

Adopted by ASGC 4/24/2024

To the Gavilan College Community,

As the Associated Students of Gavilan College, our mission statement calls us to "valiantly advocate for our diverse student population" and to "strive to meet the educational, multicultural, and socioeconomic needs of our fellow students." We are "committed to advocating and uplifting our student population." Because of these values, we feel the need to speak about the ongoing issue that is the Israel-Hamas War, and the attack on the Palestinian people.

On October 7th, 2023, Hamas, a Palestinian militant group, attacked Israel which resulted in 1,139 Israeli casualties which then caused Israel to attack Palestine. Since October 7th, 2023 more than 31,704 Palestinian men, women, and children in Gaza and the occupied West Bank have been killed due to the Israeli military occupation. Many local Bay Area cities have called for a ceasefire, such as San Francisco, Oakland, Hollister, and more. We want to join our neighboring communities to show our solidarity with Palestine and Palestinians as well as call for a ceasefire.

Alongside that, we recognize that there have been hate crimes occurring at colleges and universities at the local level which has made our community feel unsafe. At Stanford University on November 3rd an Arab Muslim student was the victim of a hit-and-run. The driver was known as a man who would regularly film pro-Palestinian protestors on campus. ASGC wants to ensure that an attack like Stanford's does not occur.

We the Associated Students of Gavilan College stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza facing Israeli state violence. We stand in solidarity with our fellow students and campus community affected by the ongoing war and call for a ceasefire. As well as showing solidarity with our Muslim and Arab students, staff, and faculty, we also want to show solidarity with our Jewish students, staff, and faculty.

We call upon the Gavilan administration to release a statement calling for a ceasefire as well as stating their solidarity with the Palestinian people suffering in, and outside of, Gaza and the West Bank. Along with that, we call upon the Gavilan administration to support the Muslim, Arab, and Jewish people who are part of our community.

In Solidarity, The Associated Students of Gavilan College

## **Works Cited**

- <a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/11/8/ukrainian-letter-of-solidarity-with-the-palestinian">https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/11/8/ukrainian-letter-of-solidarity-with-the-palestinian</a>
- https://www.gavilan.edu/about/
- https://www.gavilan.edu/student/asgc/index.php
- https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/45438
- Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Primer (merip.org)