

Immigrant Justice Advocates Stand with the Palestinian People, Demand #CeasefireNow*

**Abajo en español*

This document has been circulating for signature since November 8, 2023. On May 5, 2024, with the head of the U.N. World Food Program stating a 'full blown famine' is occurring in the north of Gaza, and with the devastating invasion of Rafah unfolding, the letter is being reissued. Data has been updated while the text has remained the same.

We are organizations across the U.S with missions to advocate for immigrant and refugee justice. Collectively, our missions compel us to fight back against the cruelty of detention, deportation, criminalization, surveillance, border militarization and state-sanctioned violence in the United States, and to demand dignity and justice for all.

In this moment of unspeakable heartbreak and devastation, the same values that guide our work each day call upon us to raise our voices. Genocide is unfolding before our eyes, and we cannot look away. Immigrant and refugee communities know the horrors of war, dispossession, and violence. People who have fled violence are members, clients, and leaders in our organizations and communities. History demands that we act, that we act now, and that we act together.

We demand:

- **An immediate ceasefire in Gaza**, as well as the unimpeded entry of humanitarian aid and services, and the immediate restoration of water, food, fuel, electricity, and internet.
- **That Congress reject funding requests** that further enable the collective punishment and unfolding genocide of the people of Gaza.
- **That the U.S. government cease its support** for the Israeli government's apartheid, occupation, and systematic dispossession of Palestinians.¹
- **That all organizations - and elected officials** - who support immigrant and refugee rights support these demands and speak out against attempts to dehumanize Palestinians.

We believe that all life is precious and that no human being is disposable. Every single human life has intrinsic value.

We mourn the lives of 1,200 Israelis killed on October 7 and the taking of over 200 hostages whose safe return we call for.² We reject the targeting of civilians and remember them during this heartbreak.

The Palestinian people have endured decades-long occupation, ethnic cleansing, and state violence.³ This includes the most recent collective punishment by the Israeli government that has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians. Entire family trees have been extinguished, and over 14,000 children have been killed.⁴ This has happened with the full support of the U.S. government that has continued to fund the Israeli government's apartheid with \$3.8 billion in military aid annually.

¹See, for example <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129942> "Israel's occupation is illegal and indistinguishable from a "settler-colonial" situation, which must end, as a pre-condition for Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination, the UN's independent expert on the occupied Palestinian territory said."

² <https://www.npr.org/2023/11/11/1212458974/israel-revises-death-toll-hamas-attacks-oct-7> (Nov. 2023)

³<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/> (Feb. 2022)

⁴As of May 6, 2024. See, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/05/1149366> (May 6, 2024)

The displacement of over a million Palestinians in Gaza has drawn comparisons with the violent expulsion and displacement of some 700,000 Palestinians upon the founding of the state of Israel in 1948. This is known as the Nakba or "catastrophe" in Arabic.⁵ Currently, Palestine refugees represent 70% of the total Gaza population.⁶

We oppose the Israeli government's genocidal actions⁷ and rhetoric⁸ against the people of Gaza. Yet, the Biden administration said it would impose "no redlines" on the Israeli military and has given a green light in both message and funding.

The result: the Israeli military dropped more than 6,000 bombs on Gaza in one week, cut off access to food, fuel, water, medicine, and electricity, and rendered nearly 1 million Palestinians homeless. An unfathomable death toll rises each day.

We stand with countless Palestinian people, Jewish people, and communities of diverse faiths and ethnicities around the globe who demand an immediate ceasefire.

We recognize the common threads that link our work with struggles for justice across the globe. The Biden administration's attempt to fuse funding for ICE and CBP with funding for the state of Israel's collective punishment of the people of Gaza is a stark reminder that our work does not take place in a silo.⁹ We see shameful, xenophobic attempts to demonize Palestinian refugees and to fearmonger about the U.S.-Mexico border.¹⁰

In the United States, we have seen first-hand how policing, incarceration, deportation, repression at the border, and a legal system all too often devoid of justice, perpetuate abuses of power and criminalize communities of color. This is **state violence** - the use of governmental authority to cause harm to entire groups of people.

