



## Endowment Justice Collective Statement Regarding Unjust Suspension of New Brunswick Students for Justice in Palestine

We write this statement in solidarity with the New Brunswick chapter of the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and in response to the Rutgers administration's unjust suspension of their organization. We wholeheartedly

denounce the University's decision to suspend SJP without due process over unsubstantiated claims of violation of policy and call on the administration to reinstate SJP immediately. The allegations which Rutgers cites in its decision to suspend the club are wholly unsubstantiated by date, testimony, and description of incidents. The University has also made zero attempt to support its groundless claim that the club was suspended over concerns that it poses a "substantial and immediate threat to the safety and well-being of others." It is clear that Rutgers is not actually concerned about SJP's behavior and is instead invoking ungrounded allegations of policy violations in a racist attempt to suppress Palestinian activism. We, the Endowment Justice Collective, denounce this action in the strongest terms.

The carelessness of the administration in acting to suspend SJP has been deeply troubling to witness. A member of the administration leaked the letter announcing SJP's suspension—with an SJP member's personal information included, thereby doxxing the student—to the press before it had been officially sent to SJP. In fact, SJP has yet to formally receive the letter from the administration. SJP and their advisors have consistently reached out to members of the administration to schedule appeals meetings and have been met with unresponsiveness and a lack of proper urgency from the administration. As students, staff, and faculty at Rutgers, this behavior is extremely alarming. Our administration has shown a complete lack of regard for student safety and even for its own student conduct procedures, which include due process and active communication.

Given the context of well-documented and unaddressed hate crimes experienced by members of our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim communities in recent months, it is clear to us that the University's action to suspend SJP is not out of any genuine concern over creating a safe student environment. Rather, by suspending the SJP at the New Brunswick campus, Rutgers University shows that it does not care for Palestinian students and allies who felt safe precisely *because* organizations like SJP existed freely on campus. When SJP has a right to organize, we know that there are pockets of the University that see and validate our struggles, even when the administration does not. If the Rutgers University administration cares at all about maintaining a safe environment for its students, it will reinstate SJP immediately and put its full support behind the group's right to exist and organize freely on campus.

## Consequently, we demand that:

- 1. Rutgers University immediately reinstate the Students for Justice in Palestine chapter at the New Brunswick campus.
- 2. Rutgers University divest its endowment fund from Israeli bonds and corporations upholding Israeli settler-colonialism, apartheid, and genocide.
- 3. Rutgers University identify and terminate the position of the administrator who leaked a private suspension letter including the name and contact information of a student member of the Students

- for Justice in Palestine to media outlets and issue a public apology for compromising student safety.
- 4. Rutgers University accept the five demands issued by the New Brunswick Students for Justice in Palestine chapter in their <u>statement issued on December 13th.</u>

The Endowment Justice Collective is a student-led coalition of Rutgers students, faculty, and community organizations advocating for an ethical University endowment fund. Our 2019-20 campaign for an endowment fund divested from sweatshop labor, fossil fuels, Israeli apartheid, the prison-industrial complex, and the military-industrial complex resulted in Rutgers University's 2020 decision to divest from fossil fuels. However, the University dismissed our other concerns as insignificant. In November 2023, we reactivated our campaign for Rutgers to divest from Israeli apartheid due to the overwhelming support for Palestine from Rutgers students. We recognize the need for Rutgers University to act as a progressive force for justice today, as it did in 1985 by divesting from South African apartheid. Our university is presented with a choice: to stand against the ongoing injustices that have been waged against the Palestinian people for over 75 years or to remain willingly complicit. We hope that our work will result in a better Rutgers and a more liberated tomorrow.

## Rutgers-affiliated signatures:

- 1. RU Progressive
- 2. Young Communists of the Diaspora
- 3. Anakbayan Rutgers
- 4. Rutgers Undergraduate Anthropology Club
- 5. Rutgers Union of Cuban American Students (RUCAS)
- 6. Muslim Public Relations Council
- 7. Muslim Feminists for the Arts
- 8. Latin American Student Organization
- 9. SLAM Society of Latin American Men
- 10. Rutgers Jumu'ah
- 11. United Black Council
- 12. Arab Cultural Club
- 13. Neolyora
- 14. Rutgers Marxists
- 15. Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc.
- 16. The Invincible IOTA Chapter of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc.
- 17. Students for Environmental Awareness
- 18. Gujarati Student Association
- 19. Rutgers Transmissions
- 20. Undergraduate Social Work Organization
- 21. Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Incorporated
- 22. Ultra Violet
- 23. BIPOC @ MGSA
- 24. Ahlul-Bayt Student Association (ABSA)
- 25. Muslim Student Association

