



## ABOLISH STANFORD STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

“Police perpetrate racialized violence themselves and defend the white settler capitalist violence of others. They do this in Palestine. They do this on Turtle Island. They do this on and around our university campuses. Settler colonial police and military apparatuses—past and present—enact their monopolization of violence to harm, maim, and murder, whether Black people across Turtle Island or Palestinians across Palestine.

Our universities/academic institutions in the United States and Canada are also deeply implicated in the financial and ideological support and spread of settler colonial violence. They support and fund research on border surveillance and detention. They support and fund research on algorithmic policing and militarization. They support and fund research on Israeli “city planning.” Our historically white colleges and universities are and always have been settler colonial institutions. We refuse this.

We know that solidarity is more than just a buzzword and that the [struggles for abolition, for Black lives, and for indigenous sovereignty](#) are inextricably linked. Therefore, our Cops Off Campus campaign will always agitate for Cops Off the Planet. This campaign has always been an anti-colonial, anti-capitalist, anti-white supremacist campaign. It has always been a campaign for Palestinian liberation because our liberation is connected.”

- Cops Off Campus Coalition ([full statement](#))

We stand by this statement from the Cops Off Campus Coalition, and we denounce the Stanford administration’s response to this issue. Even direct condemnation by Stanford (which so far has been nonexistent) would be insufficient, as Stanford has already made its stance clear in its past actions. In 2015, Stanford [refused](#) to divest from Israel, after a long campaign by [Stanford Out of Occupied Palestine](#). They have reiterated their position several times since then, refusing to divest from [private prisons](#) or to break ties with [companies](#) creating the tools and technologies that support the military and deportation machines. Stanford has been a longstanding part of the military-industrial complex, exemplified by its research for the [CIA](#) and [Department of Defense](#) during the Vietnam War. The current director of Hoover is none other than Condoleezza Rice, who pushed for the United States to wage war on Iraq, pushed for support, and still has refused to fully condemn her actions and those of her peers in the Bush administration.

We condemn the recent [ASSU misrepresentation](#) of the occupation as a mere conflict and urge student leaders not to fall into the same tepid complicity we've seen from the administration. Stanford affiliates have unique privileges through our connection to a wealthy and influential university, and thus have a responsibility to ensure that its resources are used for good. With that in mind, we encourage students to send an email to administrators reflecting the demands of Stanford Students for Justice in Palestine (autofilled email at [tinyurl.com/SOOP2021](https://tinyurl.com/SOOP2021) by SJP) in solidarity with the [Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions](#) campaign. In the words of SJP, "Stanford should not be in business with the apartheid state of Israel."

This same email template was shared by Yousef Abuhashem (Stanford '25), [who shared his experience with our community and called for student action](#). Yousef's story has been widely shared, and has been a reminder that this is not an abstract problem—many members of our community are in real and present danger. Yousef also reminded us that there are many other members in our community that are complicit in this violence.

We also echo demands by the [Palestinian Youth Movement](#) to call on your governments to place sanctions on Israel, boycott Israel, and to host or attend local actions. A running list of actions can be found at [samidoun.net](https://samidoun.net). The announcements of ceasefire has changed little and is not liberation; we encourage the Stanford community to continue to take action towards Palestinian liberation. We cannot stop our work until the occupation ends and Palestine is truly free.

Signed,  
Abolish Stanford  
May 20, 2021