

OPIRG at YORK

Resisting Repression: Palestine Solidarity on Campus

May 24, 2024

OPIRG York condemns the [latest attacks by many university administrations on student organizers](#) who are supporting Palestinian liberation and taking a stand against Israel's relentless genocide in Gaza. As a student organization rooted in confronting injustice, we denounce all forms of settler-colonial violence that run deep in the states of both Israel and Canada.

[Recognizing 76 years](#) of ongoing ethnic cleansing and occupation, OPIRG York stands in solidarity with Palestinian civil society which calls for an abolishment of the apartheid state, which is a result of long standing settler colonization and occupation of Palestine. This global movement of student encampments calling for disclosure of and divestment from Palestinian genocide has been met with administrations calling for police violence towards students, community members and educators.

OPIRG York stands firmly in solidarity with the student encampments occupying space on stolen land across Turtle Island and around the world. We are in full support of the students who are calling on their universities not only for a disclosure of investments in weapons manufacturing but also divestment from Israeli apartheid.

We call on York University to be on the right side of history and adhere to the demands of students globally in their calls to **disclose, divest, boycott. This means disclosure in order to be financially transparent regarding all investments, withdrawing all investments from the State of Israel and all companies that sustain Israeli apartheid, and a boycott of all partnerships with complicit institutions.** The York University community has long pushed for disclosure and divestment regarding weapons manufacturing, as shown by ongoing work from YU Divest, a student-run activist group, among others.

Scholasticide describes the systematic assault on Palestinian education, educators and students who have been targeted by Israel's genocide, which includes the obliteration of every university in Gaza. As a public educational institution, York University must refuse to normalize oppression, and therefore condemn Israel's attacks on education. York University has a long history of student repression surrounding Palestinian solidarity work, so there is no better time for York University to act than now.

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In our public statement published on October 19, 2023, we not only affirmed our support for the **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)** movement, but we also called on York University to end any partnerships with the Israeli state and state-funded academic/research institutions immediately. This global movement of student encampments affirms this call to action.

OPIRG York is eager to support any students who are involved in Palestine solidarity, anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism work. We would love to meet with you for any support that is needed. We strongly encourage any interested students to contact opirgyork@gmail.com for various types of support including funding, training, and for other network resources.