



MAS

Muslim
American
Society

STUDENTS FOR PALESTINE SURVIVE PACK



ISLAMIC REMINDERS | TESTIMONIALS | SAFETY TIPS | RESOURCES
FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

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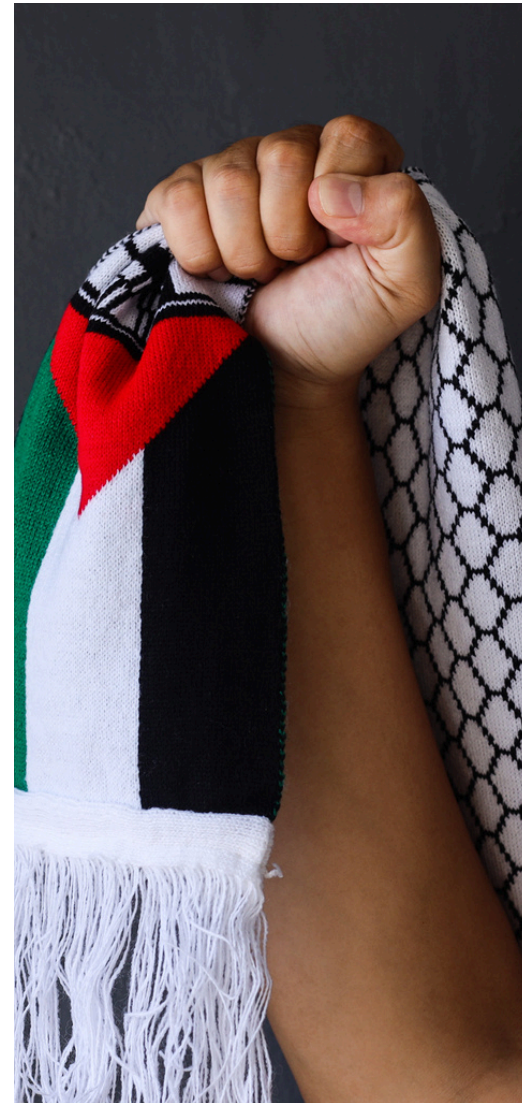
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Students for Palestine Survive Pack

The student-led encampments for Gaza have energized the cause of liberation for Palestine like never before. Young people from incredibly diverse backgrounds in colleges across America are demanding their institutions start divesting from the apartheid state of Israel. These students have put their bodies and future prospects on the line to advocate for what is right. Even as some of these encampments are torn down, more continue to sprout on campuses nationwide and worldwide. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, encampments have been set up at over 80 US campuses.

As Muslims, we have clear guidance to stand up and call out for what is just, and we see many young people from our community participating in and leading some of these encampments. To support this brave generation of change-makers and their guardians, we have created this Survive Pack filled with resources, tips, spiritual reminders, and experiences from student protestors on the ground to help them stay safe, equipped, motivated, and comforted while they fight for the cause of humanity.



Liberation Zones: Supporting our Students in Divestment & Anti-Genocide Encampments



1. Trust in our youth.

We raised a generation of young people on Islamic values, including witnessing truth and upholding justice. They are now putting what they have been taught into practice, and we must support, encourage, and pray for them. They understand our American context and legacy of civil disobedience more than the immigrant generation does and have studied the impact that colleges have had on policymakers throughout American history. Our students are walking the path of those who called for the end of the South African apartheid state not so many years ago.

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ
وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ
الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ.

Let there be a group among you who call others to goodness, encourages what is good and forbids what is evil - it is they who will be successful. (Surah Aal-Imran 3:103)



Liberation Zones: Supporting our Students in Divestment & Anti-Genocide Encampments



2. Significance of this moment.

In this critical moment, when all efforts at diplomacy at a government level and in institutions like our universities and colleges have all but failed, and Palestinians are continuing to suffer unprecedented destruction, student movements have spearheaded a new strategy that is breaking through to public awareness and is creating change.