Decades of brutal military occupation have subjected Palestinians to state violence every day through surveillance, humiliation at checkpoints, expulsion from their homes, arbitrary imprisonment, torture, and summary executions. International human rights groups (including Israel's leading human rights group B'Tselem) have concluded that the Israeli government through its law and policies practices apartheid.¹¹ Meanwhile, journalists have documented that many surveillance technologies and other "systems of control" originally designed by the state of Israel for the occupied Palestinian territories have been deployed at the U.S.-Mexico border, causing tremendous human suffering.¹²

We recommit to fighting racism and xenophobia, including profiling and targeting of Palestinians and Muslims in the United States by government agencies. We call out statements from public figures and biased media which have spawned anti-Palestinian racism. We are also deeply alarmed by the rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia, in the United States and around the globe, and are heartbroken over attacks driven by these systems. There is no room for antisemitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia or racism in any movement for liberation.

⁵https://www.democracynow.org/2023/10/13/israel_orders_gaza_evacuation and <https://www.un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba/>

⁶https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/gaza_thematic_6_0.pdf

⁷<https://ccrjustice.org/israel-s-unfolding-crime-genocide-palestinian-people-us-failure-prevent-and-complicity-genocide> (Oct. 18, 2023); <https://twailr.com/public-statement-scholars-warn-of-potential-genocide-in-gaza/> (Oct. 17, 2023);

<https://jewishcurrents.org/a-textbook-case-of-genocide> (Oct. 13, 2023)

⁸<https://twitter.com/RUCSRR/status/1719094835179565057> (Oct. 30, 2023)

⁹<https://twitter.com/DetentionWatch/status/1719391958601277913> (Oct/ 31, 2023)

¹⁰<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-pledges-expel-immigrants-who-support-hamas-ban-muslims-us-2023-10-16/> (Oct. 17, 2023)

¹¹<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution> (April 27, 2021);

see also <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/11/1143087> (Nov. 1, 2023)

¹²<https://www.theborderchronicle.com/p/from-the-gazan-laboratory-to-the> (Oct. 26, 2023)

We are speaking out because our collective work demands that we stand for common humanity, compassion, and the liberation of oppressed peoples. We urge all who fight for immigrant justice to join us.

Signed,

Organizations

18 Million Rising
Abrir Coalition
Adhikaar for Human Rights & Social Justice
Afghans For A Better Tomorrow
Al Otro Lado
Amend Law LLC
American Friends Service Committee
American Muslim Bar Association
Arab American Association of New York
Arab American Civic Council
Asian American Advocacy Fund
Asian Prisoner Support Committee
Barrio Drive
Bilbao Law, LLC
Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP)
Border Patrol Victims Network
Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN)
Buen Vecino
California Coalition for Women Prisoners
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice
California Immigrant Policy Center
Carolina Migrant Network
Casa Freehold
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants
Center for Popular Democracy
Church Women United in New York State
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
Co-Counsel NYC
Coalición de Derechos Humanos
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)
Community Justice Exchange
Convivir Colorado
Council on American-Islamic Relations, California
Denver Justice and Peace Committee - DJPC
Detention Watch Network
Doctors For Camp Closure
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving
Envision Freedom Fund
Faith in Action
Families for Freedom
First Friends of New Jersey & New York
Fischer & Fischer, Attorneys at Law
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Fortaleza Familiar
Free Migration Project
Freedom for Immigrants
Fronterizx Fianza Fund
Ganemos LLC
Grassroots Leadership
Hindus for Human Rights
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative
Houston Leads
Immigrant Action Alliance
The Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights Clinic, The CUNY School of Law
Immigrants Act Now
Immigrant Defense Advocates
Immigrant Defense Project
Immigrant Freedom Fund (Colorado)
Immigrant Justice Network
Immigration Law & Justice Network
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Insight Family Counseling and Wellness Services INC
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
International Mayan League
InterReligious Task Force on Central America
Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
Juntos

