

"We begin by recognizing that the same structures of settler colonialism and racial capitalism that are driving the ongoing genocide of the indigenous peoples of Turtle Island ("North America") are also driving the ongoing genocide of the people of historic Palestine. Block City stands in solidarity with the ongoing violence and dispossession of the people who were displaced from the surrounding territories, with Palestinians around the world, and with all people resisting colonial violence and dispossession."

Block City Statement of Solidarity with Palestinian Resistance

COP CITY AND ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE GO HAND IN HAND.

The Atlanta Police Department (APD) maintains close ties with Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) through the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange program (GILEE). For more than three decades, GILEE has facilitated the exchange of militarized policing tactics with Atlanta law. Atlanta police travel to Israel for training sessions and, reciprocally, Israeli officers travel to Atlanta. In fact, The APD had planned to travel to Israel at the beginning of October. Later that month, the APD simulated a situation with a 'Hamas terrorist' in an abandoned building for training. Cop City is proposed as a 'state of the art' space for police across the US and beyond borders to play out these violent and racialized simulations—simulations inspired by Israel's genocide in Palestine.

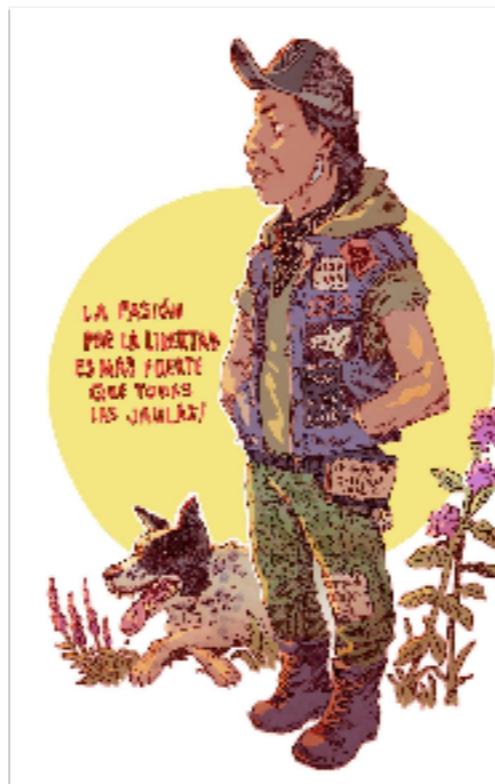
Block City Statement of Solidarity with Palestinian Resistance

We also recognize that many of Cop City's corporate funders, including Coca Cola and Bank of America, are also financially supporting the IDF/IOP (Israeli Occupation Force), and for the same reason. The future of policing envisioned by these institutions can already be gleaned from the wreckage in Gaza. Though dwarfed in scale by the Israeli military's genocidal brutality, the Israeli military's genocidal brutality, the Atlanta PD, GBI, and Georgia AG have already deployed similar tactics of draconian state violence and collective punishment against Stop Cop City activists. As we head into a future of even starker inequality, civil unrest, and climate crisis, the rich are preparing to turn their communities into Tel Aviv while they turn ours into Gaza. Thus, the struggle to free Palestine is integral to the struggle to free us all.

