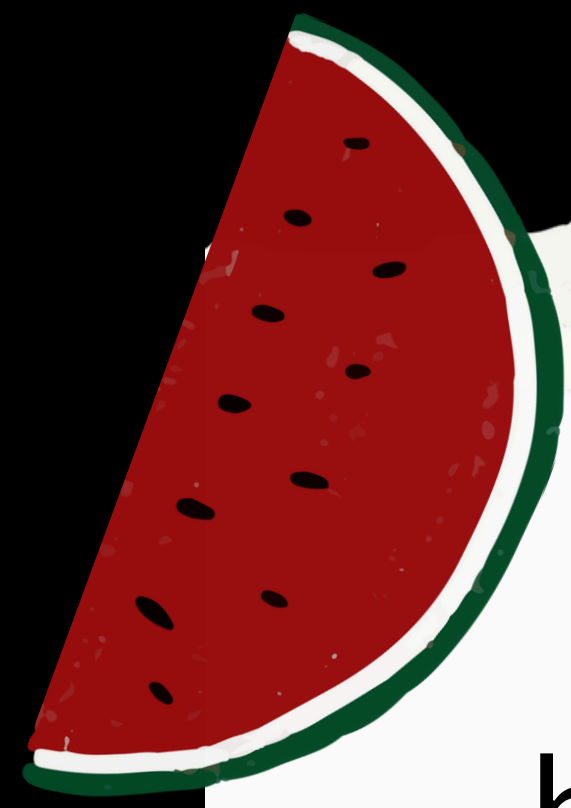




The Perils of Protesting for Palestine

An Insight into the Fight for Palestine at Carleton University





Over the past year, the world has witnessed the genocide of the Palestinian people by the **State of Israel**. With countless lives lost, the intensity of activism on campus has increased. Instead of fostering solidarity, **Carleton University** has chosen to silence and discriminate against those who speak up for Palestinians, while simultaneously continuing to invest in companies complicit in the genocide and occupation of Palestine.



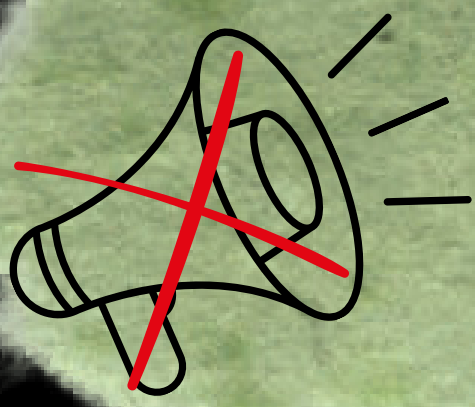
Carleton University and the Politics of Recognition

Carleton's actions regarding Palestine can be understood through **the politics of recognition**.

What are the politics of recognition?

The politics of recognition advocate for the incorporation of identity, especially that of historically marginalized groups, into dominant discourse. This idea comes from the notion that "identity is partially shaped by recognition ... and so a person or group can suffer real damage ... if the people or society around them mirror back to them a confining or demeaning or contemptible picture of themselves" (Taylor 1994, 25).

Carleton has appealed to the politics of recognition both through its EDI Action Plan, as well as through the launching of the Shireen Abu Akleh Emerging Reporter Award in Social Justice (Carleton University 2021; Obando 2023). While these actions may appeal to Palestinian identity, Carleton has **failed to implement material change** and continues to suppress pro-Palestinian activism on campus.



Censorship of Activism



Advocating for the Palestinian cause at Carleton University has been met with **suppression**, especially throughout the past year.

Carleton's censorship was clear during the June 2024 convocation ceremony, where students were policed for wearing Palestinian symbols, including the kuffiyeh and national flag.

In response to censorship, the *Carleton4Palestine* coalition sent a letter to the administration bringing forward **three demands**:

- Information regarding the decision-making process behind censoring students
- An acknowledgement from university officials on the harms of censorship
- University policy amendments to prohibit similar censorship from occurring during future convocations

(Bellefeuille 2024)



Student clubs and organizations advocating for Palestine at Carleton University have also faced suppression. This can be seen in the case of ***Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)***

Profit Over Principles?

