

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: IUDC REJECTS REPORT RUBBER STAMPING AUTHORITARIANISM AT IU BLOOMINGTON- The IU Administration funded “Independent Review” is another assault on the rights of IU community members and a reaffirmation of IU’s commitment to supporting mass atrocities. The report is clearly rushed, contains typos and includes false information. However, it succeeds at its ultimate goal: Grant IU Administration justification to crack down on students exercising their first amendment rights on campus and to sustain the university’s complicity in genocide.

Organizations such as the Indiana American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) have vigorously criticized the university’s response to protesters. Even the Monroe County Prosecutor’s Office dismissed all charges against the students, calling them “constitutionally dubious”. Despite this widespread condemnation, the report concludes that IU was justified in their actions against protesters, and suggests increasing police presence on campus, setting the university up to enforce its Expressive Activity policies in a more aggressive manner.

Critically, the report downplays the reason why students were protesting—to end the university’s complicity in genocide in Gaza—and treats this reason as a secondary issue not worthy of serious consideration. The events at Dunn cannot be understood without the context of IU’s role in supporting Israel through partnerships with weapons developers like Crane, study abroad programs that promote apartheid, and collaborations with open Israel Lobby groups like Israel on Campus Coalition.

Every reputable human rights organization that has observed the situation is unanimous: Israel is committing atrocities on a massive scale, deliberately targeting, starving and trapping Gaza’s civilian population, all with funding from the United States and its institutions. According to one study from the Lancet, Israel’s onslaught in Gaza has likely already lead to 186,000+ deaths. Given that IU is one such institution fueling support for this mass killing, it is egregious that the report encourages IU to repress student rights, increase police funding and join in the national push to silence and punish all pro-Palestine activism.

This report is a wake-up call to the entire community. IU Administration believes only they have a say in how campus is run, leaving students, graduates, staff and faculty on the outside, merely to be communicated to and managed better.

IUDC rejects this report and rejects IU’s continued complicity with genocide in Palestine. No recommendation that undermines our rights, ignores shared governance or diminishes calls to stop funding an internationally designated Apartheid state committing the worst crimes of the 21st century can ever be allowed to stand.

Our coalition is currently working on compiling a comprehensive rebuttal and correction to the report that will be made available as soon as it is completed.