

November 9, 2023

Dear Workplace Leaders,

The undersigned legal organizations write to share with you [the enclosed letter](#) from over 600 legal organizations and lawyers throughout the US, urging institutional leaders to take immediate measures to protect against anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab and anti-Muslim discrimination, and to protect advocates for Palestinian rights from retaliation for their political views. This is urgent in this moment when advocacy for Palestinian rights is being punished on a mass scale, and is causing a discriminatory and hostile environment for individuals who are connected to and are morally compelled to speak out about the current crisis in Gaza and throughout Palestine.

We also share this urgently today as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) urges companies to undertake its “Workplace [Pledge](#) to Fight Antisemitism.” It is absolutely critical that workplaces create inclusive environments and prevent discriminatory and hostile environments for their employees based on their protected characteristics. Antisemitism, along with other bigotry based on people’s racial, religious, ethnic, and other backgrounds, should not be tolerated in any workplace.

It is incumbent upon us, however, as organizations that have a history of defending human and civil rights, and with a deep commitment to social justice, to expose the [troubling history](#) of the ADL, which reveals one of its objectives in asking employers to sign this pledge. For many years, the ADL has played a significant part in concertedly [attacking](#) speech critical of Israeli policy or favorable to Palestinian rights. While branding itself as a civil rights organization, the ADL has pursued an agenda that has undermined social justice movements and has used its positioning to [attack](#) Palestinian, Muslim, Black, LGBT+, immigrant and other communities and movements.

The primary tool that it has used in attacking Palestinians and their allies is to label critics of Israel and advocates for Palestinian rights as “antisemitic.” For example, the ADL’s website unequivocally [states](#) that “Anti-Zionism is antisemitic, in intent or effect, as it invokes anti-Jewish tropes, is used to disenfranchise, demonize, disparage, or punish all Jews and/or those who feel a connection to Israel, equates Zionism with Nazism and other genocidal regimes, and renders Jews less worthy of sovereignty and nationhood than other peoples and states.” To render opposition to Zionism as antisemitic is itself anti-Palestinian. Zionism is a political ideology that calls for a Jewish state in historic Palestine. As it has been implemented in practice, the [creation of Israel](#) as a self-described “Jewish state” has meant the dispossession, exile, military occupation, and unending violations of the international human and national rights of the Palestinian people. To declare that opposition to Zionism is the equivalent of antisemitism is to declare all Palestinians and their supporters as anti-Jewish because they aspire to end the decades-long occupation of their land and to live freely and in full equality in their homeland. Needless to say, political ideologies are not protected characteristics under anti-discrimination law, and any attempt to make them so should be rejected.

Signing this pledge will, unfortunately, put corporate offices in the position of being arbiters of political speech on Palestinian rights issues, lead to Palestinian, Arab, Muslim and other groups

feeling targeted for expressions of their identity, and thereby create a hostile environment for these groups and other advocates for Palestinian rights. A primary tool that the ADL has widely promoted to enforce its own political views on Israel is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism that it and other Israel-aligned groups have pushed in legislatures, institutions and now workplaces around the country. The IHRA definition has been [widely discredited](#) as a [tool of censorship](#) that, rather than making Jewish people safer, uses the stain of antisemitism to target critics of Israel.

In this moment, when the atrocities unfolding in the Gaza strip (“Gaza”) and throughout Palestine are undeniable, Palestinian and allied voices calling for an end to Israel’s genocide and for Palestinian freedom from Israel’s 75-year long occupation are more important than ever. As of the date of this letter, the Israeli military has so far killed over [10,000](#) Palestinian civilians in Gaza, including over 4,000 children. The Israeli government—through its serial bombardment—has coerced the mass exodus of Palestinian civilians from northern Gaza to the south of the besieged strip, while [attacking](#) putatively safe and humanitarian exit-corridors. It has also struck [other civilian targets](#) and is [depriving](#) the entire civilian population in Gaza essential access to water, food, medical care, internet service and electricity—even while remaining hospitals are [overrun](#) with critically injured patients. Israeli soldiers and settlers have also killed over [150](#) Palestinians in recent weeks in the occupied West Bank, as settler rampages drive Palestinians out of their lands and homes. All of these measures against Palestinian civilians [contravene](#) international law, rise to the level of [genocide](#) and ethnic cleansing, and flout the condemnation of the [World Health Organization](#) and [United Nations](#).