3. Willingness to sacrifice.

We cannot only engage in activism when the personal price is low or non-existent. As the side of justice and goodness grows stronger, the side of evil and material profit will grow more desperate and even violent. Many of us may be required to sacrifice, struggle, and lose some of our job security and wealth.



4. Supporting our Muslim students.

They put their professional opportunities, scholarships, educations, and even their physical bodies on the line out of a spiritual duty to eradicate injustice and oppression. We owe them our resolute encouragement and our tangible support, and at the very least, we should step out of their way.



Keeping Spiritually Grounded While Rooted in Activism



- Be aware of and purify your intention.
- Don't neglect your salah.
 - Success comes from Allah alone, and no matter how busy you are advocating for what is right, that does not excuse missing your prescribed appointments with Allah.
 - It is the only worship prescribed directly to Prophet Muhammed (s) from Allah when he ascended to the heavens after his trip to Al-Aqsa. Our Prophet prayed at Al-Aqsa and then our daily prayers were prescribed. So, our commitment to prayer and our perseverance on the front lines together will God-willing lead to prayers in a liberated Aqsa within our lifetime.
- Remember Allah frequently. Being in an encampment or at a protest is being in a high-stress environment, especially when dealing with agitators and a militarized police presence. Keep yourself calm by engaging in dhikr. "Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest." [Quran 13:28]
 - Keep your tongue moist with the remembrance of Allah when there are a few minutes of quiet between the chanting and other encampment activities, especially in the early morning hours and before the sun sets.
 - Use the [Mathurat](#) for morning and evening adhkaar.



Keeping Spiritually Grounded While Rooted in Activism



- Be unapologetically Muslim by engaging in your religious practices openly and collectively. Many encampments hold salah in congregation and weekly Jumma khutbahs and khatiras (reflections after prayer).
 - You are not only in a state of calling for justice but also have the opportunity to call to The Truth.
 - You never know whose heart is being moved towards the belief and worship of Allah alone through your actions.
 - This dawah is a significant victory in the path to the victory we seek of a free Palestine.



Testimony from Students on the Ground



Norin* from Rutgers University

"We have to understand that Justice plays a huge role in Islam. And what's happening right now is a religious issue because it's a justice issue. It's incumbent upon every Muslim to work with others â€" even with people who don't believe all the same things we do â€" to do the most that we can to fight this injustice in Palestine." - Norin

"Eighty percent of the student body voted in favor of divesting from Israel. We're demanding they [the administration] make that a reality. As a university, we are their customers and pay their bills. Providing good customer service is a big deal in America, so they need to act on our demands." - Norin



Testimony from Students on the Ground



Norin* from Rutgers University

“People ask me what if I get arrested, and I say so what? I’m harsher on the Muslim students because as Muslims we have to fight with our bodies for what is right – that’s the highest form of faith. You will get arrested, you will get doxxed. You won’t get a job. You’ll have a record. But Allah is also recording. And that record will be a witness for you on the day of Judgement. We’re not able to go to Palestine but this is how we can fight for them over here.”

- Norin

“Make sure to communicate with other encampments. UPenn told us about a guy who came to their encampment saying he came to take care of spotted lanternflies. But, he was spraying something awful like tear gas or skunk water. They warned us about that, and today we intercepted someone shady like that in our own encampment.” - Norin



(PC: Dana DiFilippo | New Jersey Monitor)

Notes: Name changed to protect privacy. Rutgers students called off their encampment on May 2nd – only 4 days after they started – as the University agreed to eight out of 10 of their demands, but not divestment. Student organizers expressed that this was only the beginning and they would keep pushing until the institution fully divested from Israel.

Testimony from Students on the Ground



Amal* from the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)

(PC: Toluwani Osibamowo + Kera)

“I felt honored to stand in solidarity with people of all backgrounds and faiths, demanding justice and peace for our family in Gaza. I felt inspired by the legacy of student movements throughout history, including the anti-war protests during Vietnam and against the South African apartheid.”

