



## **RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE, AFSCME LOCAL 3299 SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE STATEMENT**

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AFSCME 3299, A local whose history and totality of fights speak to an inclination towards truth and with a constitutional resolve rooted in justice, condemned the brutal attacks against the people of Palestine by Israeli military forces. May 2021 marked the 73rd anniversary of what the Palestinian and Arab peoples 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 utilizing 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 the 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 to self-determination are violated. The Israeli Government imprisons many in the West Bank who speak up. Many are Students, Reporters, Educators, Medical personnel, and many other workers. Israeli warplanes bombed entire residential buildings, roads leading to Al Shifa Hospital in Gaza, and buildings holding offices for media agencies.

As the most extensive 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 Israeli government's violent act of the continued ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. 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.

May 2021