To condemn these state actions against Palestinians and demand their safety, hundreds of thousands of people have protested in solidarity with them [worldwide](#). High-ranking officials within the [U.S.](#) and [abroad](#) have, too, undertaken defiant and public resignations. Unfortunately, as the enclosed letter details, the ADL and other Israel-aligned groups have undertaken a campaign of mass censorship, even calling for the [criminalization](#) of student activists.

To cast as antisemitic the criticisms that human-rights advocates globally have of Israeli state *policy*, which is infused with [racist and genocidal rhetoric](#), lacks rigor and cheapens the serious dangers of bona fide antisemitism (meaning, animus against Jewish people because of their ethnic and/or religious identity)—an undeniably real and present danger that all of the undersigned take seriously and uniformly decry.

We therefore ask you, as the enclosed letter urges, to reject attempts to push a distorted definition of antisemitism that aims to censor criticism of Israel and advocacy for Palestinian rights by falsely labeling it anti-Jewish. The ADL’s pledge does just that - not explicitly, but in its reference to the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism and the Shine A Light Campaign, both of which make explicit reference to the IHRA working definition as a tool to combat antisemitism, and which the ADL has had a significant hand in shaping.

Following the lead of a group that has proven itself as dedicated to undermining Palestinian, Arab and Muslim communities, as well as social justice causes across the country, will put you in the position of replicating the ADL’s anti-Palestinian agenda. It will counter the work of DEI offices by encouraging exclusion of and discrimination against Palestinian, Arab and Muslim

employees and creating a hostile environment for these groups and all people who support Palestinian rights, including many Jews. Instead, we urge you to address antisemitism along with other bigotry in the workplace in a holistic manner that allows you to create safety and inclusion for all people – not comfort for some at the expense of others. We recommend instead resources on antisemitism such as [PARCEO](#)'s "Curriculum on Antisemitism from a Framework of Collective Liberation," and Jews for Racial and Economic Justice's [Understanding Antisemitism](#)," and [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) resources. In addition, it's critical that workplaces understand how anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bigotry manifests, and we urge you to reach out to this letter's signatories for resources on those issues.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter, and for your careful consideration of any affiliation with the ADL.

Respectfully,

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
The Center for Constitutional Rights  
Council on American Islamic Relations  
Law For Black Lives  
National Lawyers Guild  
Palestine Legal  
Project South

Encl.

## **Hundreds of Legal Community Members Demand Action To Stop Racist Targeting of Palestine Advocates and Safeguard Fundamental Rights**

October 19, 2023

As legal organizations and professionals, we are alarmed by the surge in anti-Palestinian and Islamophobic racism and attacks threatening communities across the country. We urge all elected officials, institutional leaders and decision makers in all arenas to take urgent special measures to ensure the protection of fundamental constitutional, civil and human rights of people calling for Palestinian freedom.

The total dehumanization of Palestinians by Israel, fueled by misinformation campaigns relying on Islamophobic and racist tropes, and echoed by U.S. officials and amplified by news networks,<sup>1</sup> has created an alarming and dangerous situation for Palestinians and their allies in the U.S. Israel is making clear its genocidal intentions in Gaza – completely cutting off food, water, electricity and fuel to the over 2 million Palestinians held hostage in a tiny enclave that has been under a brutal 16-year Israeli siege and has suffered five (now six) major Israeli bombardments over that period that have decimated its infrastructure and killed thousands.<sup>2</sup> Israeli officials have called the Palestinians who live there – half of them children – “human animals,”<sup>3</sup> and is telling Palestinians to evacuate from one part of Gaza to another, only to bomb them as they flee, presaging a repeat of the ethnic cleansing that took place in 1948.<sup>4</sup>

