



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Pro-Palestine Advocates Call Out Businesses With Ties to Israel at New Orleans Entrepreneur Week**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024

**LOCATION:** Lafayette Square, New Orleans, LA 70130

**EVENT:** New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW) Innovation Day

New Orleans, LA - NOSHIP (New Orleans Stop Helping Israel's Ports), along with Palestinian New Orleans residents, Jewish activists, and concerned community allies, disrupted three panel discussions hosted by the New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW) on the morning of March 13.

The disrupted panels represented corporations that profit from business and investments in the State of Israel, including Entergy, ExxonMobil, and GNO, Inc. Organizers say the purpose of NOSHIP's disruption was to amplify concerns about NOEW delegates' business ventures with Israel and Idea Village's support and investment in the Innovation Embassy.

The Innovation Embassy is sponsored by GNO, Inc., Idea Village, the Port of New Orleans, Jones Walker LLP, Ochsner Health, and the Louisiana Economic Development, amongst others, and was recently established between the Port of New Orleans and the Port of Ashdod in Israel. The Innovation Embassy claims to bring Israeli "innovations" to New Orleans in the biomedical, commercial, maritime, and technological sectors. The cooperation includes embracing emerging technologies, partnerships, and dual infrastructure for mutual economic benefit. Similar agreements between the Port of Ashdod and cities such as Barcelona have introduced Israeli cybersecurity, surveillance technologies, and biased policing tactics.

During the Q&A period of the morning's Entergy-sponsored panel moderated by GNO, Inc., advocates stood up and noted that investments and economic partnerships enable Israel to continue business as usual, thus normalizing, financing, and enabling the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. One NOSHIP activist said, "While some audience members heckled 'Go Israel' and told a Palestinian activist wearing a hijab, 'You're the bad guy,' one NOEW attendee turned to me and said that he had no idea the companies on the panel were tied to Israel and it worried him."

Meanwhile, Lacy McManus of GNO, Inc. spoke to the company's ties with Israel as being economically productive and separate from the "situation in the Middle East." Advocates note that normalization and funding of Israel leads to the State's impunity while committing [internationally recognized war crimes](#).

After outreach from NOSHIP, one of the panel of professionals presenting at NOEW's Ecosystem Stage will give a statement of solidarity with the Palestinian people and against Israeli genocide this afternoon. NOSHIP also plans to stage a rally in Lafayette Square at 4 p.m. on Wednesday to disrupt a "block party" hosted by NOEW in partnership with YLC's Wednesdays at the Square. Rally speakers will highlight the urgency of the situation in Gaza, while the NOLA Musicians 4 Palestine band will draw attention to the cause.



### **About the Organization**

NOSHIP (New Orleans Stop Helping Israel's Ports) is a coalition of community leaders throughout New Orleans dedicated to organizing peaceful demonstrations and direct calls to action to end trade, cultural, economic, and diplomatic relations between New Orleans and Israel, due to the Israeli state's 75-year ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, including the ongoing genocide of Gazans. The group's goal is to amplify the voices of residents concerned with the misuse of their tax money and public resources that could be utilized more efficiently to boost local GDP growth.

### **What Drives Us**

*Since the last time NOSHIP issued a Press Release, the Palestinian death toll has risen by 3,000, and over half were women and children.* Israel's impending offensive against the defenseless population of 2.3 million Palestinians in the overcrowded and last remaining 'safe zone' of Rafah is deeply concerning. This occurs in the context of Israel disregarding judicial rulings aimed at preventing genocide, as highlighted in the ongoing trial at the International Court of Justice. Israel is increasingly becoming isolated on the world stage, akin to Apartheid South Africa of the 1980s.