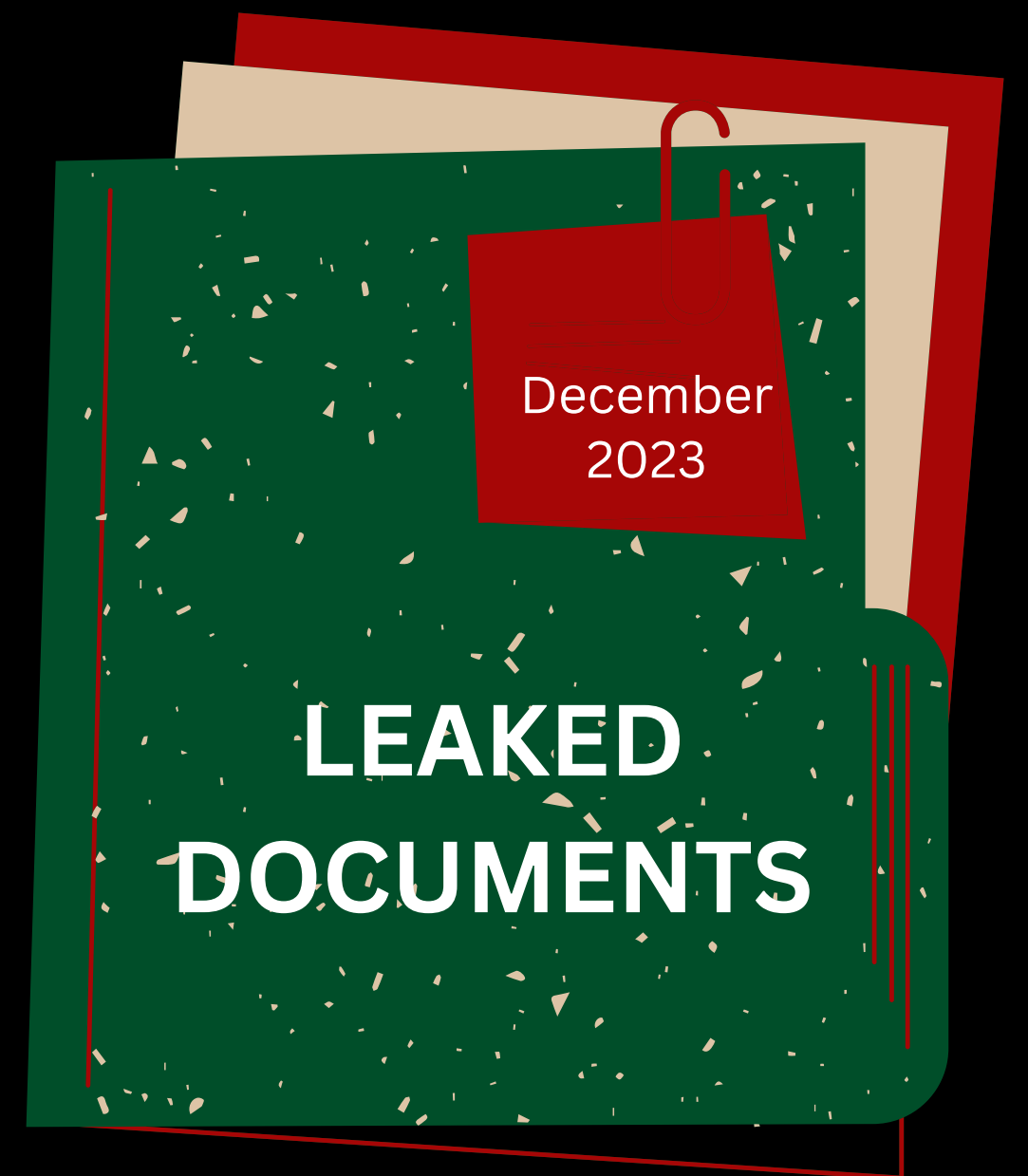


Carleton University has allegedly invested \$43 million in companies tied to human rights violations (Mendes 2024).

Carleton University has strategically hidden its investments from the general public. This has generated lots of questions regarding its ties to Israeli activity (Mendes 2024). The following companies are just a few of the many more that appear in UN and AFSC databases for supporting occupation in violation of international law. Carleton University holds investments in all of these companies (Mendes 2024).

