



**Wayne State University  
Student Senate  
18 APRIL 2024**

**Resolution 2324 - 24**

**SPONSOR: Ridaa Khan**, (Treasurer, CFPCA Representative); **Zahra Hassan**, (Member-at-Large)

**CO-SPONSOR: Fatimah Algahaim**, (Member-at-Large); **TK Khan**, (Law School Representative)

*A resolution to withdraw associations and policing strategies between the Wayne State University Police Department and the Israeli government.*

**THE WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE ENACT:**

**WHEREAS**, Wayne State University prides itself in being a safe campus that promotes a comfortable learning environment for all students as enforced through measures listed on the Police and Campus Safety page as “A wide range of activities, training, safety measures, technology and resources combine to ensure Wayne State remains a place where everyone can live, learn, work and experience all that Detroit has to offer without worry”<sup>1</sup> ; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, verbal agitators from external organizations with no campus permit made hateful and provocative comments using amplified sound with a minimal police presence. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, a peaceful, student-led sit-in for the Faculty and Administration building was prevented by a complete lockdown of the building secured by officers at every entrance including the K-9 unit. These two events are an example of a clear difference in campus police

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<sup>1</sup> <https://police.wayne.edu/>

presence and tactics dissonant to the goal of achieving campus safety for students;  
**AND,**

**WHEREAS,** Police departments across the United States have maintained a reciprocal relationship with the Israeli government, however, human rights groups are consistently critical of this and even executives of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a prominent organization that facilitates trips for United States police delegations to Israel, considered the complete termination of the program after the onset of militarized police violence during and following 2020 Black Lives Matter protests<sup>2</sup>; **AND,**

**WHEREAS,** The Wayne State Police Department Chief of Police Anthony Holt represented Wayne State University in a Detroit delegation to Israel in 2019 to participate in ‘immersion activities’ and training funded by the Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs<sup>3</sup>; **AND,**

**WHEREAS,** Internationally acknowledged human rights violations of the Israeli military are not a recent or unprecedented phenomenon. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, from 2010-2019, 203 Israelis were killed, 3,624 Palestinians- 75% of which were civilians were killed, and 100,000 Palestinians were displaced in hostilities<sup>4</sup> yet police departments not only continued affiliations with Israel, but WSUPD Chief Holt embraced “numerous lessons learned and other takeaways that emerged from the training sessions”<sup>5</sup> in 2019; **AND,**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/mar/17/adl-police-delegations-israel>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.thejewishnews.com/opinion/wayne-state-officer-learns-in-israel/article\\_2543626a-98f0-5a49-96a4-79ece72b6471.html#:~:text=Wayne%20State%20Chief%20of%20Police,and%20the%20greater%20Detroit%20area.&text=Recently%2C%20I%20had%20the%20privilege,Enforcement%2FFederation%20Security%20Detroit%20delegation](https://www.thejewishnews.com/opinion/wayne-state-officer-learns-in-israel/article_2543626a-98f0-5a49-96a4-79ece72b6471.html#:~:text=Wayne%20State%20Chief%20of%20Police,and%20the%20greater%20Detroit%20area.&text=Recently%2C%20I%20had%20the%20privilege,Enforcement%2FFederation%20Security%20Detroit%20delegation)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/page/publications1>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.thejewishnews.com/opinion/wayne-state-officer-learns-in-israel/article\\_2543626a-98f0-5a49-96a4-79ece72b6471.html#:~:text=Wayne%20State%20Chief%20of%20Police,and%20the%20greater%20Detroit%20area.&text=Recently%2C%20I%20had%20the%20privilege,Enforcement%2FFederation%20Security%20Detroit%20delegation](https://www.thejewishnews.com/opinion/wayne-state-officer-learns-in-israel/article_2543626a-98f0-5a49-96a4-79ece72b6471.html#:~:text=Wayne%20State%20Chief%20of%20Police,and%20the%20greater%20Detroit%20area.&text=Recently%2C%20I%20had%20the%20privilege,Enforcement%2FFederation%20Security%20Detroit%20delegation)

**WHEREAS,** The International Court of Justice has unanimously declared that Israel is committing war crimes including famine and starvation, as well as obstruction of lifesaving aid<sup>6</sup>. The U.N. chief has referred to Israel's retaliation efforts since October 7<sup>th</sup> as a clear breach of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), such efforts including the targeting and attacking of innocent civilians, and the use of prohibited weapons such as white phosphorus<sup>7</sup>; **AND,**

