



The National Lawyers Guild - Southwestern Law School  
2023-2024 Board of Directors  
Re: Statement on Palestinian Genocide and Call to Action  
October 19, 2023

As students, activists, humanitarians, and people who believe in the sanctity and value of all human life, we are deeply concerned with the ongoing violence and genocide<sup>1</sup> being committed against the Palestinian people in Gaza. The Israeli government, with the endorsement of the United States and other Western imperialist powers, is engaging in illegal acts of collective punishment against a civilian population, nearly half of whom are under the age of eighteen<sup>2</sup>, including indiscriminate bombings<sup>3</sup> of a captive population<sup>4</sup> in globally recognized places of refuge<sup>5</sup>, and the use of chemical munitions

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<sup>1</sup> Article 2 of the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines "genocide" as "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

<sup>2</sup> Getahun, H. (2023) *In Gaza, where nearly half of the population is under 18, a children's rights crisis is unfolding*, *Insider*. available at: <https://www.insider.com/children-rights-gaza-palestine-israel-human-rights-united-nations-2023-10> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Karklis, L. et al. (2023) *Some of the most devastating strikes Israel has carried out in Gaza*, *The Washington Post*. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/12/israel-strikes-gaza-map-population-destruction/> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>4</sup> Tétrault-Farber, G. (2023) *Israel occupation makes Palestinian Territories 'open-air prison', UN expert says*, *Reuters*. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-occupation-makes-palestinian-territories-open-air-prison-un-expert-2023-07-11/> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>5</sup> Abdulrahim, R. and Harouda, A. (2023) *Nowhere to hide in Gaza as Israeli onslaught continues*, *The New York Times*. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/10/world/middleeast/gaza-israel-airstrikes.html> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

such as white phosphorus<sup>6</sup> - crimes that break international law<sup>7</sup> and fracture our collective consciousness in their vehement disregard for humanity.

The NLG at Southwestern Law School joins the international call for an immediate ceasefire, restoration of electricity, water, and sanitation services in Gaza<sup>8</sup>, and the opening of a humanitarian corridor that allows for necessary medical aid, food, and supplies to reach the millions of Palestinian people trapped in the conflict - many of whom cannot leave due to injury, illness, or age. We reject the use of American tax dollars and military force to perpetuate these ongoing war crimes and uplift tactics of non-violence, such as diplomatic and political solutions that allow freedom and sovereignty for Palestinians living under apartheid and aid in reconstructing their homes, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure.

Worldwide media must commit to balanced reporting, including humanizing the Palestinian people and fighting the rampant spread of racist, Islamophobic tropes and stereotypes contributing to the calls for vengeance and apathy for loss of life. Social media algorithms<sup>9</sup> and artificial intelligence<sup>10</sup> are being used to redirect away from the ongoing humanitarian crisis and rewrite the unfolding events in real-time by censoring the first-person narratives of the journalists, medical providers, aid workers, and Palestinians who remain in Gaza.<sup>11</sup> Corporations restricting the flow of information in and out of Gaza must commit to keeping channels of communication open so that Palestinians worldwide can connect with their loved ones and the world can continue to bear witness.

The prevailing norms of American culture compel us to be silent, apolitical, and complacent. Misinformation, disinformation, and atrocity propaganda muffle the voices

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<sup>6</sup> Kelly, M. (2023) *Israel appears to use white phosphorus in Gaza, video shows*, *The Washington Post*. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/12/white-phosphorus-israel-gaza-strike-video/> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>7</sup> UN General Assembly, *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (last amended 2010)*, 17 July 1998, ISBN No. 92-9227-227-6, available at: <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/RS-Eng.pdf> (Accessed 18 October 2023)

