

THE BLACK AND PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZING TOOLKIT





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DREAMDEFENDERS.ORG

WE DEMAND A CEASEFIRE AND AN END TO THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA!

THIS TOOLKIT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

BLACK FOR PALESTINE



DISSENTERS





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As Israel continues to massacre Palestinians with the full support and funding of the US government, this is a crucial time to take collective action in support of Palestinian liberation. Black people have always been a moral compass, not only fighting for our liberation but for the liberation of oppressed peoples worldwide. At this moment - as our taxpayer dollars are being used to commit genocide in Gaza - we have a duty to fight.

Use this toolkit to learn more about what’s happening in Palestine and the history of Black Palestinian solidarity and get support to take action locally. Even (especially) if you have never organized a protest before, we need you to join us at this moment.

SIGN UP NOW IF YOU’RE READY TO DO SOMETHING



TOOLKIT CONTENTS

WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR

TAKE ACTION

- #1 Organize a speak-out at your elected official’s office
- #2 Hold a movie night in your community
- #3 Make calls to congress every Tuesday and Wednesday
- #4 Something else! Take creative action

CONTEXT

- What’s happening in Gaza and what does it mean for Black people?
- Our Strategy
- 10 Key Facts on the History of Black/Palestinian Solidarity

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

RESOURCE LIST

WHO TO FOLLOW IN AND FROM GAZA



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WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR

WE ARE CALLING ON CONGRESS TO:

- **Support an immediate ceasefire** and humanitarian aid entry into Gaza by signing the [Ceasefire Now Resolution](#) led by Reps. Cori Bush and Rashida Tlaib
- **Reject Biden's proposal to send more weapons and aid to Israel**, including his \$106 billion dollar proposal to expand the US war machine. #StopArmingIsrael



TAKE ACTION

THERE ARE 3 WAYS WE ARE ASKING YOU TO TAKE ACTION IN THIS MOMENT:

#1 – ORGANIZE A SPEAK-OUT AT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL'S OFFICE

#2 – HOST A MOVIE NIGHT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

#3 – JOIN US EVERY TUES AND WED AND MAKE CALLS TO CONGRESS

#4 – SOMETHING ELSE! TAKE CREATIVE ACTION

SIGN UP NOW IF YOU ARE READY TO ORGANIZE TO END THE GENOCIDE



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#1 ORGANIZE A RALLY AT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL'S OFFICE

This is one of the most powerful actions we can take right now because it is bringing the crisis to the doorstep of the people who have the power to do something about it. Even if you've never organized anything like this before, this is a moment to step up and lead. When you sign up, we will connect you with a coach who can help discuss political strategy, make sure you're filling and training people in the right roles, and prepare to pull this off. [Click here for a step-by-step guide to plan your speakout.](#)

**[SIGN UP NOW TO BE CONNECTED WITH A COACH TO
HELP YOU PLAN A SPEAK-OUT](#)**

#2 HOST A MOVIE NIGHT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

If it won't work for you to organize a speakout, the next best thing you can do is gather your community in a space for education and conversation. Even if you've never led a gathering like this, or feel like you're not an expert and don't know enough, we're here to support you. [Click here for a guide to plan your movie night.](#)

[SIGN UP NOW TO BE CONNECTED WITH A COACH TO HELP YOU PLAN A MOVIE NIGHT](#)

#3 JOIN US EVERY TUES AND WED TO MAKE CALLS TO CONGRESS

Join Dream Defenders every Tuesday and Wednesday, for our weekly power hour, where we make calls to congress, demanding our representatives support a ceasefire. They need to know their constituents do not support genocide. And this is the simplest action we can take to have an impact. You can even invite friends and family to join too. [Check out this guide for some suggestions of how to approach the conversation.](#) We're flooding Congress with thousands of calls every week. Join us!

[SIGN UP TO MAKE CALLS TO CONGRESS](#)





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#4 SOMETHING ELSE! TAKE CREATIVE ACTION

As you organize your people to confront your target(s), you may begin to think about other tactics you could use to pressure decision-makers. You may want to try other creative tactics to get their attention and sway their opinions - the possibilities are endless. Creative and strategic actions that polarize your target or increase the level of disruption may include tactics different from the ones named above. If you choose another route, you will need to mobilize, train, and prepare with a trusted crew of folks. There are many choices for tactics you can choose from, like sit-ins, bird-dogging, banner drops, and whatever other ideas you dream up. If you're not sure where to start, we will connect you with a coach at the link below who can help you land your strategy, make sure you have people in the right roles, train your team and determine what else you'll need to pull off your action. You can also check out the resource list for links to more information about tactics, strategy, and [how to research, or scout for your action.](#)

SIGN UP NOW TO BE CONNECTED WITH A COACH TO HELP YOU GET CREATIVE

Creative actions:
Protestors disrupt Secretary of State Anthony Blinken with blood on their hands; Protestors and faith leaders hold “pray-in” at Rep. Hakim Jeffries office; Jewish Voice for Peace shuts down the Statue of Liberty; Dissenters block COLT weapons factory sending arms to Israel





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CONTEXT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GAZA AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BLACK PEOPLE?