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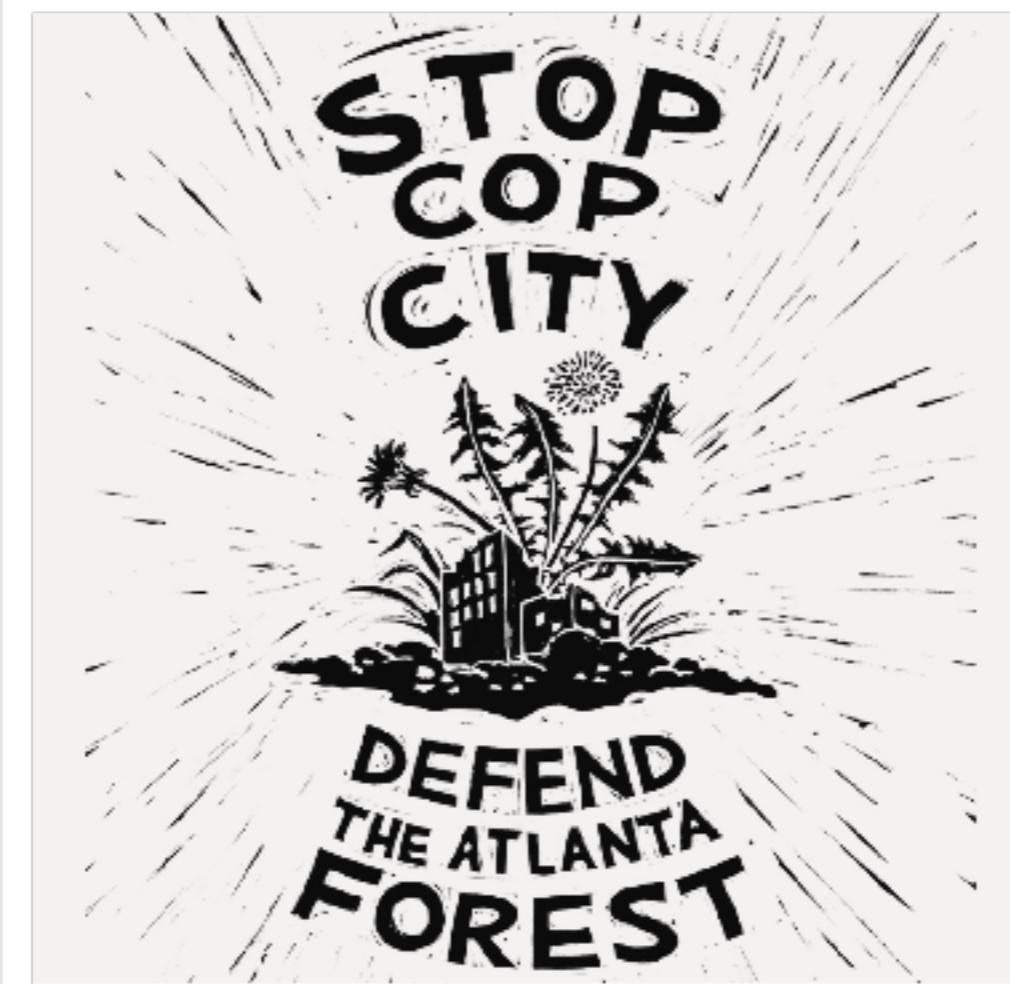
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Victor is an Indigenous land defender who has spent much of his adult life caring for the water, for the land, for his elders.

On March 5, 2023, Victor was arrested at the South River Music Festival. Victor was unloading camping equipment from his truck with his dog inside when heavily armed police charged at him from the woods, violently assaulted him, and hauled him to jail. After spending months inside DeKalb County without bail set or being indicted for a crime, he has now been transferred to an ICE facility where he again sits without bail.



I hear the same genocidal entitlement of the colonizers when they have the audacity to say they have the better solution and are going to restore safety and peace to the people they've oppressed and massacred. The Palestinian struggle is an ongoing anticolonial Indigenous struggle happening now in our day. I see the dehumanization of the Palestinian people as the colonizer frames them as the terrorist, when in fact the people of Palestine are being terrorized – kept in an open-air prison for many years, and now denied access to food, water, and medical care. My heart is with the Palestinian people as they fight for their right to exist."

A Word from Victor on Palestine

"As I sit in this prison, I am watching the atrocities happening to the people of Palestine on the news. And in the newscasters' words, I hear the same colonial rhetoric that has been used over the past 531 years against Indigenous peoples in the western hemisphere for centuries. Words like 'savages' and 'terrorists' have been used to refer to Palestinian people, ascribing to a colonial rhetoric that presents an entire people as the source of evil while presenting the other side as 'good,' as the source of civilization and decency.

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