- Altice International: Telecom in illegal Israeli settlements
- Booking.com: Listings in occupied territories
- Delek Logistics: Fuel transport for illegal Israeli settlements


(Mendes 2024)



Silenced by Scholasticide Event

Scholasticide

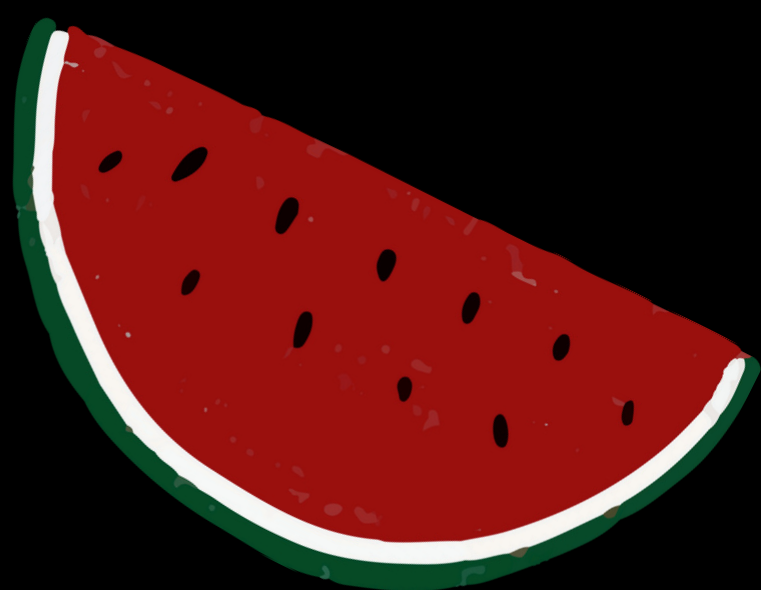
An act “that entails systemic destruction, in whole or in part, of the educational life of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group” (Scholars Against the War on Palestine 2024, 4).



This event, organized by Carleton 4 Palestine and Independent Jewish Voices Carleton, served to document acts of scholasticide committed against Palestinians. It was originally scheduled to be held in the MacOdrum Library on October 18th before the university announced that it would be moved to The Wing in the Nideyinàn building until October 30th (Mohsen 2024).



Event organizers were faced with many attempts at censorship (Mohsen 2024). For example, the administration suggested that “murdered by Israel” be replaced with “died” (Mohsen 2024). The event’s relocation also placed it in an area less visible to students and faculty.



SILENCED BY SCHOLASTICIDE

HONOURING PALESTINIAN SCHOLARS

REMAINS OF THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF GAZA

This exhibition honours the memories of Palestinians who were murdered by the Israeli regime during the ongoing war on Gaza, specifically the students and educators targeted in acts of scholasticide.

