



October 7 2025

Commemoration on Oct 7th 2025

CONTENT WARNING: Violence

Two years have passed since the beginning of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, marked by the indiscriminate killing of innocent men, women, and children. As a Students' Union representing over sixteen thousand students, we believe it is our moral obligation to speak out against such atrocities. We are part of a broader student movement that has historically stood on the front lines of justice from mobilizing against the South African apartheid regime to resisting global systems of oppression today.

Our stance is rooted in principles of anti-war, anti-apartheid, anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism, and anti-racism. We stand in solidarity with oppressed peoples everywhere and condemn all forms of violence against people.

October 7th, 2023 remains a deeply painful day for many, particularly within the Jewish community. We acknowledge the trauma and grief that continues to resonate, and we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to supporting all students and community members affected by violence, trauma, and oppression, regardless of faith, identity, or background. Although we are deeply critical of the Israeli government and Israeli Occupation Forces, we acknowledge their actions do not reflect the Jewish community as a whole. This is not a criticism of a people or faith, but rather of an oppressive occupying system that must be held accountable.

Since the beginning of the genocide in 2023, the Gaza Ministry of Health has reported at least 67,139 killed and 169,583 others injured during attacks on Palestinians by the Israeli Occupation Forces. While this figure reflects only direct casualties, it does not account for the many indirect deaths caused by the indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas, which has left countless victims buried under rubble in areas that remain inaccessible. According to a report published in The Lancet, the actual death toll could be far higher up to 186,000 deaths, or approximately 7.9% of Gaza's population when accounting for indirect deaths resulting from the collapse of critical infrastructure. This includes fatalities caused by the destruction of hospitals and clinics, outbreaks of infectious disease, starvation and malnutrition, and the worsening of chronic illnesses left untreated amid the ongoing humanitarian collapse.

As a result of the Israeli government and military's blatant disregard for and complete violation of international law, the world is bearing witness to the horrific



ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. Neighbourhoods have been flattened, journalists and medics have been deliberately targeted, and hospitals and schools have been reduced to rubble. As of July 2025, 660,000+ students have already lost two consecutive academic years and 914,102 children are deprived of education as of September 4th 2025. The reality is that 97% of educational facilities in Gaza have been damaged by Israeli attacks and 91% require significant rehabilitation or completely new restructuring.

The Nakba (1947-), marks the beginning of a sustained Zionist ethnic-cleansing campaign. During this time, Zionist militias forcibly expelled over 750,000 Palestinians, were responsible for up to 155 massacres, and caused the destruction of the majority of the Palestinian homeland. It is an ongoing reality and to this day continues to displace, dispossess, and oppress Palestinian people and their right to return. The right of return remains key in terms of Palestinian people's fight for freedom, justice, and liberation, which encompasses the demand for Palestinians to be able to return to their homeland. As such, we stand firm in our collective duty to speak out against injustice and stand with those who are oppressed.

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) stands in solidarity with all lives lost on October 7th, 2023, and throughout the ongoing genocide in Gaza. We sympathize with all the Palestinian students on our campus who have lost loved ones or are unable to return to their homes. We recognize the immense toll this has taken on members of our campus community with personal, familial, or emotional ties to the region. Our support extends to all students impacted by the loss of life, displacement, and human suffering. Together, we believe in the power of solidarity and collective action to pave the way toward lasting peace and justice.

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