

Jewish Studies' Scholars Say Jewish Studies MUST Demand a Ceasefire

October 29, 2023

To sign: <https://forms.gle/VnHTZFDG1Zb6XvE29>

We, the undersigned faculty as well as alumni, undergraduate and graduate students in Jewish Studies and Jewish students who Jewish Studies represent, are writing to demand that Jewish Studies Centers, Institutes, Associations, and Departments publicly call for (1) an immediate ceasefire, (2) Israel to restore water and electricity to Gaza immediately, (3) Israel to allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza immediately, and (4) the end of all U.S. funding to Israel immediately. The only moral position at this time is to stop the [genocide](#) and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians by the Israeli government with full material support from the U.S. and many European countries. Collective punishment is never humane or just. Many families and survivors of the October 7th massacres and kidnappings¹ are calling for a ceasefire, knowing that further bloodshed will not bring back their loved ones, will not bring peace and justice for all, but will only continue to worsen the inhumane, unsustainable status quo.

With the U.S. government, universities and media publications in the U.S censoring the most urgent calls against perpetuation of crimes against humanity,² many claiming that such censorship shows support for the safety of Jews worldwide, Jewish Studies' institutions **must** demonstrate that de-escalation is the only ethical path forward. Many of us have spent our academic careers fearful of the consequences we may face for criticizing the Israeli state and Zionism. The bloodshed over the last 22 days – all entirely preventable – is a direct consequence of our silence. We must change. We must do better. Never again must mean never again for anyone.

¹ [A 19-year-old resident of Kibbutz Be'eri delivers a poignant and powerful testimony, recounting the horrific events she witnessed. Rather than calling for revenge, she advocates for lasting peace and equality for both sides.](#)

["I want her back now" Families of Hostages Held By Hamas Call for Immediate Release](#)

[Noura Erakat: Western Leaders & Media Are Justifying Israel's "Genocidal Campaign" Against Palestinians](#)

[It's becoming impossible to report from Gaza](#)

[This could be my last report from Gaza](#)

[6-Year-Old Boy Fatally Stabbed in Anti-Muslim Attack, Authorities Say](#)

[The international community is responsible](#)

[Israel/OPT: Identifying the Israeli army's use of white phosphorus in Gaza](#)

[Gaza civilians afraid to leave home after bombing of 'safe routes'](#)

["Do not use our pain to bring death"](#)

² [Major News Networks Sideline Palestinian Analysts](#)

["On Thin Ice": Some Biden Administration Staffers Feel Stifled Discussing Horrors In Gaza](#)

[U.S. Diplomats Advised Not To Call for For 'De-Escalation'](#)

["This is political persecution": Israel cracks down on internal critics of its Gaza war](#)

[MSNBC 'removes' three Muslim presenters amid Israel's Gaza war](#)

[BBC Reporters Suspended for Praising Hamas Attacks on Israeli Civilians](#)

[Silencing the truth: Israel's assault on Gaza's media is a bid to control the narrative](#)

[Palestinian Citizens of Israel Are Wary, Weary and Afraid](#)

Signed,

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