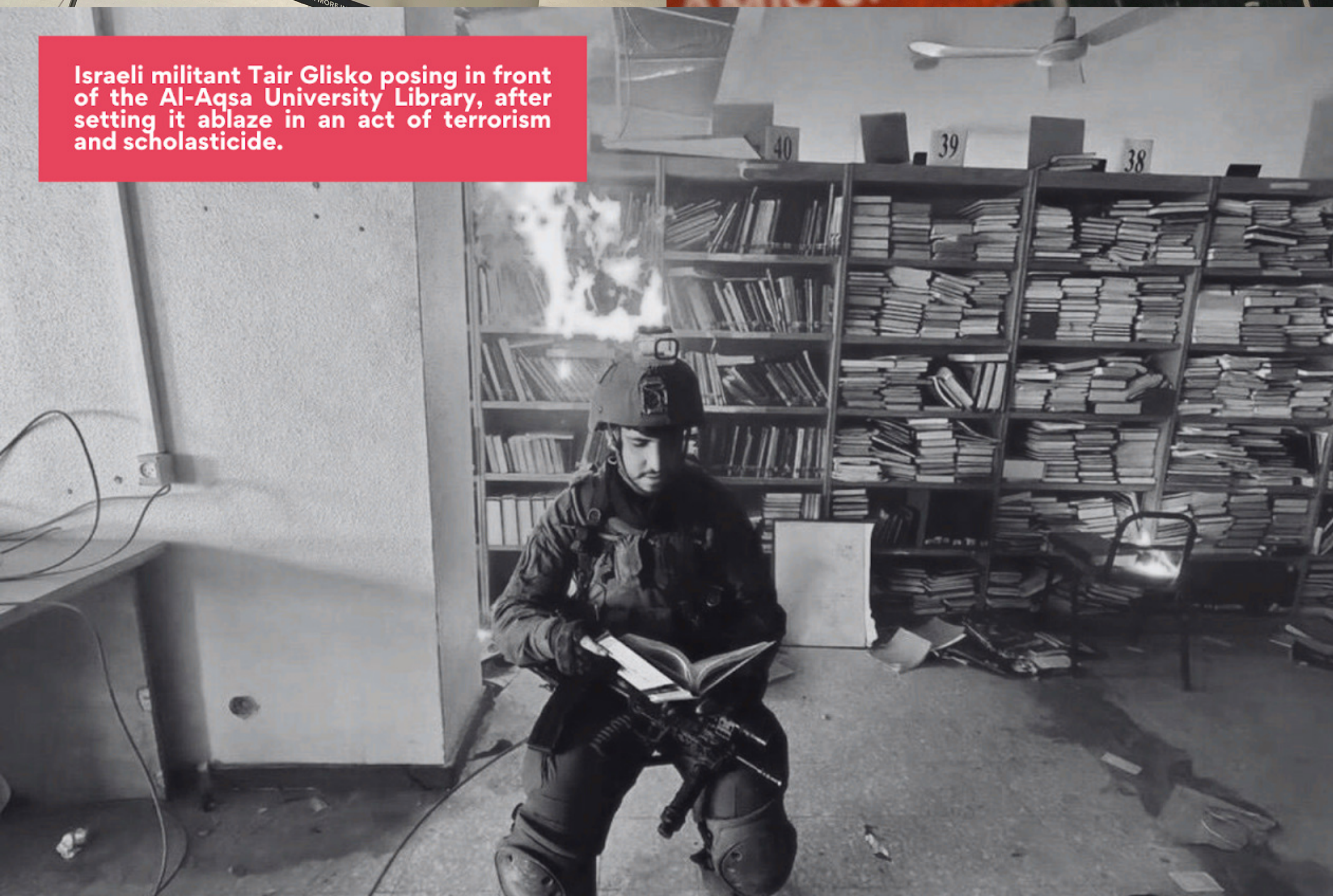
Scholasticide (noun)

Definition: The intentional, systematic targeting and destruction of educational institutions, scholars, and students as a method to undermine, suppress, or eradicate a specific culture, community, or intellectual tradition. This term refers to deliberate acts of violence and persecution aimed at disrupting the pursuit of knowledge, education, and academic freedom (United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, 2024).

VISIT WWW.SILENCEDBYSCHOLASTICIDE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION




Israeli militant Tair Glisko posing in front of the Al-Aqsa University Library, after setting it ablaze in an act of terrorism and scholasticide.