Justice for Migrant Women
La ColectiVA
La Unidad11
Latinx Therapists Action Network
LAWG - Latin America Working Group
Lincoln United Methodist Church
Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants
Make the Road CT
Make the Road NJ
Make the Road NV
Make the Road NY
Make the Road PA
Marianist Social Justice Collaborative
Mariposa Legal
Masa
MediaJustice
Mekong NYC
Midwest Immigration Bond Fund
Migrant Justice
Migrant Roots Media
Mijente
Movimiento Poder
MN8
MPower Change Action Fund
Muslim Advocates
Mutual Aid Immigration Network
NAKASEC Action Fund
National Immigration Project
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
National Partnership for New Americans
Never Again Action
Never Again Action DC
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
New Mexico Dream Team
New York State Youth Leadership Council
NorCal Resist
OAAARS
ORALE
Organized Communities Against Deportations

Orange County Rapid Response Network
Pangea Legal Services
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Project ANAR
Project Ishmael, First Grace Community Alliance
Puente
QLatinx
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project
Resilient Advocates Collective
Rochester Rapid Response Network
Rural Organizing Project
Safe Harbor Clinic
Southeast Asian Freedom Network (SEAFN)
South Bay People Power
Southeast Asian Defense Project
Surveillance Resistance Lab
TakeRoot Justice
Tarjimly
TPS-DED Administrative Advocacy Coalition
Transformations CDC
Transgender Law Center
Tsuru for Solidarity
UndocuBlack Network
UndocuMental Health
UnLocal
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United We Dream
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*Where used, initials are used at the request of the endorser because of fear of retaliation.

Defensores de la Justicia Migrante se solidarizan con el Pueblo Palestino,

Exija #AltoAlFuegoAhora

Este documento ha estado circulando para agregar firmas desde el 8 de noviembre de 2023. Reconocemos que a medida que se desarrollen los acontecimientos, el contenido quedará obsoleto. La declaración permanecerá abierta para juntar firmas indicando el respaldo del contenido.

Somos organizaciones en todo Estados Unidos con la misión de abogar por la justicia para inmigrantes y refugiados.

Colectivamente, nuestras misiones nos obligan a luchar contra la crueldad de la detención, la deportación, la criminalización, la vigilancia, la militarización fronteriza y la violencia sancionada por el Estado en los Estados Unidos, y a exigir dignidad y justicia para todos.

En este momento de indescriptible angustia y devastación, los mismos valores que guían nuestro trabajo cada día nos llaman a alzar la voz. Un genocidio se está desarrollando ante nuestros ojos y no podemos apartar la mirada. Las comunidades de inmigrantes y refugiados conocen los horrores de la guerra, el despojo y la violencia. Las personas que han huido de la violencia son miembros, clientes y líderes de nuestras organizaciones y comunidades. La historia exige que actuemos, que actuemos ahora y que actuemos juntos.

Exigimos:

- **Un alto el fuego inmediato en Gaza**, así como el ingreso sin obstáculos de ayuda y servicios humanitarios, y el restablecimiento inmediato del agua, alimentos, combustible, electricidad e internet.
- **Que el Congreso rechace solicitudes para fondos** que permitan aún más el castigo colectivo y el genocidio en desarrollo del pueblo de Gaza.
- **Que el gobierno de EE.UU. cese su apoyo** por el apartheid, la ocupación y el despojo sistemático del pueblo palestinos por parte del gobierno israelí.
- **Que todas las organizaciones – y oficiales electos** quienes apoyan los derechos migrantes y de refugiados apoyan estas demandas y se pronuncien contra los intentos de deshumanizar a la comunidad palestina.

Nosotros creemos que toda vida es preciosa y que ningún ser humano es desechable. Cada vida humana tiene un valor intrínseco.

Lamentamos las vidas de 1,200 israelíes asesinados el 7 de octubre y la toma de más de 200 rehenes cuyo regreso sano y salvo exigimos. Rechazamos los ataques contra civiles y los recordamos durante este dolor.

