



**PSAC Local 901 Social Justice Committee's statement of solidarity on  
the campus encampments on Turtle Island that took place Friday,  
May 10th, 2024 to Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

*May 10th, 2024* - members of the Queen's University community engaged in their right to peacefully protest at the Liberation Zone located behind Reem's Hall (formerly Richardson Hall). The encampment took place from Friday, May 10th, 2024 and ended on Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024. The Social Justice Committee under PSAC 901 expresses solidarity with the encampment protests that took place at Queen's University and at other universities across Canada and the United States. We echo the demands put forth by our fellow academic workers, students, staff, and faculty in various encampment spaces across Turtle Island. PSAC 901 is a signatory to the [demands](#) made by the Queen's University Apartheid Divest (QUAD) coalition.

On Friday, May 10th, 2024, peaceful protestors, including students, workers, and PSAC local 901 officers, were targeted, harassed, and assaulted by campus security. This included forcibly locking a PSAC 901 executive officer inside of an elevator. The unequal and racist surveillance of Palestinian protestors and allies, in this instance and throughout the year, is a direct and violent reaction to peaceful protest against a genocide perpetuated through Queen's administration's ongoing financial and institutional support. Intimidation and obstruction of PSAC local 901 officers conducting union business shows the administration's disregard for the human right of peaceful assembly and free association.

This morning, Thursday, May 23rd, 2024, Queen's University hired independent contractors to remove a memorial mural to Reem Nabhan age 3 and her brother Tariq, 5 years old, who were martyred in an Israeli raid on their home in the Al Nuseirat refugee camp in southern Gaza. Reem is the child martyr to whom the Liberated Zone for Gaza at Queen's University in Katarokwi is dedicated. The targeting of this mural represents Queen's administration's disregard for life and bad faith engagement with peaceful protestors. As they drag their feet on divestment, every ten minutes, a child in Gaza dies.

The **Social Justice Committee** rejects the university's insinuation that protestors were violent on Friday, May 10th, 2024, or have demonstrated any potential for violence during the encampment. As a committee made up of members of the Union, **we call on**

**Queen's University to take a proactive stance by divesting resources that directly or indirectly support the Israeli apartheid regime and the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza.** Within academic environments, in particular, Queen's efforts to suppress dissent and expressions of [support with Palestinian people's human rights as they experience a genocide](#) only serve to amplify violence, and fail to ensure the safety of campus community members who are Palestinian and those who express solidarity with upholding Palestinian human rights. **We call on Queen's to demonstrate a greater regard for a commitment to fight anti-Palestinian racism, but also anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and all forms and systems of hatred, bigotry, and violence that oppress people and lead to the atrocities we are seeing unfold; not only in Palestine, but in the Congo, Sudan, Haiti, and with countless other oppressed peoples around the world. No one is free until everyone is free.**

There is a growing administrative resistance to social justice movements within post-secondary institutions; as student groups, academic workers' unions, administrative staff unions, and faculty associations unite against any attempts to suppress free speech and peaceful protest by university administrations in collaboration with the police. **The purpose of the encampments taking place is to ask for transparency regarding existing ties with corporations supporting the occupation of Palestine, to demand divestment from these entities, and cessation of all affiliations with Israeli universities implicated in the ongoing violence in Palestine.** Canada's history of settler colonization and forced dispossession of Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island should prompt all higher education institutions to not only end their complicity in the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the apartheid regime it has built, but also their own part in ongoing colonization here and around the world.