<sup>8</sup> Al-Mughrabi, N. (2023) *In Gaza, people resort to drinking salty water, garbage piles up*, *Reuters*. available at: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/gaza-people-resort-drinking-salty-water-garbage-piles-up-2023-10-16/> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>9</sup> Biddle, S. and Thakker, P. (2023) *Tiktok, Instagram target outlet covering Israel–Palestine amid siege on Gaza*, *The Intercept*. Available at: <https://theintercept.com/2023/10/11/tiktok-instagram-israel-palestine/> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>10</sup> Winstanley, A. (2019) *Inside Israel's million dollar troll army*, *The Electronic Intifada*. Available at: <https://electronicintifada.net/content/inside-israels-million-dollar-troll-army/27566> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>11</sup> *At least 12 reporters killed covering Israel-gaza war amid reports of harassment and attacks* (2023) *Democracy Now!* Available at: [https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/16/headlines/at\\_least\\_12\\_reporters\\_killed\\_covering\\_israel\\_gaza\\_war\\_amid\\_reports\\_of\\_harassment\\_and\\_attacks](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/16/headlines/at_least_12_reporters_killed_covering_israel_gaza_war_amid_reports_of_harassment_and_attacks) (Accessed: 17 October 2023). See also: Rajagopal, A. (2023) *Meta censors #Gaza content*, *Institute for Palestine Studies*. Available at: <https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1654421> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

of those speaking truth to power, and the fear fostered in our institutions and organizations through the chilling effect of the conflation between anti-Zionism and antisemitism renders us complicit. Those who are raising their voice in support of a ceasefire and for the liberation of Palestine from apartheid must be guaranteed their First Amendment rights to do so.<sup>12</sup> We wholeheartedly oppose the increase in state surveillance of activists engaged in protest and those standing in dissent.<sup>13</sup>

There has been a global rise in fascism and an increase in antisemitism, which we cannot ignore. The denial of history<sup>14</sup>, the censorship of books<sup>15</sup>, and the suppression of survivors' accounts of atrocities committed against the Jewish people have made this moment all the more profound. We condemn religious and ethnic-based hate in every form and mourn the loss of Jewish life.

Friday, October 20, 2023, has been declared an international day of action in solidarity with the Palestinian people by Youth of Occupied Palestine. We encourage people to educate themselves on the historical, ongoing, and emerging conflict and to take immediate action toward demanding Ceasefire Now.<sup>16</sup> See the attached list of resources for toolkits, calls to action, upcoming protests, and ways to contact your representatives.

Justice demands Peace.

In Solidarity,

The 2023-2024 Board of the National Lawyers Guild - Southwestern Law

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<sup>12</sup> (17 October 2023) *Statement of ABA president Mary Smith re: Conflict in Israel and Gaza*. available at: <https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2023/10/statement-of-aba-president-re-conflict-israel-gaza/> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>13</sup> *The Palestine Exception; Palestine Legal*. Available at: <https://palestinelegal.org/the-palestine-exception> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>14</sup> *2023 online Holocaust denial report card* (2021) ADL. available at: <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/2023-online-holocaust-denial-report-card> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>15</sup> Oladipo, G. (2023) *Texas teacher fired for showing Anne Frank graphic novel to eighth-graders*, *The Guardian*. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/sep/20/texas-teacher-fired-anne-frank-book-ban> (Accessed: 18 October 2023). See also: Kasakove, S. (2022) *The fight over 'Maus' is part of a bigger cultural battle in Tennessee*, *The New York Times*. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/04/us/maus-banned-books-tennessee.html> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).

<sup>16</sup> *Reps. Bush, Tlaib, Carson, Lee, Ramirez lead colleagues in call for immediate ceasefire* (2023) *Home*. Available at: <https://bush.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-bush-tlaib-carson-lee-ramirez-lead-colleagues-in-call-for-immediate-ceasefire> (Accessed: 17 October 2023).



# NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

## National Lawyer's Guild - Southwestern Law

### Resource List - Current as of October 19, 2023

#### Ongoing Actions in Support of Palestine

- Friday, October 20, 2023 - International Day of Action
  - **General Strike and Walk Out (Solidarity with Palestine)**
  - NLG & CUNY CLEAR: [Know Your Rights on Palestine](#)
- Saturday, October 21, 2023 - LA Emergency Protest
  - 12:00 p.m. Pershing Square, 532 S Olive St., Los Angeles, 90013
- Upcoming Protests/Actions, Resources for Protests
  - National, Updated Regularly: [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#)
  - If Not Now Movement - [Upcoming Events](#)
- Friday, November 3, 2023 - [Movement Lawyering for Law Students](#)
- Saturday, November 4, 2023 - [National March on Washington for a Free Palestine](#)

#### Keep Yourself Safe

- [Know Your Rights](#) and [Resources for Activists](#)
  - NLG Federal Defense Hotline: **212-679-2811** (Write on Your Body for Protests!)
    - [NLG Lawyer Directory](#)
  - Movement 4 Black Lives - [Infiltration at Protests and Online](#)
  - Right to Protest - [Protest Safety Tips](#)
- Anti-Doxxing Resources
  - Equality Labs' [Anti-Doxxing Guide for Activists Facing Attacks](#)
  - Electronic Frontier Foundation's [Doxxing: Tips to Protect Yourself Online & How to Minimize Harm](#)
  - PEN America's [Online Harassment Field Manual](#)
- Information on [Censorship and Shadowbanning](#), [Solidarity on Social Media](#)

#### Contact Your Representatives (con't on next page)

- [Share the #CeasefireNOW resolution](#) from Rep. Cori Bush
- Campaign for Palestinian Rights - [Stop Gaza Genocide: Ceasefire Now Toolkit](#)
- [Email Congress Now](#) (Adalah Justice Project)
- [Call Congress Now](#) (JVP)
- [Call Congress Now](#) (USCPR)
- [Email Congress Now](#) (JVP)
- [Email Congress Now](#) (USCPR)

## Consumer Actions To Take

- Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions - [What to Boycott](#)
- Donate:
  - [Middle Eastern Children's Alliance \(MECA\)](#)
  - [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#)
  - [Islamic Relief USA](#)
  - [Palestinian Children's Relief Fund](#)
- Support Palestinian-Owned Businesses Here and Abroad

## Resources to Inform Yourself

- NLG International's [Statement on Solidarity with Palestine](#)
- NLG [Radical Law Student Manual](#)
- Today Explained: How Palestinians View Hamas ([Podcast](#))
- Haymarket Books - [Free EBooks for a Free Palestine](#)
- David Klion - "Have We Learned Nothing?" ([Article](#))
- Tareq Baconi - "Where the Palestinian Political Project Goes from Here" ([Article](#))
- Jewish Currents - "We Cannot Cross Until We Carry Each Other" - ([Article](#))
- IfNotNow Movement - [Organizations in Israel and Palestine](#)
- Legal Organizations and Lawyer Activists:
  - Noura Erakat, Attorney [@nouraerakat](#)
  - Faisal Kutty (Southwestern Law Professor) [@themuslimlawyer](#)
  - Palestine Legal [@pal\\_legal](#)
  - Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) [@cair\\_national](#)
  - American Muslim Bar Association [@ambalegal](#)
- Reporting From Gaza:
  - [@JehadAbusalim](#)
  - [@WalaaGh](#)
  - [@motaz\\_azaiza](#)
  - [@byplestia](#)

- @ahmedhijazee
  - @aborjelaa
  - @salma\_shurrah
  - @joegaza9
- Content Hubs:
  - @eye.on.palestine
  - @cravingpalestine
  - @qudsnen
  - @theimeu
  - @mondoweiss
- Analysis:
  - @mohammedelkurd
  - @gazangirl
  - @anat.international
  - @adnan\_barq
  - @jenanmatari
  - @fababs
  - @sim\_bookstagramsbadly
  - @ajeupfront
  - @alivelshi
  - @aymanm
  - @ranaaayyub
  - @democracynow