

1. What's your general opinion on the situation? How do you see it unfolding/continuing for the future?

Unacceptable, inhumane, heartbreaking. These mere adjectives do not provide justice into the glimpse of reality we as humans feel towards the suffering of the people of Palestine. The daily videos, images, and dialogues we see are not only gut-wrenching but also cruel when we realize that no one is standing up for us. Our community thousands of miles away is suffering. This matter is far beyond the arguments and differences of religion or politics. Innocent children are not only being deprived of food, water, shelter, healthcare, etc. but they are also being ruthlessly massacred. What's even more concerning is the silence about this issue by our media, and the one-sided coverage we see on a day to day basis. We know the history, we know the impact of Israel's firepower on the Palestinians, and we know that each life lost to this atrocity is another life lost in our community. This is a matter of human rights. If the continuation of silence occurs, we don't foresee change happening for Palestine, and all we can think about is how hard each day becomes for these individuals. We stand in solidarity for Palestine, and we also stand in solidarity for any innocent life lost.

2. What do you think about FIU's response to the attacks?

We believe that FIU's response, specifically the mass email sent to everyone at the University did not grasp the magnitude of this issue and failed to remotely even mention the fact that day-by-day, the lives of many Palestinian civilians are being taken by the government of Israel and their highly funded army. We don't condone violence against any citizen, whether they are Israeli or Palestinian, however it is important for our University, especially the front office, to understand that there are students at this Institution whose families in Palestine are being directly targeted. Hours following the attack on Israel, Palestinian families lost access to water and medical care, and the civilians were met with outrageous attacks on their homes, killing mothers and their children. FIU and its staff should stand in solidarity for any and all civilians whose lives are affected, including an immense group of students at their own institution. It is truly heartbreaking to see it go unnoticed and silenced by the University we call home.

3. Do you agree or disagree with the responses of groups like YDSA and ASA?

YDSA had, in fact, consulted members of the Muslim Community at FIU prior to giving their statement, and we wholeheartedly agree with their stance on this issue. YDSA's statement provides a clear picture as to how the recent attacks on Gaza carried out by Israel were acts of violence and oppression, and needs to be spoken about as it is a violation of human rights. The African Students Association's post about standing for Palestine was also gratifying to see and provided a sense of compassion for our Muslim community members who are affected by this.

4. What do you think could be done on campus to spread awareness and education about the conflict?

On campus, we believe that several strategies can be employed to spread awareness and educate the community about the ongoing conflict. These include organizing panel discussions, launching awareness campaigns, maintaining an active online presence, and ensuring the sustainability of awareness efforts. These initiatives are designed to produce a well-rounded perspective, encourage critical thinking, and foster understanding among students from diverse backgrounds. Having unbiased resources that properly show the magnitude of the situation available for students to use.

Written by: FIU Muslim Student Association