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**FREE
PALESTINE**

By now, you've expertly oiled the mechanism that suppresses your regret: you're a good person. You care about Palestine. But it's too much to ask you to sacrifice your education for it. When you've graduated and landed a good job, then maybe you can speak out about what you believe in, but for now, it's too risky.

What you don't understand is that risk is the point.

On April 30, 2025, Swat SJP launched the **Hossam Shabat** Liberated Zone on "Trotter" Lawn. It stood for 3 days before the school deployed 40 cops to violently dismantle it and arrest 9 people, including 2 students.

Swarthmore College touts itself as a cradle of free speech, social justice, and activism. It convinces us that it's a resource for good, seeking to equip students to change the world, posing as a birthplace of peace, or at worst, a neutral institution focused on providing quality education.

For us, the Student Intifada shattered this facade with a sledgehammer. October 7th, 2023 upended our world, and the ensuing movement and swift war of repression cemented our understanding of the university as an unsalvageably violent arm of the state.

Yet, after watching our peers brutalized, arrested, disappeared, suspended, expelled, and incarcerated, the roar of the Student Intifada has fallen to a whisper.

Named for Hossam Shabat, who was a student like us before dedicating his life to documenting the genocide of his people. His steadfastness & courage endure long after his assassination by the Zionist entity.



Those of us still committed have worked in the shadows or fumbled our revolutionary edge, surrendering to the photo-op-friendly mission of fundraising.

Counterrevolution is working: the student movement's energy is fading, and genocide is being rewritten as a tragic but acceptable fact of our world. While the spring '24 encampment saw hundreds of participants, the few who attended the Liberated Zone in 2025 were soon scared off by the threat of interim suspension.

UP TO 1/4 OF STUDENT BODY

We learned many valuable lessons from the encampment. We saw Swat shed its philanthropic mask and desperately lash out at our resistance. This response was in no way unpredictable; it was fighting for its life, working as designed. The amerikan university system is united with the industries that manufacture death and destruction globally. Like its colleagues, Swat functions to perpetuate the global capitalist, imperialist order materially and superstructurally.

The Swat 9 are now facing up to A YEAR in prison as Swat continues to persecute them for sitting on some grass...

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Resistance is not safe. It intends to destroy the order that exploits and murders and makes us beneficiaries and servants of exploitation and murder. The institution is deliberately designed such that by resisting Swat's complicity in genocide, we risk our "safety"-- our academic career, our future exorbitant salaries.

In the face of genocide, we must risk everything we can.

Our risk is **nothing**.

The Zionist death campaign will not be stopped until it is forced to. It will not be coaxed back, pleaded with, appealed to, or reformed. The domestic wing of this global imperial machine will increase its pressure as even the most supposedly woke institutions cave to state militarism. Zionism is desperate, and the empire's tactics will become increasingly more vile as it senses its own destruction.

If we wish to change anything, to agitate anything for Palestine, we *must* put our bodies on the line.

The loss of the Hossam Shabat Liberated Zone was just the beginning of a new chapter of our struggle — one that will be necessarily more escalated, necessarily more violent. Those of us with clear conscience and clear vision will embrace it.

Join us.

If this is our safety, *risk is nothing*. The people of Gaza are destitute. At the hands of Zionism, they are experiencing depths of loss that we can never begin to fathom. Mutilated by shrapnel, bereaved of their entire bloodlines, weak from malnutrition, drifting from one frigid, flooded tent city to the next.

When we understand that our comforts at Swat exist *because* it commits genocide, *because* it is a critical element of capitalist-imperialism, we begin to understand that our "safety" is twisted and worthless. There is no length far enough, no method too extreme for putting an end to this abomination.

When Palestine calls on us, how can we have the audacity to pause and discuss our "risk," or our "safety"?

When we evaluate acts of resistance based on "risk," we work to clear our guilty consciences, to rationalize our refusal to do what we know is right. This "safety" aligns itself with the safety of the institution. In these moments, we consent to the arrests and brutalization of our peers. We acquiesce to the despicable world order. We assent that the murder and erasure of every single Palestinian is an endeavor worth preserving. We legitimize land ownership, borders, and securitization, identifying ourselves as the productive in-group worth protecting, in the process scapegoating our peers, our broader communities in Philly and Chester, and the global majority.

On a material level, its \$2.7 billion endowment grows from investments in the war machine, and endowment channels millions back. The BoM has monopolistic control of Swat's operations and is interested solely in protecting its accumulation of capital and lining blood-stained pockets.

(BOARD OF MANAGERS)

BoM members belong to the same capitalist class that governs our country-- bankers, landowners, CEOs-- parasites who expand their wealth via the immiseration of the global majority. Its most influential members are die-hard Zionists, and their investments in the war machine (often in companies they represent) are too lucrative to relinquish.

PRISONS, WAR, EXPLOITED LABOR, ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, ETC.

Swat's more insidious mission is superstructural-- ideological, political, and cultural-- in producing subjects that sustain capitalism. To this end, it prepares us for the rat race with campus jobs, militaristic, insular athletics programs, resume-building internships, and curricular models that reductively quantify and standardize learning. It accustoms us to long working hours, isolates us from community on campus and beyond Swarthmore (which the institution continuously disenfranchises, dispossesses, and destroys), conditions us to accept and reproduce class divides, and reinforces our fears of banishment to manual labor.



INJURIES TO PROTESTORS BY COPS



EX: In response to student agitation abt sexual harm, installed the Title IX Office which does jack shit & is controlled by the BoM, instead of by the students who face the harm fr

Further, it persuades us that "engaged scholarship" and studying inequality are enough to counterbalance complicity.

It engineers our complacency, stifling resistance with draconian repression and constant surveillance, and commodifying political movements by siphoning off aspects that can be used to disguise and normalize the system, rather than creating real change.

Confronting Swat's role in the ongoing genocide in Palestine and capitalist-imperialism necessitates confronting our role as students within it. We are complicit as long as we play Swat's game, contort ourselves to its standards, and submit ourselves to its authority. To break our complicity, we must break its rules. To refuse to do so is to betray Palestine, the resistance that guides us, and our humanity.

Capitalism has deceived us. It has convinced us that our lives and futures depend on such things as academic success and job security. Not only is this future a fiction, but it is a future that hinges on continued brutality against the global majority. It is a future we must sell our souls to attain. When we discard our belief in this future, we begin to discover possibilities of a life not based in a Sisyphean scramble for wealth, but grounded in solidarity, community, and love for those we stand with in struggle.

As we progress thru the highest stage of capitalism, financial stability is an increasingly unattainable myth

In the encampment, away from streets patrolled by pigs and the relentless gaze of Swat's 700+ surveillance cameras, this life begins. There is a fearless solidarity, a collective hunger for liberation, a communal care like nothing else.

You are certain that you all stand unified, that you share an unshakeable commitment to a righteous cause, that no one is thinking only of themselves.



Resistance is not safe. To believe we could emerge unscathed from a fight against the most titanic, ruthless, and well-funded military apparatus in history would be ridiculous, and what we often cloak in a liberal language of "safety" is in fact our entitlement to comfort.

If we can prize and protect our comfort while the people of Gaza are starved, tortured, and slaughtered by the thousands, we are beyond saving.

This "safety" is selfish individualism, a product and constant reproduction of the very same capitalist-imperialist system that necessitates genocide. At Swat, our "safety" is the material and psycho-social comforts of capitalism: warm beds, dining hall food, a prestigious degree, and a shield from scary imaginaries of downward class mobility for ourselves and our families.