**WHEREAS,** Israel's retaliation offensives following October 7<sup>th</sup>, has resulted in over 32,552 Palestinians killed, nearly 75,000 injured<sup>6</sup>, and approximately 7,000 reported missing.<sup>7</sup> Israel's offensive actions have been justified by the U.S. and Israel as counterterrorism, with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant dehumanizing Palestinians, stating "We are fighting human animals, and we are acting accordingly."<sup>8</sup> The U.S. Department of State reinforces this rhetoric that could have domestic impacts in declaring "the United States will always support Israel's right to defend itself."<sup>9</sup>; **AND,**

**WHEREAS,** WSUPD Chief Holt's commentary on military strategies learned in Israel is that "Israel's leadership, military, law enforcement agencies and citizens represent an international model for preventing and battling the challenges of terrorism ... It is gratifying that Israel and the United States continue to share law enforcement strategies in the fight against terrorism."<sup>9</sup>; **AND,**

**WHEREAS,** While violent groups exist across the world, 'Terrorism' has been a term influenced by racial and religious prejudice and unjustly associated with civilian Muslim populations, with counterterrorist programs like the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) being enforced almost exclusively against Arabs and Muslims<sup>10</sup> and also exemplified by Israel's current and historic military

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/32552-palestinians-killed-gaza-since-oct-7-health-ministry-says-2024-03-28/#:~:text=32%2C552%20Palestinians%20killed%20in%20Gaza%20since%20Oct.%207%2C%20health%20ministry%20says,-By%20Reuters&text=DUBAI%2C%20March%2028%20\(Reuters\),health%20ministry%20said%20on%20Thursday.](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/32552-palestinians-killed-gaza-since-oct-7-health-ministry-says-2024-03-28/#:~:text=32%2C552%20Palestinians%20killed%20in%20Gaza%20since%20Oct.%207%2C%20health%20ministry%20says,-By%20Reuters&text=DUBAI%2C%20March%2028%20(Reuters),health%20ministry%20said%20on%20Thursday.)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/23/world/middleeast/gaza-missing-bodies-deaths.html>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/defense-minister-announces-complete-siege-of-gaza-no-power-food-or-fuel/)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.state.gov/briefings/department-press-briefing-march-26-2024/>

<sup>10</sup>

<https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5437&context=flr>

practices. This raises grave concern about the implication of ‘fighting terrorism’ on a college campus with a population of over 2,150 Middle Eastern students, the fourth largest ethnic population on campus, making up 13.2% of the student population in Fall 2023<sup>11</sup>; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, Detroit and its neighboring areas face continuous experiences of over-surveillance on Muslim communities<sup>12 13</sup> with Detroit being among the few cities that has its own Homeland Security department and Joint Terrorism Task Force<sup>14</sup>; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, Legislation that bans police training with Israel is not unprecedented. The city of Durham, North Carolina was the first city to adopt this measure in a resolution that stated “The council opposes international exchanges with any country in which Durham officers receive military-style training since such exchanges do not support the kind of policing we want here in the City of Durham”<sup>15</sup>; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, The student senate rejects all forms of police violence and militarized violence, particularly that which has affected the community of Detroit, including, and not limited to the recent 1,068 incidents in 2021 of Detroit police officers using excessive force on civilians<sup>16</sup>; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, College campus police training and collaboration with any foreign state, particularly one involved in asymmetric combat and copious war crimes,<sup>17</sup> is a clear case of institutional bias towards a country and its political cause. Being entrenched in these foreign politics adversely affects local populations and

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<sup>11</sup> <https://irda.wayne.edu/dashboard/diversity>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/detroit/news/muslim-community-under-surveillance-spy-plane-linked-to-fbi-program-reportedly-flies-over-dearborn/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.michiganpublic.org/news/2021-09-13/muslims-reflect-on-heightened-surveillance-post-9-11>

<sup>14</sup> <https://detroitmi.gov/departments/homeland-security-emergency-management-detroit>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/4/19/durham-first-us-city-to-ban-police-training-with-israeli-military>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.bridgedetroit.com/incidents-of-use-of-force-by-detroit-police-continue-to-climb/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/32552-palestinians-killed-gaza-since-oct-7-health-ministry-says-2024-03-28/#:~:text=32%2C552%20Palestinians%20killed%20in%20Gaza%20since%20Oct.%207%2C%20health%20ministry%20says,->

