

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Georgetown University Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine to Hold Vigil to Commemorate the Murders of Faculty and Students in Gaza

WHAT: Georgetown University Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine to hold vigil mourning dozens of Palestinian colleagues killed in Israel's war against Gaza.

WHEN: Tuesday, 16 April 2024, 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM

WHERE: From the Main Gate (37th & 0 St) to White Gravenor Hall at Georgetown University in Washington, DC

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Since 7 October, the Israeli military has killed more than 33,000 Palestinians in Gaza; more than half are women and children. More than 600 Palestinians have also been killed in the West Bank since October. Beyond these human losses, the war on Gaza has decimated housing, water, communications and electrical infrastructure, the health and education sectors, libraries and archives, as well as cultural heritage and religious sites.

Palestinian education has suffered immense losses. A recent Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor report entitled “Annihilation of Gaza Education: Israel is systematically erasing the entire educational system,” decries Israel’s physical and cultural liquidation of Palestinian civilians in the Strip and express deep concern about the Israeli army’s continued targeting of academics, educational institutions, and cultural heritage sites. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Education, 4,327 students have been killed and 7,819 others have been injured during the ongoing attacks, while 231 teachers and administrators have been killed and 756 injured. Three university presidents were murdered, along with more than 95 university deans and professors, 68 of whom held doctoral degrees. Meanwhile, 88,000 students have been deprived of their university education, and 555 students were not able to travel to use the international scholarships they were offered prior to the genocide.

The wanton assault on academic institutions in Gaza is an attack on educators everywhere. Just as we admire the contributions of our Palestinian colleagues as researchers, teachers, and administrators, we now grieve their loss, and demand a ceasefire.

To mourn the deaths of 40 Palestinian academics and hundreds of university students, Georgetown Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine will gather at the gates of Georgetown University at **noon on Tuesday, April 16th** and proceed to the steps of White Gravenor Hall for a vigil to mourn and commemorate our colleagues.

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