Over the past month, the Israeli government has dropped over 18,000 tons of explosives on the people of Gaza - that is a bomb every 90 secs. They have massacred over 10,000 people - including 4,000 children, journalists, UN workers, and hospital workers and are openly calling for genocide. They have bombed churches, mosques, schools, UN buildings and hospitals. The Israeli government has blocked all access to food, water, electricity, internet access, and medical supplies. Doctors are using vinegar as an antiseptic and operating using cell phone flashlights. A genocide is taking place before our eyes - backed with US tax dollars - and as people of conscience, as Black people who have survived hundreds of years of oppression, we must do everything we can to stop it. The time to act is now.



We are part of a growing international movement of people - across faith, race, gender, and generation - calling for an end to the violence and safety and dignity for all people. Many of us are grieving or terrified for Palestinian friends and family who have been murdered. We are here despite that grief, because of that grief, to pressure our elected officials to do everything in their power to implement a ceasefire and stop the Israeli government from fulfilling their publicly stated intention to commit genocide against Palestinians living in Gaza.

Every year, the US writes a blank check to Israel for nearly \$4 billion dollars to fund violence against the Palestinian people.

Now, Biden has announced a plan to send an additional \$14 billion to Israel as part of a \$106B proposal to expand military spending and has promised more. We will not stand by while our taxpayer dollars are used for weapons, violence, and genocide. Our communities need housing, healthcare, food, and fully-funded education. People - across race, faith, and political parties - want a ceasefire and to stop sending more weapons to Israel. We must send



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a message to Congress - we will not stand by while our taxpayer dollars are used to fund genocide. We will not stand by and watch innocent people being murdered.

OUR STRATEGY

A genocide is being funded with our taxpayer dollars. This means that here in the US, we are in a unique position to end the violence. We need to do two major things:

1. **Demand all Federal Elected Officials** (House Representatives, Senators & the President) to publicly and forcefully back a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to military funding for Israel.
2. **Demonstrate (and continue to grow) overwhelming public support for Palestine** in the streets, in our institutions, online, and in the press.

While there are many good reasons to be pessimistic about targeting our elected officials, the fact is they do have outsized power at this moment to put an end to the violence we are witnessing in Gaza – and we have power to influence them, drawing on a long history of civil resistance.

In moments of crisis, political positions that once seemed unthinkable can rapidly become viable, aided by organizing and protest. Already in the past 3 weeks, over a dozen members of Congress have been moved to support the Ceasefire Now resolution introduced by Rep. Cori Bush and Rep. Rashida Tlaib because of our organizing. And with more organizing, we can grow that number and make gains toward eroding US military support for Israel and end genocide.

In addition to targeting elected officials, the other crucial piece of work to do is to build and demonstrate support for Palestinian liberation to counter misinformation and paralysis. Once folks understand the history of apartheid and settler colonialism, and see the current waves of violence in that context, it is hard not to be moved to action. However, with misinformation rampant, and a history that not everyone has had the privilege to learn, it's important for us to hold space for conversation and education in our communities – so that this can be channeled into public support and action to build the movement, shift the narrative, and erode the social license of our government to continue funding this genocide.



BLACK & PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZING TOOLKIT

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10 FACTS ON THE HISTORY OF BLACK/PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY:

We fight as part of a rich legacy of Black and Palestinian Solidarity. The best of the radical Black tradition has always stood up against all forms of oppression. From fighting to end South African Apartheid to supporting liberation movements across the world to efforts to bridge division among the poor in the US, such as Fred Hampton's Rainbow Coalition and Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign - Solidarity has always been at the center of the Black American experience. Here is some of that history:

