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SEVEN YALE STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND STAFF ON DAY FOUR OF HUNGER STRIKE FOR GAZA, PROTESTING UNIVERSITY TIES TO GENOCIDE AND FORCED STARVATION IN GAZA

NEW HAVEN, CT—This morning, one Yale staff member joined five Yale College undergraduates and one alum affiliated with Yalies4Palestine, Yale's Students for Justice in Palestine chapter, in an ongoing hunger strike for Gaza that began on Saturday, May 10th. As Israel intensifies the genocide and famine in Gaza, students are committed to refusing food unless the university meets [their demands](#) to divest its \$41 billion endowment from military weapons companies; adopt an exclusionary human rights investment screen, end academic partnerships that uphold apartheid, and protect student protest rights on campus.

The hunger strike follows months of student advocacy, a Yale College Council (YCC) referendum in which the student body popularly voted for divestment, and continuous protests urging Yale to divest from companies linked to Israel's military assault on Gaza. Despite the overwhelming student support for divestment in the campus-wide referendum, administrators refuse to engage meaningfully with their students' demands. President Maurie McInnis, who prides herself on holding a "[listening tour](#)" during her first year at Yale, has repeatedly neglected students' emails and requests to meet to discuss concerns and demands. Now, President McInnis would rather let her students starve than listen to them.

"We are striking to stand in solidarity with Palestinians who are being starved by Israel's blockade, and to demand that Yale end all financial and ideological support for Israel's genocide," said a hunger striker. "We are tired of waiting for the Yale administration to listen to us, so we will go on a hunger strike until they listen." Strikers are withholding their names and requesting amnesty from the university due to fears of administrative retaliation. Two weeks ago, [Yale began disciplinary cases against several Palestine solidarity protesters in an apparent effort to appease the Trump administration](#).

On Saturday, May 10, students formally requested a meeting with President Maurie McInnis to take place on Monday, May 12. As of now, senior administrators have failed to respond to the hunger strikers' demands or engage in any kind of dialogue. Instead of meeting with students risking their lives for justice, the administration has sent Yale Police, Yale Public Safety officers, and "Free Expression Facilitators" to repeatedly surveil, harass, and intimidate hunger strikers outside the President's office in Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall.

Despite local and national efforts to repress Palestine solidarity organizing, Yale joins over 30 students at the California State University campuses, Stanford University, and UCLA students in a nationwide hunger strike for Gaza. "This hunger strike has also demonstrated the outpouring of student support for our community. We stand in solidarity with the students who are hunger striking around the country, namely across the Cal State system, who inspired us to do the same," said another hunger striker. Hunger strikers have consumed nothing but water since Saturday. They have become hypoglycemic, are experiencing dizziness, faintness, extreme fatigue, inability to regulate their temperatures, and concerning low blood pressure, in addition to immense psychological pressure and stress.

One member of Yalies4Palestine said: “Two weeks ago, Yale formally deregistered Yalies4Palestine as an official student organization. Israel’s genocide continues. We, the students of Yalies4Palestine, are here to stay. We will not stop. We will not rest. We will fight until Palestine is Free.”