

Re: Denial of Gaza Genocide by Wikipedia Founders

December 15, 2025

To: Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees

Nataliia Tymkiv, Chair
Lorenzo Losa, Chair Elect and Vice Chair
Kathy Collins, Vice Chair
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Maciej Artur Nadzikiewicz, Trustee
Raju Narisetti, Trustee
Dr. Mike Peel, Trustee
Christel Steigenberger, Trustee
Jimmy Wales, Trustee

Dear Wikimedia Board of Trustees and Wikipedia Editors,

We write to urge the Wikimedia Board of Trustees and Wikipedia’s global network of editors to reject and block the interventions by Wikipedia co-founders Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger in the “Gaza genocide” Wikipedia entry. Wales and Sanger are using their roles as Wikipedia founders to bypass the normal editing and review process and introduce their own ideological biases into an entry that has already undergone exhaustive vetting and review by Wikipedia editors, including [thousands of edits and comments](#). Their efforts deny the documented reality of Israel’s genocide in Gaza and contradict the broad consensus among genocide scholars, international human rights organizations, UN experts, and both Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations. In doing so, Wales and Sanger are engaging in attempted censorship and genocide denial.

We urge both the trustees of Wikimedia Foundation and Wikipedia’s global network of editors to oppose and reject Jimmy Wales’ and Larry Sanger’s attempted interventions in the “Gaza genocide” entry. We also call on Wales, Sanger, and Wikimedia Foundation trustees to reveal all sources of external pressure, including from Israeli government officials or pro-Israel advocacy networks, that may be pushing the Wikipedia founders and Wikimedia Foundation leaders to force edits to the “Gaza genocide” entry that would deny the documented reality of the Gaza genocide.

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales has [previously declared](#) himself to be “a strong supporter of Israel,” adding, “I don’t listen to those critics.” He has said that he has visited Israel over ten times, and he has received a \$1 million award from Tel Aviv University. This clear demonstration of both ideological bias and potential financial interest makes Wales unfit to comment on the well-researched “Gaza genocide” entry on Wikipedia.

On November 2, 2025, Wales posted an [extended statement](#) in the “discussion” section of the “Gaza genocide” Wikipedia entry in which he falsely argued that Israel’s genocide in Gaza is a “claim” that “is highly contested.” On November 4, Sanger posted a [statement](#) criticizing the “Gaza genocide” entry because he claimed it takes “one side in an ongoing dispute” and that the “Israeli government describes the topic of the article as a legitimate military campaign against Hamas.” With these comments, Wales and Sanger are ignoring the broad consensus among genocide scholars, international human rights organizations, UN experts, and both Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza.

Major human rights institutions, organizations, and genocide scholars have already researched, documented, and concluded that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza:

International Association of Genocide Scholars: “Israel’s policies and actions in Gaza meet the legal definition of genocide in Article II of the United Nations Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948).” ([“IAGS Resolution on Gaza,”](#) August 2025.)

Dr. Raz Segal, Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Endowed Professor in the Study of Modern Genocide, Stockton University: “Israel’s genocidal assault on Gaza is quite explicit, open, and unashamed. Perpetrators of genocide usually do not express their intentions so clearly...” ([“A Textbook Case of Genocide,”](#) Raz Segal, *Jewish Currents*, October 13, 2023.)

Dr. Omer Bartov, Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Brown University: “My inescapable conclusion has become that Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people.” ([“I’m a Genocide Scholar. I Know It When I See It,”](#) July 15, 2025, *The New York Times*.)

Amnesty International: “Amnesty International’s research has found sufficient basis to conclude that Israel has committed and is continuing to commit genocide against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip...” ([“Amnesty International investigation concludes Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza,”](#) December 5, 2024.)

Human Rights Watch: “Israeli authorities are responsible for the crime against humanity of extermination and for acts of genocide.” ([“Israel’s Crime of Extermination, Acts of Genocide in Gaza,”](#) Human Rights Watch, December 19, 2024.)