1. **Malcolm X** traveled to Palestine many times and met with leaders of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Palestinian poet Harun Hashim Rashid. Malcolm toured refugee camps, and hospitals, and bore witness to the plight of Palestinians displaced by Israel. This encounter led him to write a letter entitled **On Zionist Logic**, in which he declared his staunch support for the Palestinian struggle and equated Zionism with colonialism, urging African leaders to support the Palestinian quest for freedom. Through his advocacy, Malcolm X linked Black internationalism with the Palestinian cause, and this created a legacy of solidarity that would influence Black-Palestinian revolutionaries to come.
2. In 1967, the **Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)** published **The Palestinian Problem: Test Your Knowledge**, in which it listed 32 facts about the history of colonialism in Palestine and the impact of Israeli aggression during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. **Ethel Minor**, who had worked with Malcolm X, wrote the column and it became an influential piece that not only offered a counter perspective to the mainstream media narrative on Israel-Palestine but served as a basis of shared struggle.
3. In 1969, **the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense** published a speech by the PLO delegation at the Pan-African Cultural Festival. The PLO proclaimed boldly that Africa was not merely a continent but a cause, passionately arguing that Africa is the center for all forces of the world against colonialism, racism, and imperialism. Addressing the crowd, the PLO stated that although they as Palestinians were not from Africa, their struggles and quest for freedom made them belong to the African cause. From 1969 to 1980, the BPP newsletter served as a platform for Palestinians and regularly documented the situation in Palestine. The BPP's reports on Palestine shed light on



BLACK & PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZING TOOLKIT

WE DEMAND A CEASEFIRE AND AN END TO THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA!



the Palestinian plight and connected the Palestinian struggle to the Black struggle for freedom in the USA.

4. In 1969, Black Panther co-founder **Huey P Newton** met with **Yasser Arafat**, chairman of the PLO, in Lebanon. Yasser Arafat always acknowledged the kinship of the Palestinian and Black freedom struggle. Like Che, Fidel, Patrice Lumumba, and Amilcar Cabral, Arafat was a revered figure in the movement for Black liberation.
5. **Samih al-Qasim**, a renowned Palestinian poet and revolutionary, was vocal on the importance of solidarity with African Americans combatting systemic racism in the United States. His poem *Patrice Lumumba* speaks to the tragedy of the Congolese leader, a staunch anti-imperial force assassinated by the CIA. For Qasim, Lumumba is the "eagle of Africa." The poet was popular among fellow revolutionaries and a copy of Qasim's poetry was found in the jail cell library of renowned Black Panther leader, **George Jackson**.

6. In 1974, **Muhammad Ali** visited a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon. The boxer, who converted to Islam in 1964, was an outspoken critic of US imperialism and expressed strong solidarity with the Palestinian people and their pursuit of liberation.



7. In the latter 20th century, Black feminist poet **June Jordan** pushed the issue of the occupation of Palestine to the fore. In her poetry, she felt compelled to embody the juncture of Black and Palestine liberation. "I was born a Black woman / and now / I am become a Palestinian / against the relentless laughter of evil / there is less and less living room / and where are my loved ones / It is time to make our way home."
8. **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Nobel Prize Winner for his work to end South African Apartheid, traveled to Israel/Palestine many times. On his visits, Tutu immediately recognized echoes of his homeland in forced removals, home demolitions, the



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humiliations of checkpoints and systems of control on movement, the confiscation of land for Jewish settlements, and the confining of Palestinians to territory, reminiscent of the Bantustan Black homelands. Above all, he saw one person controlling another who, like Black South Africans until 1994, had little say in their governance. Tutu stated that the conditions in Palestine were “in many ways worse” than South Africa. He supported boycotts against Israel - the same tactic used to end South African apartheid. For his advocacy, he was labeled anti-semitic by the Anti-Defamation League.

9. **Dr. Angela Davis** has dedicated her life to the international solidarity of oppressed peoples. Her solidarity with Palestine dates back to her undergraduate schooling at Brandeis University, which was founded in the same year as the State of Israel. During her incarceration, Dr. Davis received support from Palestinian political prisoners as well as from Israeli attorneys defending Palestinians. Dr. Davis has visited Palestine many times, is an outspoken supporter of the boycott movement, and has written extensively on the importance of Black and Palestinian solidarity. In 2019, bowing to pressure from Zionist members of the Birmingham community, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) voted to rescind its decision to bestow its highest honor, the Fred Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award, to Dr. Davis.
10. Black/Palestinian solidarity has been foundational to our generation. The police killing of Michael Brown happened in the midst of Israel’s 50-day bombing campaign in Gaza, which killed more than 500 children and displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Protesters across the country chanted “From Ferguson to Palestine, occupation is a crime” and began to highlight connections between the two struggles. Palestinian activists like **Dream Defenders** founder **Ahmad Abuznaid** and Ferguson activist **Bassem Masri** were at the forefront of Black liberation struggles. Palestinians on Twitter gave Ferguson protestors tips on how to protect themselves from teargas, which came from the same US-based tear gas company used against the people of Palestine. In 2015, Dream Defenders sent its first delegation of Black and brown organizers to Palestine. In 2015, over 1000 Black activists signed a solidarity statement with Palestine and formed the **Black 4 Palestine Network**. That same year, the **Movement for Black Lives** included a call to end US aid to Israel in its Policy Platform, Vision for Black Lives. **The legacy of Black Palestinian solidarity is long and rich. By taking action today, you are joining this powerful tradition of resistance.**



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JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Freedom is a lifelong struggle. Building power is not something we can do alone. That's why we have organizations. If you're interested in fighting for Black liberation and the liberation of all people, join an organization.

