

## Ceasefire Demand

### Studio Art Program SAAH/UF Graduate Students

We, studio art graduate students at the University of Florida School of Art and Art History, stand firmly united in our commitment to justice, human rights, and thus, Palestinian liberation. We write this letter to join the millions of others around the world, including the [Gainesville City Commission](#) and [artists](#) working in our field, in the demand for an immediate *permanent* ceasefire, the safe passage of humanitarian aid into Gaza, an end to the United States and other governing bodies complicity in grave human rights violations and war crimes, and an end to all further acts of genocide carried out by the Israeli government and the IDF.

As of today ([12/03/2023](#)), [over 15,207 Palestinians](#) have been murdered in Gaza, with nearly half of those killed being children. As we write this letter the violence continues on; the number of those killed grows by the minute, more bodies are found under the rubble, bombs and white phosphorus are used, families are being torn apart, entire communities destroyed, and thousands of civilians are forcibly displaced only to be bombed again. Organisations such as Amnesty International, the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, and Action Aid have condemned the actions of Israel as war crimes - including the killing of aid workers, journalists, and medics, cutting off access to food, water and medicine, and the destruction of life-saving infrastructure like hospitals. It is now abundantly and undeniably clear that Israel is an apartheid state carrying out an ethnic cleansing of Palestinian people through means of genocide, yet the UF Administration still hasn't released a statement acknowledging these atrocities or showing support for our Palestinian students, staff, and community members.

As a community dedicated to fostering empathy, understanding, radical imagination, and global citizenship, we believe it is our responsibility to amplify the voices of the victims and survivors of this genocide; and it is imperative that we acknowledge and honor the resilience of those enduring unimaginable violence and destruction. We raise our voices against any form of violence that targets a specific group based on ethnicity, religion, or nationality. We stand firm in our conviction that no individual or community should ever endure the horrors of genocide. We are guided by principles of justice, compassion, and equity and our belief that a better world is possible.

We urge governments to demand a ceasefire now. We call for the immediate end to the usage of harmful language used by the UF administration that promotes genocide and serves to delegitimize the pain and suffering of the many Palestinian members of our community. We urge this administration to not remain silent, that they acknowledge

Palestinian suffering, and condemn the ongoing acts of genocide being carried out by the Israeli apartheid state in Gaza. We demand an accurate accounting of events.

We have come together to write this letter both as a demand and documentation that this administration does not represent the beliefs or values of the studio graduate students of the School of Art and Art History. It is our hope that this letter can be modified by other department's as they see fit to join us in our call.

The SAAH Studio Art Graduate Students