FACULTY SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1120 Ruthven Building
1109 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

The University of Michigan
University Senate
Motion #110926-4

MOTION 4:

Resolution on Palestine Solidarity Activists (the Michigan 8) Facing Repression from the Trump Administration and the University

Whereas on June 10, 2026, the FBI together with local and state police departments, including University of Michigan Police Department (UMPD), arrested several activists (now known as the Michigan 8) involved in Palestine solidarity activism around the University of Michigan;

Whereas the Michigan 8 have been indicted on wildly exaggerated charges of conspiracy and are potentially facing decades in prison;

Whereas there is a long history of the US government deploying "conspiracy" charges to repress social justice movements;

Whereas, in August 2026, the federal government expanded its attack on Palestine solidarity activists by targeting the Graduate Employees' Organization (GEO, AFT Local 3550), serving the union with a subpoena that requests lists of current and former union members, meeting minutes, and financial records, dating back to 2023;

Whereas the subpoena was prepared by the Justice Department's attorney on the Michigan 8 case (Maggie Smith) and by an FBI agent (Kara Phipps) also involved in the case;

Whereas this is part of a broader attack on both Palestine solidarity and labor unions in the United States, in which the federal government has also used subpoenas to repress unions in Minnesota involved in anti-ICE organizing;

Whereas this attack on GEO came after the University of Michigan worked with Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit, to bring trumped-up felony charges of "embezzlement" and "false pretenses" against GEO's president, Hiab Teshome, that were ultimately dismissed by the 14A-1 District Court;

Whereas UMPD Detective Sergeant Ryan Cavanaugh led the investigation against GEO's president and also attended the September 9, 2026 court hearing for the Michigan 8 where he spoke with the U.S. government attorneys; and

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Whereas, therefore, there is now ample evidence that UM and UMPD have been collaborating with federal and state police and prosecutors to attack Palestine solidarity activists and labor;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Michigan has no confidence in the administration's handling of GEO negotiations and no confidence in the University of Michigan Police Department;

Be it further resolved that the University of Michigan Faculty Senate stands in solidarity with the Michigan 8; and

Be it further resolved that we, as individuals, pledge to contribute to the Michigan 8 legal defense fund to the best of our abilities.

***Movant: Adi Saleem**, Assistant Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and Judaic Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

Supporting Members:

***Yarden Azoulay Katz**, Assistant Professor of American Culture and Digital Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

***Ryan McCarty**, Lecturer II, English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

***Stephen Ward**, Director of the Residential College, Arthur F Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, Associate Professor in the Residential College, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

***Justine Zhang**, Assistant Professor of Information, School of Information*

Approved by the University Senate on November 12, 2026

Results: Yes, 1042 (58.2%); No, 747 (41.8%); Abstain, 636- Motion PASSED