Elected officials in the U.S. have declared full-throated support for Israel and its war on Gaza, refusing to condemn or call for a stop to Israel’s indiscriminate bombardments that have killed hundreds of children, and echoing Israel’s genocidal language – effectively giving a greenlight to Israel’s war crimes.<sup>5</sup> Domestically, elected officials have irresponsibly accused protesters for

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<sup>1</sup> Alice Speri, ‘Beheaded Babies’ report spread wide and fast - but Israel military won’t confirm it, The Intercept, Oct. 11, 2023, <https://theintercept.com/2023/10/11/israel-hamas-disinformation/>; Mondoweiss, U.S. networks are committing journalistic malpractice by only posting reporters in Israel, Oct. 12, 2023, <https://mondoweiss.net/2023/10/u-s-networks-are-committing-journalistic-malpractice-by-only-posting-reporters-in-israel/>.

<sup>2</sup> Dalal Iriqat, Gaza: The caged context, Institute for Palestine Studies, Oct. 13, 2023, <https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1654395>.

<sup>3</sup> See Sanjana Karanth, Israeli Defense Minister Announces Siege On Gaza To Fight ‘Human Animals,’ Huffington Post, Oct. 9, 2023, [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/israel-defense-minister-human-animals-gaza-palestine\\_n\\_6524220ae4b09f4b8d412e0a](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/israel-defense-minister-human-animals-gaza-palestine_n_6524220ae4b09f4b8d412e0a).

<sup>4</sup> AlJazeera, ‘We reject the forced displacement’ in Gaza: Abbas tells Blinken in Jordan, Oct. 13, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/13/abbas-blinken-jordan>.

<sup>5</sup> See Eric Levitz, The U.S. is giving Israel permission for war crimes, New York Magazine, Oct. 13, 2023, <https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2023/10/the-u-s-is-giving-israel-permission-for-war-crimes.html>; Press Briefing, U.S. Dep’t of State, Oct. 10, 2023, <https://video.state.gov/detail/videos/top-stories/video/6338801203112/departments-of-state-daily-press-briefing---october-10-2023?autoStart=true>; Matt Ber, ‘Eliminate,’ ‘eradicate,’ ‘level’: U.S. politicians escalate rhetoric against Hamas, Politico, Oct. 11, 2023,

Palestinian rights of antisemitism and support for terrorism,<sup>6</sup> and called for the mobilization of law enforcement resources to police them, contributing to racist fear-mongering.<sup>7</sup> This portends a reignition of repressive “War on Terror” policies that led to extreme state repression and constitutional rights violations against Arab, Muslim and other communities of color.<sup>8</sup>

Institutional leaders are likewise issuing racist condemnations of Palestinians and those standing in solidarity with them, ignoring or even sanctioning the unfolding genocide in Gaza and focusing solely on the impact on Israelis.<sup>9</sup> Such statements not only foment anti-Palestinian sentiment and dehumanization, but also entirely ignore the history and daily violence experienced through nearly eight decades of colonial oppression.

Palestine Legal, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and other signatories are fielding hundreds of requests for support and protection from racist attacks and government targeting. **These are the direct result of virulent anti-Palestinian rhetoric from Israel, echoed by our own elected officials as well as institutional and community leaders.** The barrage of extreme attacks that Palestinians and their allies in the U.S. are facing for speaking out for Palestinian rights include:

- Violent assaults against Palestinian and allied protesters and communities, including the stabbing death of a 6-year old Palestinian boy and injury of his mother in Illinois<sup>10</sup>;

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<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/national-security-daily/2023/10/11/eliminate-eradicate-level-u-s-politicians-escalate-rhetoric-against-hamas-00120909>; Brett Wilkins, ‘Level the place,’ declares Lindsey Graham as Israel does exactly that to Gaza, Information Clearing House, Oct. 12, 2023,

<https://informationclearinghouse.blog/2023/10/12/level-the-place-declares-lindsey-graham-as-israel-does-exactly-that-to-gaza/#>.

<sup>6</sup> Eric Adams [@NYCMayor], “At a moment when innocent people are being slaughtered and children kidnapped in Israel, it is disgusting that this group of extremists would show support for terrorism. I reject this. New York City rejects this. Do not use our streets to spread your hate.,” X, Oct. 8, 2023,

<https://twitter.com/NYCMayor/status/1711121143585731008>.