[By%20Reuters&text=DUBAI%2C%20March%2028%20\(Reuters\),health%20ministry%20said%20on%20Thursday](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/32552-palestinians-killed-gaza-since-oct-7-health-ministry-says-2024-03-28/#:~:text=32%2C552%20Palestinians%20killed%20in%20Gaza%20since%20Oct.%207%2C%20health%20ministry%20says,-By%20Reuters&text=DUBAI%2C%20March%2028%20(Reuters),health%20ministry%20said%20on%20Thursday)

students who may not only disagree, but also feel intimidated by the implications of such a relationship; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, The WSUPD was presented an opportunity on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in a meeting of Muslim students, Wayne State university personnel including former President Wilson, and external organizations to implement a bias training but rejected it; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, While students of all identities and backgrounds could be adversely affected by policing, surveillance, and especially militarized strategies adopted in Israel, it is emphasized that intersecting marginalized groups, such as Black Muslims, who have historically led the charge against both racial injustice and islamophobia in the United States, face increased levels of systemic bias and civil rights violations<sup>18</sup>; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, Campus safety is of utmost importance, and is essential to fostering a secure learning environment, however, it is noted that campus police may not be perceived or actually related to feelings and experiences of safety for many groups on campus, particularly those most local to the area and with lived interactions with law enforcement ; **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, The Charter of the Student Senate says in clause A, subclause I: “The SS shall make recommendations to the proper departments and/or agencies, on matters that involve student interest and welfare;” **AND**,

**WHEREAS**, Prioritizing student feedback and experiences rather than military strategies of counterterrorism questioned by human rights authorities on a college campus upholds Wayne State campus police’s commitment to “collaborate with the community,”<sup>19</sup> and exercises Chief Holt’s encouragement of community

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ispu.org/black-muslims/>

<sup>19</sup>

<https://police.wayne.edu/about/philosophy>

members' participation in making campus safer through "suggestions on how we can provide better police service"<sup>20</sup>; **AND**,

**RESOLVED**, The Student Senate calls on the WSUPD to communicate to the student listserv through [police@wayne.edu](mailto:police@wayne.edu) an explanation of the WSUPD delegation representative engagement in foreign military training and rescind Chief Holt's endorsement of strategies used by the Israeli government; **AND**,

**RESOLVED**, The Student Senate calls on the WSUPD to make publicly available on [police.wayne.edu](http://police.wayne.edu) and any relevant communication channels that WSUPD will not be trained or associated with the Israeli government or other foreign governments moving forward; **AND**,

**RESOLVED**, The Student Senate calls on the WSUPD to take further cultural sensitivity training and regularly meet in consultation with students of diverse backgrounds such as students of color and Muslim students to increase accurate and desired safety experiences on campus; **AND**,

**RESOLVED**, The Student Senate calls on the University President's office to employ their scope of authority overseeing the campus police to ensure that no officer of the WSUPD collaborate with foreign states such as Israel in the future, as well as to ensure the above clauses are met; **AND**,

**RESOLVED**, As stated in the 'On statements' section of the Communications tab on the Office of the President website, "On rare occasions, the scope of an external event, its proximity to our region or the nature of its impact on our students may require a university statement that more explicitly supports or condemns an action or attitude.", the office of the President release a statement condemning the Wayne State University Police's collaboration with the state of Israel with respect to protecting the basic safety and learning experiences of our diverse student body and rejecting the implication of not only institutional opinion, but direct participation with parties in the global event of an internationally recognized genocide; **AND**,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this final resolution to all relevant outlets, including the Wayne State University Police Department, The Detroit City Council, The Detroit Coalition for Police Transparency and Accountability, The Detroit Police Chief, The City of Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, University President, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the University Leadership Council, the University DEI Council, and the South End.

**MOVED** to approve resolution 2324-24 as presented on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by Senator **ALI** AND **SECONDED** by Senator **SHAMAM**.

FINAL ACTION	<u>  X  </u>	<u>16-0-4</u>	<u>18 APRIL 2024</u>
	PASSED    FAILED	VOTE	DATE

**VOTE APPROVED BY:**



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**PRESIDENT, Hayden Johnson**



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**SECRETARY, Rabika Ali**