

تضامن

SOLIDARITY

TEXTS ON ACTION TO PROTEST GENOCIDE AND STARVATION IN GAZA

July 2025, montréal

On Tuesday, July 22, 2025 the Palestinian Youth Movement's Montréal chapter organized a demonstration outside of the U.S. consulate downtown to protest the genocidal policies that are targeting the Palestinian people of Gaza today. This action particularly underlined the horrifying reality of mass starvation that is taking place right now in Gaza.

I attended this demonstration to support a local initiative to refuse silence in the face of incredible injustice. In joining the protest downtown with my daughter I was moved to see many familiar faces present. I could strongly feel the urgency of the action and the sustaining importance of taking action on the streets, together, to make sure our voices are centred on communal collective protest.

In this time of social media corporations attempting to control the communication mechanisms of our online worlds, street protests are essential for us to both express concrete solidarity and to take action together in person.

This protest is one of thousands of Palestine solidarity events that have taken place in Montreal since the fall of 2023. The magnitude of collective actions that have been taken, mostly on the streets, is unparalleled, while heartbreakingly right now it isn't enough to stop famine and genocide in Gaza. This doesn't mean we stop, it I think means that we need to continue to enforce and keep our collective efforts going and build on them.

In this spirit on the way home from the action I texted friends and folks that I know from the Palestine solidarity movement who I saw at the action and asked them to write down a couple of lines as to why they took the time to show up at the action in person. I feel that these short texts point to the amazing network of folks who are refusing to be silent in the face of injustice.

This zine is a little window into the thoughts of a handful of participants from just a single Palestine solidarity action in July 2025. I think that this points to the depth and urgent energy that people continue to carry to the streets in this city and hundreds of others throughout the world.

Let us keep taking the streets together and refuse to be silent in the face of the Israeli state driven genocide targeting the Palestinian people of Gaza today.

— Stefan Christoff, July 29, 2025.



Among the many things that public protest does is offer busy working people a chance to replenish their spirits. The Gaza genocide is the most infuriating, heartbreaking and depressing event of our lives. We are not only witnessing unspeakable and unforgivable

crimes as they happen, but we are seeing the depraved complicity and refusal to act of governments throughout the world.

When I protest, I feel joy walking among like-minded friends and strangers united in a common cause. As a photographer, I feel the need to separate myself at a certain point in order to document the demonstration. I've always felt this way. It is one of the things I have to offer to an important cause. There are beautiful emotional scenes and important messages in a demonstration that a photograph can preserve for the future or be shared publicly for inspiration. Free Palestine. End the genocide now"

— Darren Ell (Photographer)



I joined the march as a way to collectively and publicly express outrage, not only at Israel for the mass murder of Palestinians through forced starvation and other genocidal practices but also at institutions across the Western world—from governments such as Canada to corporations to universities—that are upholding the status quo in their ties with Israel and normalizing the atrocities we are witnessing. I went to voice my demand for an immediate arms embargo (two-way) and an international force to protect the Palestinians.

— Norma Rantisi (Academics and staff for Palestine, ASFP, Concordia University, Montreal)



I was there because as long as there are Palestinians in camps I will be doing whatever I can to bring them home. If we as a species are decided on allowing a world historic crime to take place in the land that birthed civilization, then I must be counted amongst those who have dissented, rejected and denounced against this injustice.

— Nael Subhi



I came to the demonstration because I feel it's important for people to come together in these dark times of genocide, to stand together as people of conscience, who will not remain silent in the face of mass starvation and murder.

I came out to show solidarity with the people of Gaza, to say that this is not their issue alone, but an issue for all humanity. We cannot remain silent and stay home when so many people are suffering so much.

— Michelle Hartman, Professor of Arabic Literature at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University.



What enraged me last Tuesday, and pushed me to decide to go to the emergency demonstration, is defined by a headline in *La Presse* that read, «Moyen-Orient / Bande de Gaza: Les autorités rapportent 93 morts lors de tirs sur une foule attendant de l'aide.» I was shocked by the expression 'in shootings,' as if there were no

(Israeli) perpetrators of these murders... I went to the demonstration to name the culprits.

— Claude Rioux (Éditions de la rue Dorion)



As an employee of Alternatives, I find it absolutely vital to support the Palestinian cause at rallies like the one on July 22. On a personal level, I'm horrified every day by the scale and extreme violence of Israel against the Palestinian people and the indifference of Western countries. We feel powerless, but attending an event like this does our hearts good.

— Jérémy Bouchez, Alternatives



We keep seeing new depths of Zionist depravity in Gaza, enabled by Canada's arms trade with Israel. Pouring into the streets in masses is how we show Canada's political class that any effort to suppress, silence, and crush the Palestine movement is futile. Our commitment to Gaza is neither negotiable nor breakable.

— Haya, Palestinian Youth Movement
(Montréal chapter)



I went to the anti-starvation protest because I am forever changed by this genocide. Every person of conscience should be. When else will we witness children eating sand to survive, men so hounded by grief and hunger they become unrecognizable, dogs so starved they consume decaying human flesh? People are sifting

flour from sand, being killed for trying to eat. If we're not moved to act now, when will we ever be?

— Nashwa Lina Khan (Habibti Please podcast)




I went to stand among the crowds of people on July 23rd, on this day, like so many days following the brutal genocide imparted by the Zionist, racist and far-right settler occupation that is the Israeli state. I was there on this day because there is nothing more human left in my body than to fight for fellow human beings being savagely starved to death en masse. Nothing can justify such cruelty and our elected governments, taxpayer money and savings and pensions go to support this act with complete impunity. The act of standing with the crowds does not bring food to the Gazans who need it so desperately. But it's the unspoken connection with the other people present that reminds us that collective resistance will never die and that we will keep demanding that Palestine be liberated until it happens.

— Vijay Kolinjivadi, author and professor at the School of Community & Public Affairs at Concordia University in Montreal.

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STOP
STARVING
GAZA
NOW!