

PUBLIC SOLIDARITY STATEMENT WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

We, as past and present members of the Institute of Development Policy (IOB) at the University of Antwerp, are appalled by the incessant violence committed by the State of Israel on Palestinians across historic Palestine. IOB's [mission and vision](#) are informed by the desire to contribute to the realization of an equal and global society based on the principles of inclusivity and justice, human rights and the rule of law, and in support of peoples' right to dignity and self-determination against any form of systematic oppression. We embrace that mission and cannot be indifferent.

We are not indifferent to over two months of indiscriminate attacks on all civilians. The disproportionate response from the state of Israel to the October 7 attacks has led to the forced displacement of more than 2 million people, including those more than 80 percent of the besieged Gaza Strip's residents. As of December 20th, nearly 27,000 people have been killed or presumed dead under the rubble, with more than 10,000 people being children. These numbers keep growing with every passing day. As the UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied territories stated, "[Israel cannot claim the right to self-defense against a threat that emanates from the territories it occupies](#)". Therefore the collective punishment and war crimes inflicted on hospitals, schools, and other public places committed against the Palestinian population are not a matter of intensity, but a matter of illegality according to international law. Meanwhile across Israel and occupied Palestinian territories we are witnessing the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of Palestinians coupled with roving Israeli settler militias. Together these activities culminated into what a group of [UN Special Rapporteurs](#) described in October 2023 as pertaining the risk of [genocide](#), and that the International Federation For Human Rights now has called an [unfolding genocide](#).

Our institute houses various students and scholars studying questions related to social justice, peace and conflict, in different parts of the world including Palestine. Our university's explicit commitment to "[global engagement and solidarity to achieve an inclusive and sustainable society for all](#)," reminds us of our role in the construction of public opinion and societal engagement. Our awareness of Europe' complicity and critical support of Israel's ongoing occupation and intent to genocide, and our aims to use our research, education and social outreach to achieve [our vision for a sustainable and just world](#), leave no space for us to remain silent.

As members of the Institute of Development Policy (IOB), we come together to *collectively condemn* Israel's military actions against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip by demanding an *immediate* and *permanent ceasefire*. We demand the opening of humanitarian gateways to the besieged Gaza Strip in accordance with international law and assuming international responsibility in supporting its reconstruction with the return of people to their homes and territories. We call for the release of all hostages taken by Hamas and the thousands of unnamed Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. We demand the end of the occupation and internationally condemned [apartheid regime](#) across all historic Palestine.

We recognize words alone fall on deaf ears without action. Therefore, we ask that the IOB embraces the calls emerging from Palestinian and non-Palestinian colleagues across academic networks, including from Israeli and Jewish descent, to:

- (1) investigate the existence of any partnership with Israeli universities that are complicit in the intent to genocide and the ongoing occupation of Palestine;
- (2) commit to not engage in any future partnerships until the occupation ends;
- (3) enter into a dialogue with the University of Antwerp to take similar steps and suspend all ties and collaborations with Israeli institutions, companies and governmental bodies involved in the violent and illegal occupation of Palestinian territories.
- (4) stand firmly against ALL forms of racial and religious oppression and other forms of discrimination, including anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism, caste oppression, ableism, and transphobia, and commit to educating ourselves and the wider Antwerp community on the century-long and ongoing occupation of Palestinians.

This systemic and systematic violence on Palestine will not occur in our name!

To sign, please fill this [form](#)

Signatories (IOB members):

Danya Nadar, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Hanne Van Cappellen, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Roos Derrix, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Tomaso Ferrando, Professor IOB

Baudouin Mena Sebu, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Gert Van Hecken, Professor IOB

Cassandra Vet, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Richard Toppo, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Vijay Kolinjivadi, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Sarah Katz-Lavigne, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Astrid Jamar, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Anonymous, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Pierre Merlet, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Janus Verrelst, USOS Collaborator

Juan Sebastián Vélez Triana, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Stephanie Garcidueñas, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Marjan Vermeiren, Administrative Staff IOB

Anonymous, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Milagros Romero, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Adriana Oliveres Mallol, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Frédéric Huybrechs, Administrative Staff IOB

Marcela Vecchione, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Solomon Mwije, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Manon Coulon, Administrative Staff IOB

Rene Rodriguez, Doctoral researcher IOB

Catherine Windey, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Alder M Contreras, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Joëlle Dhondt, Administrative Staff IOB

Rima Widyasari, Master Student IOB

Addaodi Khadija, Master Student IOB

Rhodora Manga, Master Student IOB

Schlain Bhayla, Master Student IOB

An Vermeesch, Administrative Staff IOB

Diana Tiholaz, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Mary Ann Manahan, Alumnus/a IOB

Sebastian Van Hoeck, Alumnus/ IOB

Maria Cordero-Fernandez

Silke De Pauw, Alumnus/a IOB

Fabakary Daffeh, Alumnus/a IOB

Laura Lacayo Espinoza, Alumnus/a IOB

Yerev Contreras, Alumnus/a IOB

Atul Pulikkottil, Master Student IOB

Fred Nkamwesiga, Alumnus/a IOB

Anonymous, Master Student IOB

Daniel Leguizamon Alejo, Alumnus IOB

Oscar Coppieters, Alumnus/a IOB

MRZS, Master Student IOB

Edison Butar Butar, Master Student IOB

Yikealo Tareke Abay, Master Student IOB

Shahid Ali, Alumnus/a IOB

Lorena Del Carpio Suarez, Alumnus/a IOB

Paúl Arias Medina, Alumnus/a IOB

Anonymous EAC, Alumnus/a IOB

Karen Osorio Flores, Alumnus/a IOB

Valerii Saenko, Alumnus/a IOB

Ingrid Pino, Alumnus/a IOB

Rafaella Sena, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Greet Annaert, Administrative Staff IOB

Daniela Linkevicius de Andrade, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Sara Geenen, Professor IOB

Hadassah Arian, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Filippo Grisolia, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Mohammed Norul Alam Raju, Master Student IOB

Ha Tran, Master Student IOB

Ariadna Anisimov, Post-Doctoral Researcher IOB

Clare Fevidal, Master Student IOB

Marijke Verpoorten, Professor IOB

Rodelyn Rodillas, Master Student IOB

Bacaron, Master Student IOB

Germán Calfat, Emeritus Professor IOB

Carlos Del Cairo, IOB Partner

Katleen Van pellicom, Administrative Staff IOB

Manon Coulon, Administrative Staff IOB

Melissa Moreano, IOB Partner

Anonymous, Doctoral Researcher IOB

Moisés Kopper, Professor IOB

Armieyah Ayob, Alumnus/a IOB

Nahid Hosni

Maria Hrimech, Alumnus/a IOB

Anonymous, Alumnus/a IOB

María José Pérez Quintana, Alumnus/a IOB

Pacifique Mongongo Dosa, Alumnus/a IOB

Anonymous, Alumnus/a IOB

Eva Wuyts, Alumnus/a IOB

Sakina Mwinyimkuu, Alumnus/a IOB

Lisette Villacrés, Alumnus/a IOB