



We Demand Action: Furman Must Stand with Palestine

For the past month, we have watched as news reports coming out of the Gaza Strip have exposed the horror Palestinians are facing on a daily basis. There is no moral nuance to this crisis: **Israel is committing a genocide against Palestine.** Israel's bombardment and invasion of Gaza is not a war of defense against terrorists, it is a deliberate campaign of mass murder against civilians with the explicit goal of exterminating an entire people.

This is the logical endpoint of the systematic dehumanization of Palestinians. This genocide did not start with the latest attack. It has been brewing for seventy-five years, for as long as Israel has subjected Palestinians to a racist apartheid system. For years, Palestinians in Gaza have lived under siege, facing disease and starvation and unable to leave. For years, Palestinians in the West Bank have been subject to segregation, arbitrary eviction, and violent suppression of any protest against this status quo. For years, Palestinians across all Israeli-occupied territory have been denied equal democratic rights.

In its "Vision, Mission, and Values" statement, Furman espouses a commitment to justice, but justice must be universal for it to exist at all. Furman cannot be committed to justice in general if we are not committed to justice for Palestinians in particular. We cannot "strive for equity" if we support the inequity of apartheid, we cannot "act as responsible stewards of our planet" if we are silent in the face of the oppression of the people who live on it, and we cannot "meet the challenges" of the modern world with "courage" if we do not have the courage to take a proactive stand against genocide.

We are glad that the planned Israel-Jordan MayX has been canceled, but without a guarantee that Furman will not facilitate future trips to occupied Palestine, it remains possible that the university will help subsidize occupation, apartheid, and genocide. That is unacceptable.

Given the lack of transparency around Furman's financial portfolio, we do not know whether the university's endowment is linked to Israeli firms in any way, but any money sent towards the Israeli government will inevitably subsidize genocide.

Therefore, we demand the following from the administration and the Board of Trustees:

1. Pledge to never again send MayX or study abroad programs to Israel or facilitate internships with Israeli firms.
2. Open Furman's financial records to the public and terminate all investments linked to Israel.
3. Formally distance the university from pro-Israel statements and release an official statement unequivocally recognizing and denouncing the Israeli genocide.

Signed: Furman YDSA, Furman MENA, Afrikiya, FU International Student Association, Environmental Action Group, Furman Pride Alliance