



The Association of McGill
University Support Employees
Le Syndicat des employé-e-s
occasionnel-le-s de l'Université McGill



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We, the members of the AMUSE-PSAC Board of Representatives, voice our solidarity with the people of Gaza during the latest in what has been an ongoing series of aggressions by the Israeli military. We condemn the indiscriminate killing of civilians, the targeting of hospitals and residential areas, and the recent massacre in Shuja'iya.

We reject the claim that this conflict is between two sides of equal responsibility and power to inflict violence and repression. Palestinians living in Gaza, referred to as the world's largest open-air prison, have no internationally-recognized state, no means of defense against one of the world's strongest militaries, and no reliable access to medical supplies in the event of civilian casualties.ⁱ

We reject claims that frame the current bloodshed being perpetuated as actions of self-defense or as justified retribution for the deaths of Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaer, and Eyal Yifrah. While the deaths of these young men are tragic, their deaths must not be used to political advantage so as to justify the further collective punishment and mass killing of Gazan civilians. We recognize that the conflict stems from long histories of oppression but do not accept the mobilization of those histories to excuse or condone the oppression of others.

We endorse the statement made by Palestinian organizations that “the latest Israeli attack against Gaza is a crime that must be understood within the context of Israeli occupation and apartheid. For over six decades Palestinians have been systematically bereaved of their lands, their water, and their freedom of movement. Settlements continue to be built, a wall is erected on occupied lands and Gaza has been under a suffocating blockade for over six years.”ⁱⁱ

We acknowledge the leading role workers and organized labour in Palestine have taken in organizing international solidarity against the occupation. As workers at McGill University, a site of ongoing military research and collaboration with the weapons-makers that have developed the technology used against civilians in Gaza, we recognize the work that needs to be done in our own city and workplaces to end the occupation.ⁱⁱⁱ

We further oppose the complicity of the Canadian government in Israel's history of colonization, and stand in solidarity with Indigenous people fighting for their right to remain on their lands in all settler-colonial states, including Canada and the United States.

We encourage all members of the Montreal community to attend the vigil and demonstration against the invasion of Gaza, planned for Wednesday, July 23 at 5:30 PM at métro Mont-Royal.^{iv} We commit to further educate ourselves and other members of our union on the occupation and history of the conflict, and call on other local and national unions to do the same.^v

*Signed by the Board of Representatives of the Association of McGill University Support Employees,
Public Service Alliance of Canada*

ⁱ John Holmes, former United Nations under secretary general for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, described the people of Gaza as “living...in a large open-air prison” in 2010. <http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/middle-east/gaza-is-open-air-prison-un-humanitarian-chief#ixzz37oiU1xVx>

ⁱⁱ The full statement can be accessed here: <http://us5.campaign-archive2.com/?u=3ae37c7a5636c2013d7c8ef29&id=4d326c8f50&e=5d58082ad7>

ⁱⁱⁱ For details, see: www.demilitarizemcgill.com

^{iv} <https://www.facebook.com/events/748130615250482/?context=create&source=49>

^v The Ontario Federation of Labour has also released a statement, which can be seen here: <http://ofl.ca/index.php/demand-israel-stop-bombing-civilians-gaza-ryan-urges-harper/>