JOIN DREAM DEFENDERS

Dream Defenders is a national Black-led freedom organization fighting for safety and a good life for all. We organize campaigns, services, and political education programming. Our goal is to transform the voting, cultural, and protest power of our generation into an organized force advancing our vision - [The Freedom Papers](#). We host regular trainings to give you the skills and political education to take leadership in the movement.



JOIN DISSENTERS



Dissenters is leading a new generation of young people to reclaim our resources from the war industry, reinvest in life-giving services, and repair collaborative relationships with the earth and people around the world.



BLACK & PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZING TOOLKIT

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LEARN MORE ABOUT BLACK4PALESTINE

Black4Palestine is an emerging national network of Black activists committed to supporting the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice, peace and self-determination. We seek to integrate our work around Palestine into the global and domestic struggles for Black liberation and human emancipation.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES

The Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) formed in December of 2014, was created as a space for Black organizations across the country to debate and discuss the current political conditions, develop shared assessments of what political interventions were necessary in order to achieve key policy, cultural and political wins, convene organizational leadership in order to debate and co-create a shared movement wide strategy. Under the fundamental idea that we can achieve more together than we can separately.





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RESOURCES

- [5 Things You Need To Know About The Latest Violence in Palestine/Israel](#)
 - [How much of the annual \\$3.8 billion in military funding do people in your city pay through federal tax dollars?](#)
 - [How to talk to your family and friends about Palestine](#)
 - [Black for Palestine website](#)
 - [Gaza in Context](#)
 - [Institute for Middle Eastern Understanding](#)
 - [Boycott Divest and Sanctions Movement \(Learn how you can use the power of boycott to hold the Israeli government accountable\)](#)
 - [Free Books for Palestine from Haymarket](#)
 - [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#)
 - [Ruckus Society Scouting Manual](#)
 - [Ruckus Society Action Strategy Guide](#)
 - [Gene Sharp's 198 Action Tactics](#)
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BLACK & PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY ORGANIZING TOOLKIT

WE DEMAND A CEASEFIRE AND AN END TO THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA!



WHO TO FOLLOW IN AND FROM GAZA

Name	Instagram Handle	Languages	Type of Content
Bisan	wizard_bisan1	EN	Film/Content maker on the ground updates
Ahmed Hijazi	ahmedhijazee	AR, en subt	Posting updates mostly al shifaa hospital
Motaz Azaiza	motaz_azaiza	EN, AR	Photo and video journalist posting continuous on the ground updates
Hind Khoury	hindkhoudary	EN, AR	Journalist posting and writing updates
Plestia Alaqqad	bypelestia	EN, AR	Journalist posting daily updates from Gaza
Ahmed Aborjelaa	aborjelaa	AR, en subt	Video maker capturing testimonials of people
Afaf Ahmed	afafpall_	EN	Journalist posting situational updates
Rahaf Shamaly	rahafmarwan19	EN, AR	Artist posting updates from Gaza
Yousef Mema	joegaza93	EN, AR	PICU nurse, freelancer, social media activist
Solmaq Shaheen	sharaq_shaheen	EN, AR	Journalist posting and writing updates
Refaat Alareer	refaat17	EN	Writer and journalist reporting from Gaza
Mohammed Zaanoun	m.z.gaza	EN	Photo journalist on the ground in Gaza
Wissam Nassar	wissamgaza	AR	Photo journalist also posting videos daily
Sara Al Saqqa	sara_alsaqqa	AR	Surgeon at al shifaa hospital
Meera Adnan	meera.adnan.label	EN	Designer and writer updating in Gaza
Salma Shurrab	salma_shurrab	EN	Digital content creator in Gaza
Doaa Rouqa	doaa94	AR	Journalist reporting from Gaza
Motasem Mortaja	motasem.mortaja	AR	Photo and video journalist reporting
Roshidi Sarraj	roshdi.sarraj	EN	Filmmaker posting updates from Gaza
Abedelkheem Abu Rash	abedelkheem_abu_rash	AR	Photographer posting updates
Mahmoud Afana	mahmoudafana_	AR	Content creator posting updates
Belal Khaled	belalkh	AR	Artist posting updates
Fares M Anbar	faressol2	EN, AR	Artist posting updates from Gaza
Ali Jadallah	alijadallah66	EN, AR	Photographer capturing stories in Gaza
Gaza Medic Voices	gazamedicvoices	EN	First hand accounts from medical workers
Yara Eid	eid_yara	EN	Gazan journalist posting from London