



PALESTINE CAMP

Bulletin - Issue 2: 08/05/24

Join the Mass Assembly!

The people's assembly will take place at 6pm on Friday 10th May outside the University of Sheffield Students' Union. The Sheffield Campus Coalition for Palestine are hosting this assembly for students, teachers, staff and the local community to collectively discuss Israel's genocide of Palestinians and the university's complicity. We need to ascertain how we can achieve our demands of disclosure of arms trade involvement, divestment from this and boycott of industries linked to the genocide.

The University have received £96 million from arms companies in the past ten years, surpassing any other university in the UK. We have found that the University has led research in the development of the F35a fighter jet which is used by Israel. Even so far as receiving an award from BAE Systems for their "exceptional contribution," recently, they have invited the President of Boeing as a visiting Professor. It is beyond doubt, that the University is steeped to their

eyes in Palestinian blood – this is intolerable.

We need to gather further attention for this cause. This means expanding our campaign to encourage more staff, student and local community involvement. Everyone that recognises the inhumanity of Israeli war crimes in Gaza and the West Bank deserves a voice.

The University believes they can ignore their students, staff and local community. The intention of this People's Assembly is to develop our campaign to ensure that they cannot continue their complicity. There will be small breakout groups with prompt questions, followed by a wider group discussion; if you can't join the camp, then you can still lend your voice. Please do not think that your voice in this fight is insignificant – we are all significant. There is a growing student movement catching across the world - will you join next?

Students and Staff Storm Firth Court!

On Wednesday at 12:30, Vice Chancellor Koen Lamberts was due to give a speech to an awards ceremony in Firth Court. Given that he hasn't yet graced us with his presence at our encampment, we decided this would be an excellent opportunity to hand him our demands face to face.

Over 100 people from across Sheffield arrived at 12:00 for our rally outside the Students' Union; staff, students, a samba band, and members of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Around 12:15, we started marching to Firth Court. Security, in spite of their repressive surveillance measures - and no doubt infinite wisdom - clearly hadn't been expecting us. So we marched the whole rally through an open side door, into the central courtyard, then into the management section of the building where the awards ceremony was taking place.

We climbed onto the stage and chanted to the audience. Our demands were read out; the university must divest from arms companies, boycott Israeli companies & institutions, and take accountability for their failings. In a beautiful moment, we asked attendees of the event to join us on the stage and around fifteen did, slowly at first, but then in increasing numbers, each one being enthusiastically applauded. Many staff members were clapping us on when we denounced the University's complicity in the ongoing genocide in Palestine.

We marched out in strength and ended our rally by the encampment outside Coffee Revolution.



Everyone who took part felt buoyant and empowered through taking mass action together and safely. The camp is here to stay - but it's not our only tactic. We aren't just going to stay confined to our lawn. We can and must escalate our campaign to build pressure on our apathetic, parasitic senior management team. Not by appealing to the mortality and human decency they so plainly lack, but by continuing to increase our numbers to create an intersectional mass movement of staff, students and the people of Sheffield.



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Save Rafah! Stop the Genocide!

1.4 million Palestinians are sheltering in Rafah. On Monday, Israel ordered the evacuation of 100,000 civilians in eastern Rafah causing a mass exodus into Central Gaza. Half of the “evacuation zone” is a sand dune that cannot accommodate people for any length of time. There is simply no habitable infrastructure left in Gaza to move people into. *Al Jazeera* reports that families around Al-Aqsa Hospital are struggling to even find the space to pitch up a tent. On top of already massive overcrowding, this will aggravate outbreaks of disease causing the dire humanitarian situation to become even worse.

Israel has resumed bombarding central and eastern Rafah with artillery and air strikes, crushing hopes for a ceasefire after Hamas said it would accept a ceasefire deal proposed by Qatar and Egypt. Palestinian hospital officials have already reported 27 civilian deaths from the bombardment on Monday alone.

Israeli tanks have entered Eastern Rafah and on Tuesday closed the border crossing with Egypt, one of the last remaining routes for food, medicine and other supplies. The other main crossing, Kerem Shalom, has been reopened though no aid has yet been received. UNICEF reports that Gaza is on “the precipice of famine” and that aid distribution will stop “in a day or two” if aid is not received.



Israel has threatened that it could “expand” its operation depending on developments. The UN Secretary-General has warned that a full-scale assault on Rafah would be a “human catastrophe”. Though talks in Cairo have resumed, Israel has long insisted that it must eliminate the remaining Hamas battalions in Rafah to achieve victory. While the USA has stated its opposition to a major offensive in Rafah, we cannot put any trust in this to hold after their complicity in Israel’s genocide so far.

The fate of the 1.4 million Palestinians in Rafah is in the balance. The global solidarity movement with Palestine must organise overwhelming international pressure to stop Israel. Only an immediate ceasefire can stop a full-scale assault on Rafah. We have a duty to stand with Gaza and defend Rafah.

Join us this Friday at 1:30 pm, SU course, for Jummah prayer, a sacred gathering at the heart of our encampment! Experience the unity and spirituality as we come together in prayer. Don't forget to bring your prayer mats!

How you can help:

- Donate things on our ‘what we need’ list!
- Help cook meals for the camp
- Come along to our demonstrations
- Hang out and have food with us!
- Attend our workshops & teach-ins
- Camp overnight! We have spare equipment!

If you'd like to support our camp, please join the camp solidarity group chat on WhatsApp.



DIVEST - No more war profiteering.
BOYCOTT - Cut ties with genocide.
ACCOUNTABILITY - Kick out the bureaucracy.
CEASEFIRE NOW!
END THE OCCUPATION!

FREE PALESTINE! ALL WELCOME!

Join the fight for a real democracy on campus to end complicity in capitalist war and imperial genocide. United we win!