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., Joseph Biden [@POTUS], “...In cities across the country, local and federal law enforcement partners are closely monitoring for any domestic threats in connection with the horrific terrorist attacks in Israel,” X, October 10, 2023, <https://twitter.com/POTUS/status/1711744505743810672>; Dan Whitcomb and Steve Gorman, US law enforcement steps up security ahead of expected Mideast protests, Reuters, Oct. 12, 2023,

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-law-enforcement-steps-up-security-ahead-expected-mideast-protests-2023-10-13/>.

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., The Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility Project, et al., Mapping Muslims: NYPD Spying and its Impact on Muslim Americans (2013),

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59134566e58c623970f2cd48/t/5cfd8de47e01750001c0859b/1560120808092/Mapping-Muslims.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> See, e.g., Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, University of Florida president releases strong pro-Israel statement, blasts ‘elite academia’, Fox News, Oct. 11, 2023, <https://www.foxnews.com/us/university-florida-president-releases-strong-pro-israel-statement-blasts-elite-academia>.

<sup>10</sup> See, e.g., Beth Lawrence, et al., Chicago area landlord accused of killing boy, 6, stabbing woman because they were Muslim, CBS News, October 15, 2023, <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/plainfield-township-stabbing-woman-child-will-county/>; Elijah Westbrook, NYPD: Group waving Israeli flags accused of attacking 3 men in

- Severe doxing and harassment of students and individuals who sign statements in support of Palestine, tweet their sympathy, or otherwise stand in solidarity with Palestinians<sup>11</sup>;
- Incitement to violence by Israel supporters and even elected officials<sup>12</sup>;
- Employment consequences for people who express solidarity with Palestinians or criticize Israel's actions<sup>13</sup>;
- Censorship on social media platforms of Palestinian voices, including news outlets reporting on Palestine<sup>14</sup>;
- Bullying and discrimination against students in K-12 schools<sup>15</sup>;
- University censorship, condemnation and discrimination against students organizing for Palestine<sup>16</sup>;
- Dangerous accusations of “antisemitism” and “support for terrorism” and calls for investigations, surveillance and censorship against Palestine advocates<sup>17</sup>;

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possible anti-Palestinian hate crime in Brooklyn, CBS News, Oct. 12, 2023,

<https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/nypd-group-waving-israeli-flags-attacked-man-who-yelled-free-palestine/>.

<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., Ramishah Maruf, For Palestinian Americans and activists, doxing is nothing new, CNN, Oct. 15, 2023, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/15/business/palestinian-americans-activists-doxing/index.html>; Ivana Saric and Mark Deehan, Harvard student group members doxxed after Pro-Palestine letter, Axios, Oct. 12, 2023, <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/12/harvard-students-doxed-israel-palestine>.

<sup>12</sup> Council Member Arrested for Bringing Gun to Protest Against Pro-Palestinian Campus Rally, The City, Oct. 13, 2023, <https://www.thecity.nyc/2023/10/13/23915609/inna-vernikov-gun-arrest-brookl-college-palestinian-israel-protest>; Middle East Eye, Pro-Israel demonstrators in New York explicitly call for killing all Palestinians and Arabs, Oct. 10, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGup5iLjUi8>.

<sup>13</sup> See, e.g., Martha McHardy, Sports reporter fired for saying Philadelphia 76ers' pro-Israel post 'sucks,' Independent, October 10, 2023, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/phillyvoice-reporter-76ers-israel-hamas-attack-b2427177.html>; Vimal Patel and Anemona Hartocollis, N.Y.U. Law Student Sends Anti-Israel Message and Loses a Job Offer, The New York Times, Oct. 11, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/11/us/nyu-law-harvard-hamas-israel.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Prem Thakker, Sam Biddle, TikTok, Instagram Target Outlet Covering Israel-Palestine Amid Siege on Gaza, The Intercept, Oct. 11, 2023, <https://theintercept.com/2023/10/11/tiktok-instagram-israel-palestine/>; The Cradle, Meta 'taking steps' to censor support for Palestinian resistance, Oct. 13, 2023, <https://new.thecradle.co/articles/meta-taking-steps-to-censor-support-for-palestinian-resistance>.

