

Racial Justice Committee, AFSCME Local 3299

Solidarity with Palestine Draft Statement

AFSCME 3299, A local whose history and totality of fights speak to an inclination towards truth and with a constitutional resolve rooted in justice condemns the inhuman attacks against the people of Palestine by Israeli military forces. May 2021 marked the 73rd anniversary of what the Palestinian and Arab peoples as a whole know as al-Nakba—the Catastrophe. To make way for the creation of the Israeli apartheid state, more than half of the Palestinian population was driven out of their homeland by means of violent terror. In the weeks since this anniversary Palestinian neighborhoods such as Sheik Jarrah and more recently Beita have been under attack, their communities forcibly displaced, and land stolen.

The Israeli military continues to attack Gaza despite a ceasefire between the Israeli & Palestinian governments. Palestinians continue to face ethnic cleansing and their rights for self determination violated. Many in the West Bank who speak up are imprisoned by the Israeli Government. Many of whom being Students, Reporters, Educators, Medical personnel, and many other workers. Israeli warplanes bombed entire residential buildings, main roads leading to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza, and buildings that held offices for media agencies.

As the largest employee union at the University of California, AFSCME Local 3299 continues to hold the institutional memory and the moral disposition of movements against apartheid. With the national upheaval to stand against human rights violations and condone the violent act of the continued ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people by the Israeli government. Having already taken a stance against state violence in the form of police forces in the United States that brutalize and murder vulnerable communities in the service of capital, and being a union whose membership is of the very communities vulnerable to this violence, the Racial Justice Committee of AFSCME 3299 firmly joins the vast labor movement's call to stand against these racist and violent acts. We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian peoples' fight for liberation against apartheid.

AFSCME 3299 Constitution:

https://actionnetwork.org/user_files/user_files/000/042/428/original/3299_Constitution_Jan_2018.pdf

AFSCME 3299 Resolution on Police:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FCFnTVRs4YZ5XsYDhj32CB2ITFoCTP5Jj3rICdzbfoU/edit>

SF Labor Council Statement:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h5-j8ewLZZUIjG7aFpraKYTx5UCHCEWn10CdNJkImz4/edit>

ILWU Northern California Statement:

<https://blocktheboat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ILWU-Northern-California-Palestine.pdf>