UN Commission: “...the Israeli authorities and Israeli security forces have committed and are continuing to commit the following *actus reus* of genocide against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.” ([“Legal analysis of the conduct of Israel in Gaza pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,”](#) UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, September 16, 2025.)

DAWN: “Israeli intent to commit a genocide against Palestinians is substantiated by statements by the [Israeli] Prime Minister, President, Minister of Defense, Cabinet members and members of the Knesset, as well as by influential media personalities and influencers.” ([“Expert Panel Concludes Israel Committing Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza,”](#) DAWN, January 9, 2024.)

Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council and the Palestinian NGOs

Network: “For over 22 months, Israel continues to carry out its unrelentless genocide, including mass killing, mass destruction, forced displacement and engineered starvation using hunger as a tool of destruction. This is not only a genocide in real time – it is the most documented atrocity crime of our era, unfolding without consequences for its perpetrators.” ([“Palestinian Civil Society Call to Action: Stop the Genocide, End the Era of Impunity,”](#) Aug 19, 2025)

B’Tselem (Israeli human rights organization): “While carrying out genocide in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli regime continues to control the lives of Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and within Israel. Given the ongoing, clear escalation in Israeli violence against Palestinians in all these areas —which itself includes very grave crimes — we must call for an immediate end to the Israeligenocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, and warn of clear and imminent danger that the genocide will not remain confined to Gaza.” ([“Our Genocide,”](#) B’Tselem, July 2025.)

Physicians for Human Rights - Israel: “Today, PHRI is releasing a position paper that documents this assault for what it is: a deliberate, cumulative dismantling of Gaza’s health system, and with it, its people’s ability to survive. This amounts to genocide.” ([“Genocide in Gaza,”](#) Physicians for Human Rights - Israel, July 28, 2025).

The simple reality is that Israeli officials and pro-Israel organizations are attempting to hide the horrifying reality of Israel’s genocide in Gaza by pretending that there is a substantive debate and by putting pressure on institutions like Wikipedia to engage in genocide denial.

Wales' "both sides" framework for denying the Gaza genocide could also be used to legitimize Holocaust denial, denial of the Armenian genocide, or to platform "flat-earthers" who deny the Earth's spherical shape.

We call on the Wikimedia Board of Trustees and Wikipedia editors to reject and block the efforts of Wikimedia co-founders Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger to deny the inescapable conclusion that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza. We also call on Wales, Sanger, and Wikimedia Foundation trustees to reveal all sources of external pressure to engage in denial of the Gaza genocide, including from Israeli government officials or pro-Israel advocacy networks. Wales and Sanger must be stopped from trying to censor the Wikipedia "Gaza genocide" entry that clearly documents Israel's horrifying crime against humanity.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

CAIR Action

A New Policy

American Friends Service Committee

American Muslims for Palestine

Brave New Films

CODEPINK

DAWN

Doctors Against Genocide

Islamophobia Studies Center

Jewish Voice for Peace

MPower Change Action Fund

Peace Action

United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)

Local, Regional, and Global Organizations:

Activist San Diego

Ansaar Academy of Inland Empire

Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies Program, San Francisco State University

Artists Against Apartheid
Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association
Coalition Against Genocide
CODEPINK - Detroit
For The People Action
General Strike U.S. Detroit
Jewish Voice for Peace - Central Ohio
Labor for Palestine National Network
MARUF CT
Massachusetts Peace Action
Maui for Palestine
Michigan Coalition Against Genocide
Money Out of Politics Movement
Muslim and Friends Phonebank
Palestine South Shore Alliance
Peace Action New York State
Peace, Justice, Sustainability, NOW
ReThinking Foreign Policy
Rinascimento Green
SE MA Coalition for a Free Palestine
Showing Up for Racial Justice - Ventura County
Solidarity Coalition STL Metro East
Stop Genocide
Taxpayers Against Genocide
Theater Workers for a Ceasefire
Western Mass CODEPINK
Western New York Peace Center

CC: Wikimedia Foundation Executive Team

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