<sup>15</sup> Michael Abeyta, Cherry Creek students concerned with bullying following the war in Israel, CBS Colorado, Oct. 12, 2023, <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/colorado-cherry-creek-students-concerned-bullying-following-war-israel/>.

<sup>16</sup> Bianca Quilantan, Middle East crisis pushes Education Department to curb campus protests, Politico, Oct. 12, 2023, <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/10/12/pressure-mounts-on-education-department-to-penalize-antisemitism-on-campus-00121174>; Madina Toure, Top American colleges seek to quell anti-Israel sentiment in wake of Hamas attacks, PoliticoPro, Oct. 10, 2023, <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2023/10/anti-israel-sentiment-college-campuses-00120853>.

<sup>17</sup> See, e.g., *supra* notes 6 & 7; Luke Tress, Jewish groups demand US schools defund pro-Palestinian group for lauding Hamas attack, Times of Israel, Oct. 14, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jewish-groups-demand-us-schools-defund-pro-palestinian-group-for-lauding-hamas-attack/>; Johanna Alonso et al., A day of tension and protests on campus, Inside Higher Ed, Oct. 13, 2023, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/free-speech/2023/10/13/tension-over-israel-hamas-war-grows-college-campuses>.

- Legislative initiatives displaying anti-Palestinian racism, including declaring the ineligibility for U.S. visas and inadmissibility of people holding Palestinian Authority-issued passports<sup>18</sup>;
- Law enforcement visits to Palestinian and Muslim community members, abuse, arrest, and trumped up charges for speaking out and protesting for Palestinian rights.<sup>19</sup>

The hundreds of incidents happening across the country signal a much broader effort to criminalize dissent, justify censorship, and incite anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and anti-Muslim harassment, doxing and vigilantism against Palestinians and their allies.

This is not a new phenomenon, but it is escalating at terrifying speed.

Over the last decade and more, Palestinians and their allies in the U.S. have gained significant traction in growing support for justice in Palestine in the face of relentless Israeli violations of human rights and international law. Over the same decade, Palestine Legal has documented extensive efforts by Israel and its lobby to attack the growing movement for Palestinian rights using tactics such as frivolous lawsuits, calls for criminalization, smear campaigns against individuals, legislation punishing peaceful boycotts, and baseless claims of discrimination based on student organizing for Palestine.<sup>20</sup> Lawmakers and public institutions have facilitated Israel's repression machine by acquiescing to pressure to censor and punish Palestinians and their allies, and have engaged in anti-Palestinian discrimination in the process.<sup>21</sup>

This has mirrored a broader trend in the U.S. towards the dismantling of fundamental constitutional rights to dissent, protest, and boycott.<sup>22</sup> Right-wing groups and officials have pushed legislation undermining social justice movements, including laws aimed at curtailing

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<sup>18</sup> See, e.g., H.R. 5959, 118th Cong. (2023), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5959> (titled "To make ineligible for visas, admission, or parole aliens that are holders of passports issued by the Palestinian Authority" and introduced Oct. 13, 2023).

<sup>19</sup> See, e.g., Prem Thakker and Daniel Boguslaw, FBI targets Muslims and Palestinians in wake of Hamas attack, civil rights advocates warn, *The Intercept*, Oct. 13, 2023, <https://theintercept.com/2023/10/13/palestinians-muslims-fbi/>; @notcishet, Oct. 12, 2023, X, "a Black trans jewish woman was arrested by the nypd for giving a zionist a papercut and now the new york times, the new york post and the columbia spectator are spreading LIES about her "assaulting an israeli student with a stick." pls help us spread the truth," <https://twitter.com/notcishet/status/1712619737417499063>.

<sup>20</sup> See Palestine Legal and The Center for Constitutional Rights, *The Palestine Exception to Free Speech: A Movement Under Attack*, 2015, available at <https://palestinelegal.org/the-palestine-exception>; Palestine Legal, *Year-in-Review: Bolder and More Resilient Palestine Advocacy Resists Growing Backlash*, 2022, <https://palestinelegal.org/2022-report>.

