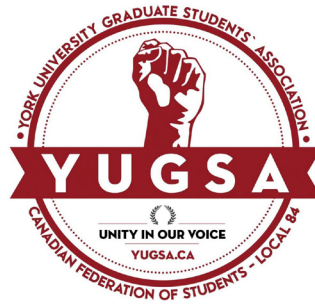
**Decolonize Palestine:** <https://decolonizepalestine.com/>

**The Battle of Sheikh Jarrah:** <https://springmag.ca/the-battle-of-sheikh-jarrah>

**Sheikh Jarrah: What is happening and how you can take action now**

<https://bdsmovement.net/news/sheikh-jarrah-what-happening-and-how-you-can-take-action-now>

\* Please visit [www.mycesar.ca/XUniversity](http://www.mycesar.ca/XUniversity) to learn more about the history of Egerton Ryerson and why students are taking action about their University's namesake.



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