El pueblo palestino ha soportado décadas de ocupación, limpieza étnica y violencia estatal. Esto incluye el castigo colectivo más reciente por parte del gobierno israelí que ha matado a más de 34,000 palestines. Se han extinguido árboles genealógicos enteros y más de 14,000 niños han sido asesinados. Esto ha sucedido con el pleno apoyo del gobierno de Estados Unidos, que ha seguido financiando el apartheid del gobierno israelí con 3.800 millones de dólares en ayuda militar anualmente.

El desplazamiento de más de un millón de palestines en Gaza ha generado comparaciones con la violenta expulsión y desplazamiento de alrededor de 700.000 palestines tras la fundación del Estado de Israel en 1948. Esto se conoce como la Nakba o "catástrofe" en árabe. Actualmente, los refugiados palestines representan el 70% de la población total de Gaza.

Nos oponemos a las acciones genocidas y la retórica del gobierno israelí contra el pueblo de Gaza. Sin embargo, la administración Biden dijo que no impondría "líneas rojas" al ejército israelí y ha dado luz verde tanto al mensaje como a la financiación.

El resultado: el ejército israelí arrojó más de 6.000 bombas sobre Gaza en una semana, cortó el acceso a alimentos, combustible, agua, medicinas y electricidad, y dejó a casi 1 millón de palestines sin hogar. Cada día aumenta el número insondable de muertes.

Apoyamos a innumerables palestines, judíos y comunidades de diversas religiones y etnias en todo el mundo que exigen un alto el fuego inmediato.

Reconocemos los lazos comunes que vinculan nuestro trabajo con las luchas por la justicia en todo el mundo. El intento de la administración Biden de fusionar fondos para ICE y CBP con fondos para el castigo colectivo del estado de Israel al pueblo de Gaza es un claro recordatorio de que nuestro trabajo no se lleva a cabo en un silo. Vemos intentos vergonzosos y xenófobos de demonizar a los refugiados palestines y de infundir miedo en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México.

En Estados Unidos, hemos visto de primera mano cómo la actividad policiaca, el encarcelamiento, la deportación, la represión en la frontera y un sistema legal, con demasiada frecuencia desprovisto de justicia, perpetúan los abusos de poder y criminalizan a las comunidades de color. Esto es violencia estatal: el uso de la autoridad gubernamental para causar daño a grupos enteros de personas.

Décadas de ocupación brutal militar han sometido a los palestines a la violencia estatal todos los días mediante vigilancia, humillación en los puestos de control, expulsión de sus hogares, encarcelamiento arbitrario, tortura y ejecuciones sumarias. Grupos internacionales de derechos humanos (incluido el principal grupo de derechos humanos de Israel, B'Tselem) han llegado a la conclusión de que el gobierno israelí, a través de sus leyes y políticas, practica el apartheid. Mientras tanto, periodistas han documentado que muchas tecnologías de vigilancia y otros “sistemas de control” diseñados originalmente por el Estado de Israel para los territorios palestinos bajo ocupación se han desplegado en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, causando un enorme sufrimiento humano.

Nos comprometemos nuevamente a luchar contra el racismo y la xenofobia, incluyendo la elaboración de perfiles y ataques contra palestines y musulmanes en Estados Unidos por parte de agencias gubernamentales. Denunciamos declaraciones de figuras públicas y medios de comunicación parciales que han generado racismo antipalestine. También estamos profundamente alarmados por el aumento del antisemitismo y la islamofobia en Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo, y estamos desconsolados por los ataques impulsados por estos sistemas. No hay lugar para el antisemitismo, la islamofobia, la xenofobia o el racismo en ningún movimiento de liberación.

Alzamos nuestra voz porque nuestro trabajo colectivo exige que defendamos la humanidad común, la compasión y la liberación de los pueblos oprimidos. Instamos a todos los que luchan por la justicia migrante a que se unan a nosotros.