“As a Muslim, it’s important to stand up against genocide because we believe that we must enjoin the good and forbid the evil. But also just as a human, we recognize the humanity in our brothers and sisters all across the world and stand unapologetically against the slaughtering of Palestinians in Gaza right now. It’s unacceptable that our taxes and tuition fund the Zionist entity, and we stood to say that we the students will no longer be complicit in genocide, and we demand our universities and institutions to uphold the values they supposedly enjoin.”

Notes: Name changed to protect privacy. UTD’s encampment was dismantled in less than 12 hours after state troopers were called in. UTD students who were arrested were released a day later but are facing very harsh repercussions by the school and the legal system. Read more about it [here](#).

Testimony from Students on the Ground



Sarah* from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

“We watch the news and our minds and hearts ache that we absolutely cannot do anything, physically. The least we can do is drive to the nearest campus, mine being UCLA, and participate in such historical movements. My faith surely pushed me to stay longer, push off other events/work in order to join the encampment as a priority, but humanity and morals kick in first and foremost. Whether morality and religion overlap or not, it was our human duty to participate in the movement for justice being the only action within our capability.”

Testimony from Students on the Ground

Sarah* Cont.

“It was absolutely surreal [being at the encampment]. If you’ve ever seen the show *The Society* on Netflix, this was exactly the case happening in the UCLA encampment. Students and encampment attendees delegated roles for each other. You had the group of cooks, group of security, group in charge of arts and crafts, etc. The inclusion of Islamic Prayers, Shabbat rituals, and Bible studies all in one place was very heartwarming to see. People had transitioned their whole lives into a tent. Anything they’d typically do at home after school is what they’d be doing in the encampment, peacefully and quietly.

“My parents were very much against my sisters and I from going to the encampments. They especially did not like us going to the UCLA one when police and Zionists had threatened to raid the encampment. However, I showed them the videos of the non-Muslim, non-religious, non-Palestinian, non-Arab, protesters standing up for justice, they had no choice but to know this is the only and main form of peaceful protest we can do.

Anytime you attend any encampment or pro-Palestinian event, the cause comes rushing back. We can leave a protest here anytime, go back to our safe homes with our families and food on our table to refuel. Remembering that our Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world, not only Palestine, don’t have that option, motivates us to continue to do the right thing in the right way. Following the Prophet PBUH’s teachings on how to protest, should be the best way for all students and parents to keep calm and steadfast to support the cause. Keep in mind, Prophet Muhammad PBUH dealt with worse than Zionists and still led an ummah into Jannah.”

Notes: Name changed to protect privacy. UCLA’s encampment was met with violent agitators who assaulted peaceful protestors on April 30th. On May 2nd, police dismantled the encampment at the request of the university, arresting a couple of hundred student protesters.



Testimony from Students on the Ground



Interview with a MAS PACE Organizer Adam* Involved with Student Encampments in New York

“The system itself has always relied on universities to control the narrative so this [students’ encampment protest] has shaken the system to its core. They expected people to be at public protests but not in the universities. A huge number of students are coming out – and not just SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine) and staff. Just as taxpayers don’t want their tax funding Israel, we don’t want our tuition money going into stocks that are invested in Israel. Students find this [strategy] to be actionable because the goal of divestment is achievable. They see it happening in universities.”

“I am a PACE advocacy director and a member of other organizations. MAS PACE has nurtured me and given me the tools to be able to Islamify the movement. I work to make sure that salah, Islamic reminders, our shuyookh are highlighted in these spaces. And prayer has become a core part of these spaces. I’ve had people praying Maghrib while cops are arresting people in the lines in the back. This is important so that people see where the inspiration and strength of the community comes from – that this is what’s behind it.

I dedicate my input into this activism space to Islamify the movement and do dawah to spread the message of Islam.”



(PC: Tatiana Cozzarelli | Left Voice)

Testimony from Students on the Ground

Adam* Cont.

