

Berlin's Humboldt University sends police to violently disband peaceful Gaza sit-in

IYSSE Humboldt University
5 May 2024

On Friday at lunchtime, around 150 students gathered and the near 40,000 people killed in Gaza, she initially refused for a sit-in in front of the entrance to Berlin's Humboldt University (HU) to demand an end to Hamas hostages." genocide in Gaza. When the Israeli assault on Gaza began, the university had immediately declared solidarity with Israel and banned critical events against the genocide.

This barely disguised support for the Israeli war effort is in line with the previous record of Humboldt University, which is notorious as a centre of war propaganda. Von Blumenthal is also in favour of the reintroduction of a stricter university regulatory law, including the possibility of deregistering students on a political basis.

The sit-in was initiated by members of the Student Coalition in Berlin and other groups. The protesters demanded "dialog" was rejected by a student who confronted her with the immediate ceasefire, an end to German and Western arms deliveries to Israel, comprehensive humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza and democratic rights for all Palestinians. (IYSSE) university group with a room for an event against the massacre in Gaza. In response, von Blumenthal declared that if police arrived with dozens of officers and cordoned off the campus, in agreement with the university administration, my Adomiciliary rights."

And this is what then happened. At around 4:30 p.m., police violently dispersed the completely peaceful student gathering. Students were arrested one by one and taken away, with police using painful grips. The police had used the same brutal methods just a few days earlier to break up the Gaza protest also in front of the Bundestag (federal parliament).

Protest participants who spoke to members of the IYSSE, expressed solidarity with their fellow students in the United States, who are also protesting against the genocide in Gaza at American universities. There, police are now using firearms against students and have even violently arrested several female professors. Speaking to the protesters, the IYSSE has called for the working class to mobilise against imperialism in the Middle East war.

In Berlin, Christopher from the IYSSE at the HU said in a statement at the sit-in: "The IYSSE supports the courageous protests of the students at the HU. University President Blumenthal must not be allowed to ban any criticism of the horrific genocide in Gaza from campus while protecting the

right-wing extremist Professor Baberowski, who declares that Hitler was not vicious and that the Holocaust was essentially the same as shootings in the Russian civil war.”

In particular, Christopher called on university staff to walk off the job and defend the students. “The goal must be a nationwide and international strike that will end the attack on the fundamental right of free speech. Ultimately, the issues at stake now will not be fought on campus—but in the factories and warehouses, on the railways and in the harbours. The working class, the most powerful social force on earth, which creates all wealth through its labour, must use this power to force an end to genocide and war.”



To contact the WSWWS and the
Socialist Equality Party visit:

wsws.org/contact