<sup>21</sup> Radhika Sainath, *The Anti-Palestinian censorship machine runs on racism*, *Jacobin*, April 1, 2023, <https://jacobin.com/2023/04/palestinian-racism-discrimination-antisemitism-definition-ihra-bds>.

<sup>22</sup> The Center for Constitutional Rights, US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, et al., *How the "War on Terror" has Metastasized to Suppress Dissent*, <https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2023/09/ICCPR%20Terrorism%20Frame%20Shadow%20Report%209.12.23.pdf>; The Center for Constitutional Rights et al., *ALEC Attacks*, 2019, <https://www.alecattacks.org/>.

academic freedom to teach about systemic racism<sup>23</sup>; criminalizing Black Lives Matter protests and Indigenous and environmentalist protests against pipelines<sup>24</sup>; and punishing social justice boycott and divestment movements, including for Palestinian rights.<sup>25</sup> Surveillance, infiltration, disinformation, harassing lawsuits, and right-wing doxing have been deployed by government and private forces against justice movements.<sup>26</sup> The attack against movements and the criminalization of protest, most recently and starkly displayed by the extreme criminal charges against activists who opposed the razing of an Atlanta forest to build a militarized police complex, is becoming normalized.

A failure to stand up now and uphold fundamental First Amendment rights and anti-discrimination laws and to stop the criminalization of dissent and the racist targeting of Palestinian and allied communities will only accelerate the erosion of the very protections that make dissent – and therefore democracy – possible. A failure to stand up against the virulent anti-Palestinian rhetoric will put whole communities in danger and fuel broader repression against them.

**We therefore call on all government and elected officials and institutional decision makers to urgently protect the civil and constitutional rights of people who are calling for Palestinian freedom by:**

- Affirming the humanity and dignity of Palestinians and condemning the dehumanization of Palestinians and allied communities;
- Affirming First Amendment and free speech rights to protest and organize for Palestinian rights and freedom;

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<sup>23</sup> Peter Greene, Teacher Anti-CRT Bills Coast To Coast: A State By State Guide, Forbes, Feb. 16, 2022, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/petergreene/2022/02/16/teacher-anti-crt-bills-coast-to-coast-a-state-by-state-guide/>.

<sup>24</sup> See, e.g., International Center for Non-Profit Law, Analysis of US Anti-Protest Bills, <https://www.icnl.org/post/news/analysis-of-anti-protest-bills?location=&status=&issue=&date=>; Hillary Beaumont, Revealed: pipeline company paid Minnesota police for arresting and surveilling protesters, The Guardian, Oct. 5, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/oct/05/line-3-pipeline-enbridge-paid-police-arrest-protesters>; Nina Lakhani, 'I'm not the guilty one': the water protector facing jail time for trying to stop a pipeline, The Guardian Aug. 27, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/27/climate-activist-mylene-vialard-line-3-pipeline-protest-climate-activism-crackdown>.

<sup>25</sup> Palestine Legal, Legislation targeting advocacy for Palestinian rights, <https://legislation.palestinelegal.org/>; Foundation for Middle East Peace, Free Speech-Quashing Laws Based on Israel-Focused Anti-Boycott Laws, <https://fmep.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/BDS-Laws-as-Template-for-Laws-on-Other-Issues.pdf>; Meg Cunningham, Model legislation targets banks that divest from fossil fuel companies, ABC News, Dec. 22, 2021, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/model-legislation-targets-banks-divest-fossil-fuel-companies/story?id=81865813>; Erika Bolstad, Boycotting the Boycotters: In Oil-Friendly States, New Bills Aim to Block Divestment from Fossil Fuels, In These Times, Mar. 19, 2021, <https://inthesetimes.com/article/fossil-fuel-divestment-ban-texas-north-dakota-oil>.

