

## Executive Summary of the Update from the LSE Liberated Zone, 06 June 2024

- It has been **243 days** of ongoing genocide in Gaza.
- Today, 06 June, negotiators on behalf of the LSE Liberated Zone met with **Eric Neumayer, Andrew Young, and Emma McCoy**, members of the School Management Committee (SMC).
- Negotiators arrived at the pre-determined meeting room in Connaught House to find that the School Management Committee had not properly inform negotiators of the correct meeting location; **Eric Neumayer** claimed this was a mistake, however we are keenly aware that negotiators were made to identify themselves by tapping into Sir Arthur Lewis building, where the meeting was held.
- **We believe this 'mistake' highlights the bad faith acting that has been consistent throughout negotiations with the SMC.**
- Regarding our fourth demand, **Designate**, the Liberated Zone and SMC have secured an **additional £250,000** which has now been designated by the University toward scholarships for Palestinian students.
- **This brings the total financial wins to £500,000.**
- In a **record-breaking** LSE Student Union (LSESU) referendum, students [voted 89%](#) in favour of putting divestment on the LSESU agenda with over **2306 votes**.
- In addition, **over 840 members** of the LSE community have signed our [open letter](#) in support of the Liberated Zone and in pre-emptive protest against the School's threats to remove us from the building with an Interim Possession Order (IPO).

## Update from the LSE Liberated Zone, 06 June 2024

It has been **243 days** of ongoing genocide in Gaza. Today, 06 June, Israel's military has confirmed its bombing of an United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) school, killing at least forty men, women, and children; the massacre occurred in Nuseirat, a refugee camp hosting forcibly displaced Palestinians. There are no words to describe the apocalyptic images we have seen day after day. As university students, staff, and faculty we feel it is imperative to highlight the specific destruction of the education system in Gaza. It is estimated that 625,000 school-aged children are unable to attend classes, and every single university in Gaza has been destroyed. The genocide has killed 15,000 students and 350 academics thus far.

**As students of conscience, we refuse to allow our university to use investments in our name to contribute to this genocide and educate. We remind our supporters that none of us are free until Palestine is free.**

Today, 06 June, negotiators on behalf of the LSE Liberated Zone met with **Eric Neumayer, Andrew Young, and Emma McCoy**, members of the School Management Committee (SMC). Negotiators arrived at the pre-determined meeting room in Connaught House at 11:30 to find that the School Management Committee had not properly informed negotiators of the correct meeting location; **Eric Neumayer** claimed this was a mistake, however we are keenly aware that negotiators were made to identify themselves by tapping into Sir Arthur Lewis building, where the meeting was held. The room in Connaught House where negotiators were told to meet with the SMC had been booked at least three weeks prior by the Middle East Centre. **We believe this 'mistake' highlights the bad faith acting that has been consistent throughout negotiations with the SMC.**

Speaking directly with **Emma McCoy**, negotiators managed to secure wins regarding demand four, **Designate**. In previous negotiation meetings, the SMC had agreed to allocate £250,000 to the Scholars At Risk Programme (CARA). However, as has been noted since 14 May, scholarships for CARA are not enough to address the impact of the genocide in Gaza on Palestinians as **this money is not directed specifically towards Palestinians**. Over the course of the past three negotiation meetings, the Liberated Zone has managed to secure **an additional £250,000** which has now been designated by the University toward scholarships for Palestinian students. **This brings the total financial wins to £500,000**. We also want to acknowledge the commitment from **Emma McCoy** to work towards providing more comprehensive and flexible mental health services to persons who have experienced trauma due to the ongoing genocide, in line with our **Designate** demand.

During this meeting demand one, **Divestment**, and demand five, **Dedicate** were also discussed. Concerningly however, there has been no movement on **Divestment** since the previous negotiation meeting on 03 June. Moreover, regarding **Dedicate**—which requests finances and public support for the reconstruction of the Palestinian education system—**Eric Neumayer** and **Andrew Young** stated explicitly that LSE would be unable to dedicate finances to this urgent matter. The collective finds this position unconscionable as investments that are made in our name actively destroy not only universities, but contribute to the complete destruction of all infrastructure in Gaza. Dedicating finances and support to Gaza is of the utmost importance in light of atrocities that have occurred in Palestine since October 7; further, this would be an opportunity for LSE to take a step to support Palestinians in light of the legal precedent set by the ICJ and lead the way for other institutions.

We are glad to see that the School Management Committee, three weeks into the encampment and after four meetings, finally appears to be engaging with us on better terms and is taking the collective's requests more seriously, especially in regards to our **Designate** demand. Yet due to both this morning's abrupt room change and their continued legal threats against us during negotiations, we cannot help but feel that the **SMC is not fully acting in good faith**.

The SMC's narrative is that the Liberated Zone is unpopular with students, with **Eric Neumayer** claiming today that we are "massively losing support." However, we know that we have the support of students, staff and our wider community. In a **record-breaking** LSE Student Union (LSESU) referendum, students [voted 89%](#) in favour of putting divestment on the LSESU agenda with over **2306 votes**. Further, **over 840 members** of the LSE community have signed our [open letter](#) in support of the Liberated Zone and in pre-emptive protest against the School's threats to remove us from the building with an Interim Possession Order (IPO). This is especially poignant as this emergency petition has only been live for 15 hours. Similarly, almost **200 staff members** have signed an [open letter](#) urging the university to uphold the freedom of assembly and expression and engage meaningfully with students, rather than attempt to suppress protest.

In light of the overwhelming support of the Liberated Zone and **Divestment**, it is imperative that the University does more to address the collective's demands. Further, we want to emphasize that while the Liberated Zone is the physical space on campus where demands have been put forward, the collective exists as a representative of the broader LSE community. Multiple petitions over the last three weeks evidence the widespread support for

the Liberated Zone representing over 2,000 explicit supportive voices, including students (in a new [petition](#)), [staff and faculty](#), [Jewish staff and students](#), and LSE [alumni](#).

**It is clear the students and staff occupying the Bloom Building\* have popular support amongst the University and beyond. Thus, the Liberated Zone advise that the School very carefully considers how it proceeds when making legal threats against students who represent the wishes of the broader LSE community.**

**We are living in unprecedented times. Palestine is a litmus test for the world. Universities have a choice to make complicity in genocide, or a principled position on the side of justice. Suppression of student voices is unacceptable under normal conditions, and disgraceful in this moment in time.**

\*Renamed in memorium after Marshall Bloom, an American anti-apartheid and anti-war student activist who was suspended from LSE for leading the first student occupation in the UK here in 1967 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 it is named.