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Macalester College Student Government
Fall 2023

A Resolution to Discontinue Study Away Programs in Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa

- WHEREAS Millions of Gazans are currently facing collective punishment from the apartheid Israeli government in the form of military invasion, near-constant airstrikes, forced evacuation, and being cut off from food, water, fuel, and humanitarian aid;
- WHEREAS Collective punishment is a war crime that is prohibited in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1949 and subsequent protocols;
- WHEREAS Israel has been occupying Palestinian territory—encompassing the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem—for nearly 60 years since 1967, preceded by the violent mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the Nakba;
- WHEREAS Israeli universities have contributed to militarism, the development of oppressive infrastructure, attacks on Palestinian education, racism, and open support for Israel's war crimes;
- WHEREAS Macalester cannot guarantee the safety or legal protection of any Arab or Muslim students who would be interested in studying away in Israel;
- WHEREAS Not offering and guaranteeing equal and equitable access to opportunities for all of their students, Macalester directly violates its principles and values of internationalism, multiculturalism, and social justice;

WHEREAS Israeli universities are complicit in the Israeli state's policies and Macalester students participating in these programs play a role in normalizing a state founded upon the principles of settler colonialism and apartheid. It raises ethical and moral problems to study away in a country described as an apartheid state by worldwide human rights organizations, including the UN;

WHEREAS The Mac for Palestine Coalition released a [petition](#) urging Macalester to discontinue its study away programs in Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa. This petition received over 860 signatures from students, alumni, student organizations, faculty, and staff;

THEREFORE be it resolved by the Macalester College shall discontinue study away programs in Israel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa.

IN ADDITION,

WHEREAS Macalester College Student Government condemns Islamophobia and antisemitism in all forms.

WHEREAS Students and student organizations at other academic institutions are facing institutional repercussions for advocating for Palestine;

WHEREAS The Macalester College Student Handbook affirms the right of students to hold demonstrations as a political activity;

THEREFORE be it resolved that Macalester College shall not discipline its students or student organizations for political actions and demonstrations, including those that disrupt the operation of the College, and shall not call civil authorities against its students for such actions.