<sup>26</sup> See, e.g., Chip Gibbons, Still Spying on Dissent: The Enduring Problem of First Amendment Abuse, 2019, <https://www.rightsanddissent.org/fbi-spying/>; Alleen Brown, In the mercenaries' own words: Documents detail Tigerswan infiltration of Standing Rock, The Intercept, Nov. 15, 2020, <https://theintercept.com/2020/11/15/standing-rock-tigerswan-infiltrator-documents/>; Micah Lee, How right-wing extremists stalk, dox, and harass their enemies, The Intercept, Sept. 6, 2017, <https://theintercept.com/2017/09/06/how-right-wing-extremists-stalk-dox-and-harass-their-enemies/>.



- Rejecting calls to condemn, monitor, or punish groups protesting for Palestinian rights, and publicly condemning incitement to violence and racist rhetoric against Palestinians and their allies;
- Ensuring the safety of protesters and communities from violent attacks by pro-Israel agitators;
- Rejecting demands to investigate, punish or fire employees or students for their statements in solidarity with Palestinians or critical of Israel;
- Ceasing and denouncing efforts to conflate advocacy for Palestinian rights with “support for terrorism,” and opposing surveillance, criminal investigations and sanctions against Palestine advocates;
- Rejecting attempts to push a distorted definition of antisemitism that aims to censor criticism of Israel and advocacy for Palestinian rights by falsely labeling it anti-Jewish;
- Providing resources to students/ employees/ constituents who are being doxed, threatened and harassed for their political views on Palestine, including but not limited to digital security services, reputation management services and community protection;
- Ensuring that students/ employees/ constituents have the resources and support services they need to deal not only with the grief and trauma of a genocidal bombardment of Gaza and severe attacks on Palestinians throughout Palestine, but also of the negation of their humanity, their experiences, and their rights in the media, by their institutions, and by government officials.

It is incumbent upon us as legal professionals to ensure that dissent on a matter of such domestic and international significance is protected, and to prevent the racist targeting of communities based on their ethnic, racial and religious identities and political views. We urge you to put the imperative of safeguarding constitutional and civil rights above any political pressure to doubly victimize Palestinians and their allies for calling for freedom and justice.

### **Organizational Signatories**

Palestine Legal  
 Center for Constitutional Rights  
 American-Arab Anti-Discrimination  
 Committee (ADC)  
 Abolitionist Law Center  
 Adalah Justice Project  
 Al-Haq  
 Alliance of South Asians Taking Action

(ASATA)  
 American Muslim Bar Association  
 Attorneys of Chicago  
 Black and Brown United in Action  
 California Collaborative for Immigrant  
 Justice  
 Center for Protest Law & Litigation  
 Center for Security, Race and Rights

Civil Liberties Defense Center  
Civil Rights Corps  
CLEAR Project  
Climate Defense Project  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) - San Francisco Bay Area  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Detroit Justice Center  
First Defense Legal Aid  
Five Borough Defenders  
Justicia Digna  
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Law 4 Black Lives  
Marashi Legal  
MidEast JustPeace, Grand Traverse Area MI  
Movement Law Lab  
Muslim Advocates  
Muslim Bar Association of New York  
Muslim Justice League  
Muslims for Just Futures  
The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls  
National Lawyers Guild (NLG)  
NLG - Alabama  
NLG - Anti-Racism Committee  
NLG - Arizona State University Law  
NLG - Chicago

NLG - Chicago-Kent  
NLG - Detroit & Michigan  
NLG - Madison WI  
NLG - Massachusetts  
NLG - Michigan Law  
NLG - Military Law Task Force  
NLG - Minnesota  
NLG - Rochester  
NLG - San Diego  
NLG - San Francisco Bay Area  
NLG - Seattle University School of Law  
NLG - University of California, Davis, School of Law (King Hall)  
NLG - University of Denver Sturm College of Law  
NLG - University of Southern California  
Palestine Legal  
Pangea Legal Services Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans  
Partnership for Civil Justice Fund  
Poligon Education Fund  
Project ANAR  
Project South  
Rights for Animal Rights Activists  
The Unionized Staff of Mobilization for Justice  
University Network for Human Rights  
Water Protector Legal Collective

**For list of individual signatories see [here](#).**