

Scholars' Call Launches International Campaign for Ceasefire in Palestine January 4, 2024

While New Year's and Christmas festivities were cancelled in Palestine this year, thousands of scholars around the world spoke out by signing the "All I want for the holidays is a ceasefire" [statement](#). Issued on the Saturday before Christmas and endorsed by high-profile intellectuals and scientists, the statement gathered more than 3,400 academic signatures within 48 hours. The call for signatures is closed today.

"All people of conscience should demand an immediate halt to this genocidal war," declares Rashid Khalidi (Columbia University). "Israel is committing multiple war crimes on a daily basis. It needs to be stopped immediately," states eminent Israeli historian Avi Shlaim (Oxford).

Signatories to the statement include esteemed philosopher Cornel R. West, Fields Medalist mathematician David Mumford, acclaimed writer Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, prominent laws of war theorist Karma Nabulsi, and distinguished theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli.

"Solidarity, including on the part of medical scholars and other academics, is essential for saving lives and charting a pathway for freedom," says renowned surgeon Prof. Ghassan Abu-Sittah.

"All I want for the holidays is a ceasefire" is organized by Scholars Against the War in Palestine ([SAWP](#)). The campaign coordinates cross-disciplinary transnational actions and education, bringing together Indigenous, African American, Jewish, Arab and other scholars. It is endorsed by leading figures in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, STEM, and Medicine from the US, Canada, Britain, and South Africa.

"Scholars Against the War on Palestine's approach is exactly what is needed now," says Nancy Fraser, Loeb Professor of Philosophy and Politics at the New School for Social Research.

SAWP is the largest global outcry from scholars to date, inspired by calls from Palestinian [civil rights organizations](#) and [higher educational institutions](#) for academics to take action to stop the war. SAWP makes the following demands:

- Immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire;
- End the siege of Gaza;
- Defend the Palestinian right to education;
- End the military occupation of all Palestinian lands;
- Dismantle the apartheid system;
- Implement the [inalienable rights](#) of the Palestinian people, including the rights of self-determination and return.

Judith Butler, Distinguished Professor at UC Berkeley states, "The time is now to end this violence and to demand freedom and justice for Palestine."

To see the international statement go to: scholarsagainstawar.org/statement/
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