

UUP Binghamton Resolution on Palestine

Whereas the murder of civilians is abhorrent, counter to international law, and to be condemned; this pertains to hundreds of civilians killed in Israel by Palestinian militant factions on October 7, 2023, as well as to the more than 30,000 Palestinian civilians killed in Gaza to date, an estimated 13,430 of whom have been children;

Whereas on January 26, 2024, the overwhelming majority of the members of the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) determined that, given the plausibility that the Israeli state was committing genocide against the Palestinian population of Gaza, Israel was obligated to abide by the provisions of the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide, by among other things ceasing all military operations that endangered the lives, safety, and security of the inhabitants of Gaza;

Whereas that finding was established on the basis of the facts in Gaza as well as the statements by leading figures in Israel's government and military declaring the goals of population transfer, depopulation, collective punishment, and eradication;

Whereas the same ICJ has recently issued an urgent decision warning Israel that it is, not only obligated to comply with the Court's Jan. 26 determination but that such compliance is even more urgent and pressing in light of the Israeli government's stated aim to invade Rafah with full military force despite the monumental congestion occurring in that city and what UN experts are describing as the ongoing "apocalyptic conditions" endured by its overflowing refugee populations across the Gaza Strip;

Whereas the Israeli military campaign, in particular, has involved what some experts are calling an "educide", including the demolition of every single one of Gaza's 12 universities, the killing of 98 university faculty, the destruction or damaging of approximately 406 mostly UN-run schools, and the killing of 4,327 school children and 231 teachers;

Whereas the conditions within Gaza are unimaginably horrific, with such unthinkable traumas as caesarian sections being performed without anesthetic or sanitation; children's limbs being amputated without anesthetic or sanitation; entire extended families being exterminated in single bombings or airstrikes; people in many areas reduced to eating animal feed; at least 20 Gazans have died of starvation, including a one-day-old baby, the youngest victim; there is no access to products for menstruating people, not enough bathrooms; and that Israel exhumed mass graves and then returned the bodies of Palestinians but they cannot be identified by family members;

Whereas the UN and leading humanitarian groups are urgently warning that famine is imminent or has already begun in Gaza and that infectious diseases are rapidly spreading;

Whereas one in every 80 people in the entire Gaza Strip has already died as a result of the Israeli attacks;

Whereas the current conflict risks quickly spiraling into an even broader regional or global conflict involving nuclear powers;

Whereas the current war serves neither the end of freeing the hostages nor of contributing in any way to the rights of all people in the region to live in safety and dignity;

Whereas solidarity and social justice are cornerstones of the labor movement, and whereas, heeding the pressing call of the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions to stop Israel's genocidal military campaign by putting an end to the arming of Israel, hundreds of labor organizations across the world have issued statements demanding a ceasefire or the obstruction of weapons bound for Israel and taken action in this regard;

Whereas our communities' views on this issue demonstrably do not align neatly according to identity categories, with a multitude of Israeli and Jewish groups joining the Palestinian and global call for an immediate ceasefire, including Jewish Voice for Peace, B'Tselem, Breaking the Silence, HaMoked, If Not Now, and Jewish Currents;

Whereas faculty and students in our communities who have spoken in solidarity with Palestinians facing genocide and mass atrocities are subject to harassment and censorship, particularly faculty and students of color and Muslim and Arab faculty and students;

Whereas free speech and academic freedom are the foundations that make a university's core missions of research, teaching, and community service possible in the first place; and

Therefore be it,

Resolved that the Binghamton chapter of United University Professions endorses the call for an immediate and lasting ceasefire;

Resolved that the Binghamton chapter of United University Professions rejects as infringements of our members' political rights and workers' rights any sanctioning, harassment, or censorship

resulting from the expression of views, organizing teach-ins or debates, participating in demonstrations, as well as the climate of fear that results in self-censorship, is antithetical to academic freedom, and harms members by closing intellectual opportunities and conversations that are critical to student learning;

Resolved that the Binghamton chapter of United University Professions demands that the University administration uphold our basic rights as workers and members of this community by publicly committing to free speech, academic freedom, and the right in particular to express and advocate for solidarity with Palestinians, as the group that in this instance and at this moment is facing atrocity and mass death in an illegal act of collective punishment that threatens rapidly to become even deadlier.

Passed by the Binghamton Executive Board on March 13, 2024

16-1-3 (yay-nay-abstention)