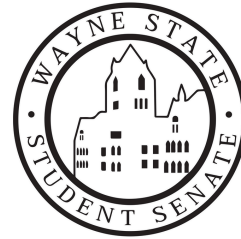


CONTACT: WSU Student Senate
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6 October 2024

Response to recent escalation of violence across the Middle East

Dear campus community,

As representatives of Wayne State University’s diverse student body, we are responsible for representing student voices on matters that impact our community. Per our mission statement, we are committed to promoting student power and the values of diversity, inclusivity, and transparency. Our campus is home to a large Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) population, a considerable amount of which are Lebanese. This campus should be a welcoming and comfortable environment for all students. We acknowledge that many students are deeply affected by the ongoing genocides and military operations in their home countries.

On September 17, 2024, Israeli forces detonated hundreds of pagers, resulting in mass civilian casualties. The affected regions include residential areas—Bekaa Valley, Byblos, Beirut, and others—which military operations have rendered unsafe. Innocent civilians have fled their homes while our peer universities in Lebanon are forced to close. As of September 24, 2024, the Lebanese health ministry reported 569 people fatalities and 1,835 casualties.ⁱ According to the United Nations, over 1 million people have been displaced. On September 30, 2024, the Israeli military “...announced a ground operation in southern Lebanon...” With this frightening escalation, the Lebanese health ministry called the recent attacks the “deadliest day of conflict in Lebanon since its 1974-90 Civil War.”ⁱⁱ

We encourage members of the Warrior community to connect with our on-campus resources as these tragic events occur. Please consider visiting Wayne State's Office of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE), or the Dean of Students Office (DOSO). We stand with those who are victimized by the ongoing violence, especially our affected peers and campus community members.

With Warrior Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hayden Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Hayden Johnson
Student Senate President

ⁱ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/9/24/israel-attacks-lebanon-live-global-calls-for-restraint-as-492-killed>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/9/23/israel-warns-lebanon-civilians-of-air-strikes-on-hezbollah>