

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: At approximately 11:45pm last night, administration and police recanted their prior promises for a night of amnesty that had been given on social media and directly to faculty members and protesters. They threatened immediate arrest and expulsion for the approximately 40 students engaging in a peaceful protest in Bricker Hall, despite previous assurance that we would be protected until 5am.

This decision to threaten students' futures, livelihoods, and academic standing in order to silence student voices is heinous and unethical.

We sat, sang and chanted in this building behind us because we believe in justice. We fight against white supremacy, human rights violations, union-busting, and the prioritization of profits over people. We fight for transparency, for student power, and accountability to the OSU community. Yet, these simple demands were interpreted by the administration as a threat to the university.

Administrators claimed our presence in Bricker Hall compromised Ohio State's ability to proceed with business-as-usual. However, our bodies were threatened by dozens of OSU police officers posted at every exit, patrolling the building, and surveilling our conversations. We could not receive food from supporters, despite the claim of accommodations.

At colleges and universities across the country, students are raising their voices together and organizing for accountability and justice at their institutions. This protest did not happen in a vacuum. We are not alone in this struggle.

We are deeply thankful to those who stood with us in solidarity across the country, those who stood outside and waited for us, and especially to the faculty and staff that enable our work, expand our minds, and stand with us in this fight for justice. UpOur work is not done and we will not be silenced.

This statement will be released to all press outlets via email, as well as links to our demands, previous press releases, and the faculty letter of support. Thank.c you for your time.

The Students of #ReclaimOSU

Real Food OSU

Committee for Justice in Palestine

Still We Rise

OSU Coalition for Black Lives

United Students Against Sweatshops