

## SF Public Defender staff\* in solidarity with Palestine

*Updated on 10/26/23. Shared with the public on 10/30/23.*

[Download images for social media.](#) | [bit.ly/oct30-solidarity](https://bit.ly/oct30-solidarity) | IG: [@liberationSW](#)

We, the undersigned staff at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, show unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people, who continue to resist decades of the Israeli regime's [colonial occupation](#), [apartheid](#), and [genocide funded by US taxpayers](#). We express our unconditional support for Palestinian liberation and self-determination. We deeply mourn the lives lost, grieve with our colleagues who are directly impacted by the escalated genocidal massacres, and commit to fight for the living.

We unapologetically uplift [the demands of Palestinians on the ground in Gaza](#). Choosing silence in the midst of genocide contradicts our office's mission to confront state-sponsored violence, defend people who are the targets of that violence, and advocate for community power. We denounce the Israeli and US governments for all the violence across occupied Palestine.

- [There are thousands of Palestinians, including children, held hostage in Israeli jails - without charges or due process.](#) The number has [doubled](#) since 10/7/23.
- When [Palestinian hostages](#) have a trial, [they face nearly a 100% conviction rate.](#)
- Besieged Gaza is the world's largest ["open-air prison"](#) under nonstop surveillance, [which is then used to surveil marginalized communities across the US.](#)
- [Police departments in the US are trained by the Israeli regime](#) and [Israeli military weapons are first "battle tested" on besieged Palestinians.](#) These tactics and weapons are then used to oppress and repress low-income Black and non-Black communities of color our office serves.

We recognize the interdependence of Palestinian liberation and that of all oppressed peoples everywhere. Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Arab violence have no place anywhere - especially in our movements for collective liberation. We stand with our Jewish, Muslim, and Arab clients, colleagues, neighbors, friends, and community members. We join [Jewish allies and organizations](#) across the globe who are mourning the loss of loved ones and who refuse to allow the Israeli government to weaponize their grief to enact genocide. In the words of abolitionist scholar Ruth Wilson Gilmore, "Where life is precious, life is precious."

We encourage other allies to [watch](#), [listen](#), [learn](#), and [take action to stop the genocide in Gaza](#).

*"From the river to the sea, may Palestine flourish and be free." ~ Chiara Francesca (@chiara.acu)*

Undersigned staff in solidarity,

1. Fátima Avellán, Social Worker
2. Alfredo Bojorquez, Social Worker/Youth Advocate
3. Samantha Yee, Social Worker
4. Rachel Stober, Case and Mitigation Specialist
5. Emma Ryals Ward, Social Worker
6. Elly Leggatt, Deputy Public Defender
7. Anthony Gedeon, Deputy Public Defender
8. Sierra Villaran, Deputy Public Defender
9. Andrea Lindsay, Deputy Public Defender
10. Maria Avalos Cruz, Deputy Public Defender
11. Susan Larsen, Paralegal

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15. Ilona Solomon Yañez, Deputy Public Defender
16. Nuha Abusamra, Deputy Public Defender
17. Pardeep Heyer, Deputy Public Defender
18. Gabriella Rodezno, Deputy Public Defender
19. Tatiana Howard, Deputy Public Defender
20. Marisa Harris, Deputy Public Defender
21. Sarah G. Hashemi, Deputy Public Defender
22. Leo Fissel, Deputy Public Defender
23. Ricardo Avila, Deputy Public Defender
24. Maggie Gaan, Deputy Public Defender
25. Stephanie Tan, Deputy Public Defender
26. Anita Nabha, Deputy Public Defender
27. Margaret So, Paralegal
28. Elizabeth Camacho, Felony Manager
29. Jacob Miller, Paralegal, The Freedom Project
30. Fanny Suárez, Investigator
31. Nadia N. Iqbal, Deputy Public Defender
32. Michael Brown, Legal Assistant
33. Melanie Kim, State Policy Director
34. Christina Powers, Criminal Justice Specialist
35. Diamond Ward, Deputy Public Defender
36. Crystal Lamb, Deputy Public Defender
37. Clemente Gonzalez, Deputy Public Defender
38. Noah Viengxay, Legal Clerk
39. Tim Kingston, Senior Investigator
40. James Faulkner, Investigator
41. Angela Lagman, Social Worker
42. Ana Flores, Court Alternative Specialist
43. Curtis Draves, Investigator
44. Angela Chan, Assistant Chief Attorney, Confront & Advocate Team
45. Valerie Ibarra, Public Information Officer
46. Genna Beier, Deputy Public Defender
47. Francisco Ugarte, Deputy Public Defender, Immigration Unit
48. Cooper Findlay, Deputy Public Defender
49. Carolyn Goossen, SF Policy Director
50. Zach Waterman, Deputy Public Defender
51. Miletí Afuha'amango, Social Worker
52. Amanda Perez, Social Worker
53. Jared Rudolph, Deputy Public Defender

[3 anonymous staff of the SF Public Defender's Office]