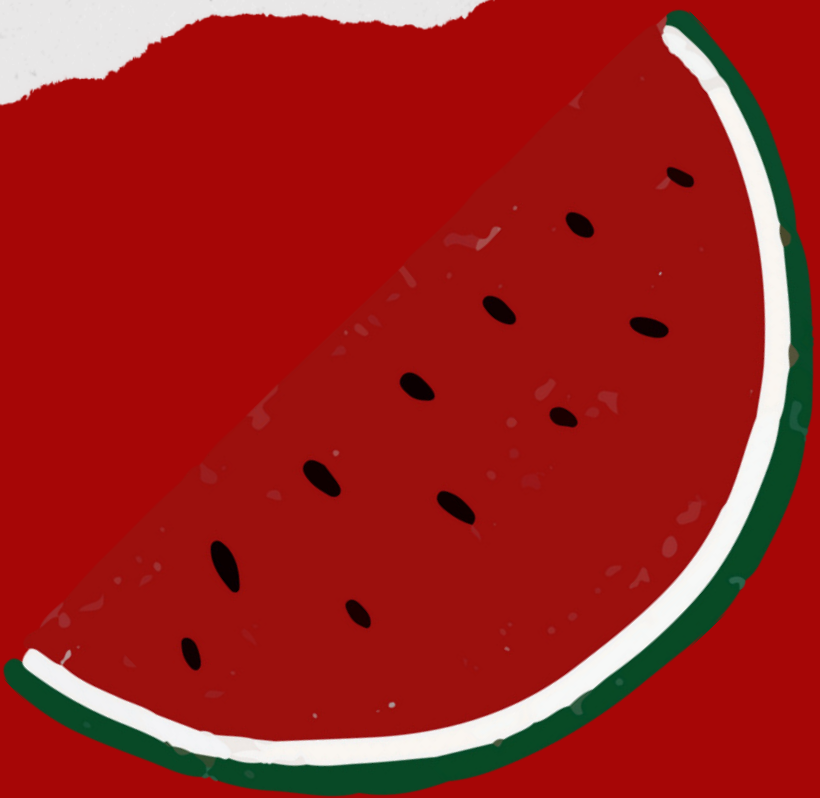
Professors' Impact on Solidarity with Palestine

Carleton University Academic Staff Association (CUASA) Guidelines on Academic Freedom


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1. "Discussing the unequal legal standing of Palestinian Arabs, Palestinian Christians and other ethnic minority residents of Israel, Gaza, and the occupied territories by using terms such as colonialism or apartheid"
 2. Discussing the fear and concern that the 10/7 attacks created among Jewish communities around the world
 3. Contextualizing the 10/7 as a part of an ongoing history of violent conflict

Despite repression and Carleton's interference in the Silenced by Scholasticide event, faculty members and students remain steadfast.

- 
4. Discussing the current Israeli military campaign against Gaza as being in breach of international law, or having the characteristics of genocide
 5. Calling for a ceasefire or rejecting violence as a legitimate strategy
 6. Making a distinction between anti-Zionist and antisemitism
 7. Dispelling the racist, Islamophobic rhetoric that equates all Muslims and/or Palestinians to Hamas, as well as racist and antisemitic rhetoric that equates all Jewish people and/or Israelis with the actions of the Israeli government" (CUASA 2024).



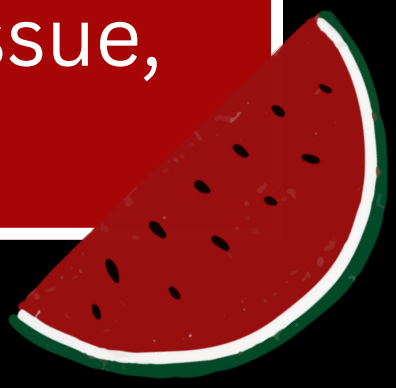
Impacts on Carleton Students



Carleton University's repression of pro-Palestinian activism and its continued complicity in economically supporting the genocide committed by Israel demonstrate both the limitations of the politics of recognition, as well as the importance of intersectional analysis.

Despite promoting campus as a “safe space”, Carleton's actions have promoted Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism. Furthermore, Jewish students who have organized for Palestine have faced antisemitism, being labeled by others as antisemitic and having their identities questioned. Racialized, working-class, and female students continue to face oppression that the politics of recognition cannot alleviate. This demonstrates that the fight for Palestine is not only one of national liberation but part of the broader struggle against a system of imperialism that privileges the ruling class and its institutions like Carleton University. In August 2024, Carleton University withdrew its support of Capital Pride due to the organizers' pro-Palestine stance (Bellefeuille 2024b). Carleton's repression of Palestinian activism also negatively impacts queer students who aim to challenge the same systems of oppression.

On October 18, 2024, Carleton Senate voted against disclosing and divesting from companies and institutions contributing to human rights violations in armed conflicts (Bellefeuille and Tustonic 2024). While President Jerry Tomberlin stated that Carleton's investments are “apolitical”, Carleton's active repression of pro-Palestine activism, and their continued complicity are not coincidental. Carleton's repression is a response to the power of student activism. Palestine is not a single issue, **it is a struggle for all students and people of conscience.**



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