

## Executive Summary of the Statement from the LSE Liberated Zone, 15 June 2024

- It has now been **252 days** since the ongoing genocide in Gaza began.
- **The LSE has been granted an Interim Possession Order (IPO) against its students meaning student occupiers will be forcefully evicted imminently.**
- As such, **we urgently ask all staff, faculty, students, alumni and the public to join us today, Saturday 15th June, at a rally at 14:00** outside the Marshall Bloom\* Building.

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Rather than address demands to divest from the genocide in Palestine, the LSE took student protestors to court where they were granted an Interim Possession Order (IPO). Thus, LSE is forcefully evicting student occupiers imminently, disregarding [a petition with over 1400 signatures](#). The LSE has decided to criminalise its own students for peaceful organizing against the University's complicity in war crimes and genocide; for publishing and making visible its egregious investments; and for refusing the violent silence of a university that prides itself on "[knowing the causes of things for the betterment of society](#)." The student defendants that chose to represent the suppressed voice of the encampment at court have risked their own safety and education for the continued presence of a voice against the Administration and for the tens of thousands of students in Palestine whose access to education has been violently denied. After days of what has amounted to psychological warfare against its own students, LSE has used the court system to evict the student occupiers. That the court granted the School an IPO based on flimsy evidence only accentuates the existing **imbalance of power and resources between the University and the encampment**. This is not to mention that David Kershaw—the Dean of the Law School that held an event for the Islamophobic historian Benny Morris—is an Associate Member of Cornerstone, the law firm that represented LSE in yesterday's hearing. **Let this be a reminder that the courts, domestic or international, will not free Palestine and will not engender the liberation of oppressed peoples—only revolution will.**

**We began the protest together, we built community together, and we shall leave together. We leave Bloom Building on our own terms.** The movement for Palestinian liberation is bigger than us and this encampment, and we must live to fight another day. The solidarity across nationalities, religions, and genders that we have developed in this space binds us together in the face of LSE's structural oppression and in our fight against the Israeli genocide of Palestinians.

In light of this, **we urgently ask all staff, faculty, students, alumni and the public to join us today, Saturday 15th June, to join us for a rally at 14:00** outside the Marshall Bloom Building.

We are filled with many emotions coming from the viscerality of educational oppression and political violence. But the most important, the one LSE cannot take away from us, is the tender and indestructive nature of our collective hope.

\*Renamed in memoriam after Marshall Bloom, a U.S. anti-apartheid and anti-war student activist who was suspended from LSE for leading its 1967 student occupation, the first in the UK, against LSE's complicity in Rhodesian apartheid. Bloom subsequently committed suicide following his draft call into the Vietnam War. The building is formally (and now formerly) known as the Marshall Building, but the students condemn any official association of LSE with Sir Paul Marshall, the major owner of GB News and exposed racist, for whom the building was named.