“There’s a lot of people putting their bodies on the line. My advice to parents and students is that it all goes down to what our Prophet (s) said. If the entire world is with you but Allah isn’t with you, nothing will happen. And if the entire world stands against you, but you have Allah then you’re set. That’s a reassuring aspect that if you stand for justice you automatically are divinely protected. Who is better to protect their futures than Allah? He will protect them better than anyone else. Who is better to provide for them than Ar-Razzak?”

Note: Name changed to protect privacy.



(PC: Toluwan Osibamowo | Kera)



Physical Safety

- Make sure to take part in any offering encampment organizers are offering i.e., CPR, first aid, etc.
- Make sure you have a steady supply of any special medications you must take
- Bring your own blankets and pillows
- Do not wear overly loose clothing that can be easily grabbed
- Wear closed-toe shoes
- Secure long hair or hijab so that it cannot be easily grabbed
- Have goggles on hand, wear a mask, or cover your face in other ways to minimize the effects of any possible crowd-control chemicals
- Tell parents or guardians your location, what you're doing, and when you will be back home
- Keep yourself hydrated and be sure to rest. Overdoing it to the point of fatigue or sickness will not benefit the cause or you





Online or Social Safety

- Planning should take place in person; don't share anything important through chat groups.
- Make sure to always communicate through encrypted software when you must.
- Make your social media accounts private.
- Change your social media handles to something more ambiguous if they reflect your first or last name.
- If possible, remove any references to where you work, live, or other personal information publicly available on the internet.
- Wear a mask or cover your face to prevent being doxed by antagonistic parties.
- Do not engage with media outlets directly. Always direct them to the media team for any engagement.
- Be cordial but on guard if you see someone new spontaneously joining the encampment or lingering nearby. Ask them their name, major, and who they know from the encampment organizing committee.
- Record any fishy or antagonistic encounters.





How Parents and the Community Can Show Support

- Have faith in Allah and your children. Let them show their Islamic principles in action by not preventing them from joining student encampments and protests.
- Stay in touch with your child throughout the day to keep abreast of the situation on the ground.
- Drop off ready-to-eat meals and drinks.
- Reach out to restaurants to sponsor hot meals for students.
- Bail out students who have been arrested. Follow student accounts on social media associated with student organizer groups like Students for Justice for Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace, and others to see where to donate and how to help with jail support.
- Be aware of all petitions and action alerts coming from student and advocacy groups to sign on to them.





Further Resources



MAS Supports the National Student-led Encampments for Palestine and the Global BDS Movement

<https://muslimamericansociety.org/bds/>



Khateeb Talking Points on Supporting Student Encampments

<https://masnational.org/KTP>



MAS ED Letter On Palestine

<https://muslimamericansociety.org/mas-ed-letter-on-palestine/>



Essential Tips for Student Protesters

https://www.instagram.com/p/C6t8Sf4xFwj/?img_index=1



5 Sensory Based Grounding Techniques for Student Protesters

https://www.instagram.com/p/C6o4xebS7eZ/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==



8 Spiritually Based Grounding Techniques for Muslim Student Protestors

https://www.instagram.com/p/C6jsEkjve8w/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==



Student Protest Rights Under the Law, Muslim Legal Fund of America <https://mlfa.org/gaza-solidarity-encampments/>



Your Rights While Protesting

https://www.cair.com/know_your_rights/your-rights-while-protesting/



Preparing for, Protecting Against, and Treating Tear Gas and Other Chemical Irritant Exposure: A Protestor's Guide

<https://phr.org/our-work/resources/preparing-for-protecting-against-and-treating-tear-gas-and-other-chemical-irritant-exposure-a-protesters-guide/>



Why Do We Lose and How Do We Win? Allah's Laws on Victory

<https://muslimamericansociety.org/why-do-we-lose-and-how-do-we-win-allahs-laws-of-victory/>



Tips for Students Involved in Encampments to Protect Themselves

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6QdO5VOUQn/?igsh=MXc1ejkyZTBhcZg3Mw==>



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6QPtDWuFvh/?igsh=NGZ3dmYOY3U1bzA2>