

The National Lawyers Guild at Seattle University School of Law unequivocally stands in solidarity with the people of Palestine in their struggle for liberation. We recognize the right of the Palestinian people to resist their own colonization and annihilation. We demand Seattle University School of Law publicly recognize this humanitarian crisis and speak up on behalf of Palestinian rights.

The human rights violations committed by the state of Israel against the people of Palestine are not new. For 75 years, the Israeli government, [backed by U.S. tax dollars](#), has systematically enforced [an apartheid state](#) against the people of Palestine: cutting off [vital resources](#), stealing [land](#), and displacing [thousands](#). The Israeli military's recent campaign of terror upon Palestinian citizens is an acceleration of the violence and terror it had already been visiting upon the people of Palestine for decades.

We condemn any statement that portrays this as a “conflict” with two sides. There is simply no “other side” when it comes to the violence perpetuated by a settler colonial state. Comparing numbers of dead is crass, because every loss of human life is unfathomably tragic. But violence must be addressed at its root. Rhetoric that omits the systemic, unrelenting, vastly disproportionate nature of Israel’s brutalization of the Palestinian people only serves to fuel the violence. It distracts us from identifying the power structure that enables Israel’s 75-year-long, ongoing project of [ethnic cleansing](#).

What the Israeli government is executing against the Palestinian people is [genocide](#). Our government funds support this, and we all have a moral obligation to do whatever it takes to put an end to it. We add our voices in solidarity to [this letter](#) from Seattle University students and to [this statement](#) from MESALA. We are demanding administration to join the call for an immediate ceasefire, for a recognition of the fundamental human rights of the people of Palestine, for the end of the Israeli occupation, and for the right the Palestinian people to return to their lands. The value of human life should not be up for debate, reduced to some academic concept on which all viewpoints deserve a seat at the table. “Protecting academic freedom” does not mean we need to have lively discourse on whether genocide is bad. Any institution that purports to instill values of social justice and humanity should know better.

Millions of lives are on the line. Will you remain silent? What do you want your legacy to be?