

“Sumud in the Face of Scholasticide: The Ongoing Struggle for Education in Palestine”

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A global team of scholars have produced a document called the *Scholasticide Dossier – the systematic destruction of the Palestinian Higher Education System*.^{*} As one of the members of the team, my presentation will be based on the dossier.

The report aims not only to record evidence but to contribute to collective truth-telling, accountability, and repair. By naming scholasticide as a distinct and prosecutable form of violence, it seeks to expand global understanding of how education is weaponised within settler colonial regimes, and to mobilise international action to prevent the systematic assault on teaching, learning, and knowledge production. It calls upon states, universities, and global education bodies to recognise Gaza’s educators and students as partners in rebuilding a just educational future - grounded in anti-colonial solidarity and the right to learn, teach, and imagine freely.

Ultimately, this work situates scholasticide within a broader struggle over life, knowledge, and liberation. In documenting the deliberate destruction of Gaza’s educational institutions, we also affirm the resilience of the Palestinian commitment to education and the enduring assertion that, even amidst ruins, the pursuit of learning remains an act of emancipatory resistance and hope.

^{*}The dossier initiated by the UK Friends of Palestinian universities, includes Palestinians based in Gaza; among the displaced Palestinian communities in the UK, and scholars from the UK, Canada, and South Africa. Together with researchers and academics in Gaza, and with the support of the Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza, we have assembled the Gaza Scholasticide Dossier.

Salim Vally, PhD, is a Professor at the University of Johannesburg’s Education Faculty. He is the National Research Foundation SARChI Chair in Community, Adult and Workers’ Education (CAWE), an elected member of the Academy of Science in SA (ASSAf) and a visiting professor at Nelson Mandela University. He received degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand and KwaZulu-Natal, and has been a visiting lecturer at Columbia, York and Nelson Mandela universities. Vally was a leading member of the Black Consciousness aligned South African Students Movement in 1976, and left the country after its banning and studied at York University. His last three co-edited books are: *Reflections on Knowledge, Learning and Social Movements: History’s Schools* (2018), *The University and Social Justice Across the Globe* (2020) and *Against Racial Capitalism: The Selected Writings of Neville Alexander* (2023). He has published 50 peer reviewed journal articles and 45 chapters in books while agreeing with Howard Zinn that “most academics publish while others perish” and therefore continues with his abiding interest in linking academic scholarship with societal concerns, community participation and global solidarity.