BREAKING: OXFORD STUDENTS STAGE "ALL NAMES" VIGIL PROTEST FOR GAZA, CAMPUS-WIDE WALKOUT

Over 4 days, OA4P read 34,344 names of those killed in Gaza, ending in a Uni-wide walkout

WHEN: CAMPUS-WIDE WALKOUT at 11AM on Thursday 31st October. "All names" vigil reading is ongoing from 28 Oct Monday - 31 Oct Thursday (10 AM - 7:00 pm daily).

WHAT: OA4P holds an "all names" vigil and campus-wide walkout for Palestinian Martyrs from the israeli genocide

WHERE: Clarendon Building Steps, Broad Street

Photo/video from the vigil and student walkout will be uploaded to the <u>OA4P Press</u> <u>Packet</u>. For interviews and other enquiries, contact: m: 07514475079; e: oxpalpress@proton.me; @OxAct4Pal on X, Instagram, and TikTok.

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31 October 2024; OXFORD, UK -- Beginning in the early hours of Monday morning, Oxford Action for Palestine members spent over **47 cumulative hours this week reading the updated list of 34,344 known names** of Palestinians in Gaza murdered by israel in the past year (out of the over 151,000 estimated killed so far). Protestors' efforts culminated with a **walkout at 11am on Thursday 31st October**, where students from across campus left class to direct their attention to crimes of israeli genocide.

The protest was prominently located on Oxford University's Clarendon Building steps, and students took advantage of this visibility to draw attention to the tragedy in Gaza. They held banners, laid out flowers, and pasted captioned photographs comparing 1948 *Nakba* up to the current genocide in Gaza around the Clarendon Building. Over the course of four days, countless passerby paused to look at the photos, reflect on the names being read, and show support for the protestors. As names were read, protestors sat and hand-wrote the name of each known martyr on a white ribbon, which was displayed throughout the week.

ROWAN, a DPhil candidate at Oxford and OA4P member, explained the motivation behind the protest: "It might feel uncomfortable to hear the names of the dead for 4 days straight in the middle of Broad Street, but that's the point. We want to force attention to israel's crimes and remind everyone that Oxford, like all of this country's powerful institutions, enables the murder of every person whose name we read."

This is the second time OA4P has held an All Names' Vigil, with the prior vigil taking place in June. Last academic year, the protest took twenty-three hours, it has now increased to more than double that time. The vigil comes after continued protest efforts pressuring the University of Oxford to cut ties with israeli genocide, including a <u>student die-in and disruption at matriculation</u> <u>last week</u>.

Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) is a student-led collective joined by faculty, staff, and the wider Oxford community, all of whom are dedicated to the liberation of Palestine. In May, OA4P established a Liberated Zone encampment in solidarity with Gaza, calling on the University of Oxford to cut financial and institutional ties with Israeli genocide, occupation, and apartheid. The camp lasted 64 days before the University forced students out. For updates, visit OxAct4Pal.com and find us on Instagram, X, and TikTok on @OxAct4Pal.

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