- 26. Rutgers Women's Leadership Coalition
- 27. Rutgers Muslim Law Student Association- Newark
- 28. Rutgers Unión Estudantil Puertorriqueña [RUEP]
- 29. NJMS 4 Palestine
- 30. RWJMS 4 Palestine
- 31. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Student Organization
- 32. Rutgers Alumni for Justice in Palestine
- 33. Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Association for Women (AMSAW)
- 34. Colombian American Student Association
- 35. Society of Hispanic Engineers
- 36. Bengali Students Association
- 37. RU Thrifty
- 38. Rutgers Pakistani Student Association
- 39. RU Fusion
- 40. Rutgers Belly Dance Troupe
- 41. Rutgers Bookstore Union
- 42. Turkish Cultural Club
- Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (RU SACNAS)
- 44. Creative X
- 45. oSTEM @ Rutgers
- 46. RU Natya
- 47. Rutgers BRAIN
- 48. The Upsilon Chapter of Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated
- 49. Rutgers Unicef
- 50. IDIA-RU (Institute for Domestic and International Affairs)
- 51. Jhoom Dynamix
- 52. Bloustein Palestine Solidarity
- 53. Sigma Beta Rho
- 54. Rutgers Landscape Architecture Club
- 55. Al Ghazali Club
- 56. RU Queer & Asian
- 57. Latinx American Womxn Organization
- 58. Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc.
- 59. Douglass Black Student Congress
- 60. Japanese Student Association
- 61. Mason Gross MFA Students for Palestine
- 62. Nehriyan Bhangra
- 63. Peruvian American Student Association
- 64. RU Persian
- 65. RU Swift Society
- 66. RU4Palestine
- 67. RUFUSION
- 68. Rutgers University Bachata Club

- 69. Sociedad Estudiantil Dominicana
- 70. Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority Inc.
- 71. Society of Hispanic Engineers
- 72. The Latino Student Council
- 73. The Upsilon Chapter of Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated
- 74. Rutgers Law Students for Justice in Palestine
- 75. Black Atlantic Dissertation Writing Group
- 76. Graduate Geographers Project
- 77. Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) Academic Affairs Committee
- 78. Queer and Christian
- 79. Afterlives of Liberation
- 80. Association of Punjabis
- 81. Association of Latino Professionals for America
- 82. Black Student Union
- 83. Blue Footprint Project
- 84. Celebrating LatinX Arts & Works
- 85. Central Asian Student Association
- 86. Charity: Water Rutgers
- 87. Cognitive Science Club
- 88. Creative Writing Club
- 89. Desi Intercultural Youth Association
- 90. Douglass Governing Council
- 91. ETA Chapter of Delta Kappa Delta Sorority
- 92. FACE Modeling Team
- 93. Feminist Liberation
- 94. Glamour Gals Rutgers
- 95. GlobeMed
- 96. Hallyu Club
- 97. K-Pop Appreciation Club
- 98. Kappa Phi Gamma Sorority, Inc.
- 99. Korean Language Club
- 100. Lambda Chapter of Sigma Lambda Upsilon
- 101. Lambda Sigma Upsilon Fraternity
- 102. Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity
- 103. Latin American Womxn's Organization
- 104. LGBTQ+ People of Color Organization
- 105. Malayali Association
- 106. Mexican-American Student Association
- 107. Organization of Luso-Americans
- 108. Phi Delta Chi Beta Nu
- 109. Rainbow Symphony
- 110. Routure Magazine
- 111. RU Salsa Club
- 112. Rutgers AICHE

- 113. Rutgers Asian Student Council
- 114. Rutgers Association of Phillippine Students
- 115. Rutgers Bhangra
- 116. Rutgers Council of Black Graduates
- 117. Rutgers Indigenous Turtle Island
- 118. Rutgers Kappas
- 119. Rutgers NAACP
- 120. Rutgers Newark 4 the Arts
- 121. Rutgers Newark Muslim Student Association
- 122. Queer Caucus
- 123. Rutgers RAGA
- 124. Rutgers Rotaract Club
- 125. Rutgers Sangam
- 126. Rutgers Together Not Alone (TNA)
- 127. Rutgers Twese
- 128. Rutgers University for Planned Parenthood
- 129. Rutgers Women's Pre-law Society
- 130. Society for Women Engineers (SWE)
- 131. South Asian Fusion Acapella Team
- 132. Southeast Asians of Rutgers University
- 133. Student Organization for Academic Research in STEM (SOARS)
- 134. The Accountability Initiative
- 135. The Medium
- 136. Verbal Mayhem
- 137. Wanawake
- 138. West Indian Student Organization

## Community signatures:

- 1. Speakeasy
- 2. Newark Water Coalition
- 3. Jews for Palestinian Right of Return
- 4. Stockton University Students for Justice in Palestine
- 5. Drew University Students of Justice for Palestine
- 6. TeachingWhileMuslim
- 7. Central New Jersey DSA
- 8. Students for Justice in Palestine at TCNJ
- 9. Global Anti Caste Thought Working Group
- 10. Students for Justice in Palestine at Sarah Lawrence College
- 11. Montclair University Students for Justice in Palestine
- 12. Hope City Socialists
- 13. Princeton Palestine Liberation Coalition
- 14. Students for Justice in Palestine at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 15. Al-Awda NY/NJ
- 16. AMP-NJ

- 17. Stockton Queer & Trans People of Color Society
- 18. Tempest Collective
- 19. La Gatita
- 20. University of Maryland Students for Justice in Palestine
- 21. Jewish Voice for Peace Northern NJ
- 22. Party for Socialism and Liberation New Jersey
- 23. Police Free Penn
- 24. Princeton 4 Palestine
- 25. Sayreville Mutual Aid

This list is updated as of April 14th, 2024.

If your group is interested in signing this statement, <u>respond to the Google Form here</u>. To join or learn more about the Endowment Justice Collective, email <u>rutgersejc@gmail.com</u>.