

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Brunswick March for Palestine: May 22, 2021

May 25, 2021

—

Contact: Ayesha Mughal

Email:

CentralNJ@dsanj.org

Phone Number:

609-532-2753

Co-sponsors:

*NJ American Muslims for
Palestine (AMP)*

*Rutgers Students for Justice in
Palestine (SJP)*

*Central Jersey Democratic
Socialists of America (DSA)*

*Central New Jersey Jewish Voice
for Peace (JVP)*

Rutgers Anakbayan

*Supporting Homeless Innovatively
Loving Others (SHILO)*

New Labor

Rutgers Arab Cultural Club (ACC)

*Rutgers Pakistani Student
Association (PSA)*

*Central Jersey Coalition Against
Endless War*

Lazos American Unida

*NJ Council on American Islamic
Relations (CAIR)*

*Rutgers Muslim Student
Association (MSA)*

Cosecha

New Brunswick, NJ — Approximately 1000 community members from across Central New Jersey came together in New Brunswick on Saturday, May 22 at the March for Palestine. The speakers included representatives from Rutgers Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Central Jersey Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), Central New Jersey Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), and Supporting Homeless Innovatively Loving Others (SHILO). Palestinian-American speakers shared their stories, along with the stories of their families, and introduced us to traditional Palestinian music.

The student organizers said, "The most important thing to us was to have our voices heard. The march was so powerful, with so many people of all ages and backgrounds, coming together as one."

At the rally, the names of the 75 children killed by Israel's assault on Gaza were read out. Despite the 250 Palestinians deaths and more than 1,900 others injured from Israel's bombing campaign in Gaza, the U.S. has planned a \$735m weapons sale to the Israeli government. We call on Senator Booker and Senator Menendez to co-sponsor Senator Sanders' resolution to block the weapons sale, and all NJ Congressional Representatives to support Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's resolution to block the weapons sale.

Rutgers SJP stated, "The rally in New Brunswick was only the start to a series of actions in support for Palestine, we want to make it clear to our political leaders that if they do not stand up for Palestine, they will be voted out."

From Central NJ Jewish Voice for Peace, "Zionists have renounced, betrayed, and spit upon the peaceful traditions of a thousand years of Jewish people getting along well with our neighbors. Every day, we recognize that Zionists break the sacred laws of Moses — they covet Palestinian land and houses, they kill Palestinians and spare not the children, and they kill their very own souls.

We, Jewish Voice for Peace, stand with the Palestinian people — we support the boycott, divestment, and sanction against Israel, we support the Palestinians' Right of Return, and we say along with you: Free, Free Palestine!"

Despite the ceasefire called by Israel and Hamas on Thursday,

the next day Israeli settlers, assisted by armed Israeli special forces, entered Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem. Palestinians who were performing dawn prayers at the mosque were beaten and assaulted by the Israeli police. The United States has been silent through the 11 days of Israel's brutal bombing campaign. Every year, the U.S. gives Israel \$3.8 billion every year, in unchecked military funding. Our calls to action include contacting Senator Booker, Senator Menendez, and Congressional Representatives to demand that they end all aid and weapons sales to Israel.

Ayesha Mughal, co-chair of Central Jersey DSA, said "We came out on Saturday to march in solidarity with the Palestinian people. As people living in the U.S., it is our duty to demand that our government recognize that the aid given to Israel is used to brutalize and kill Palestinians. The U.S. must end aid to Israel, along with ending the sales of weapons that are used to enact their dehumanizing policies. We also call on U.S. residents to learn about Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS), the Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality." BDS upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity. Since its launch in 2005, BDS is effectively challenging international support for Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism.

"Palestine needs to be free and war must end. We can not keep sending money for arms. It's not fair that innocent people and children keep dying, or become orphaned without parents. These kids end up having to suffer and pay the consequences of this unjust war. No kids should have to go through that, and there should be a Free Palestine." said Reynalda Cruz of New Labor, another co-sponsor of the event.

"It's important to have these kinds of protests to say that we all should live in countries free of oppression, No one wants their kids to die. No more war." said Germania Hernandez of New Labor.

From Anakbayan Rutgers, "Anakbayan Rutgers unequivocally condemns the settler colonial violence enacted on the Palestinian nation by the illegitimate state of Israel. We stand in solidarity with the fight for a sovereign and democratic Palestine within the international movement for an end to imperialism everywhere. We applaud and wholeheartedly support the resistance of Palestinians by any means necessary in their just struggle. Long Live International Solidarity!

As people fighting for an end to US imperialism in the

Philippines, we understand that states like the US and Israel are exploiting, oppressing, and attacking the people of the Philippines and Palestine for no other reason than acquiring more resources for their own ruling classes. As bombs fall from Gaza to Mindanao, as millions of Palestinians and Filipinos are displaced from their rightful homelands, we must uphold national liberation from imperialism with a socialist perspective as the solution to the oppression of Palestinians and Filipinos alike!”