



OPEN LETTER

To: President Mohamed Lachemi, Toronto Metropolitan University

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From:

Toronto Metropolitan Association of Part-Time Students (TMAPS)
Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union (TMSU)
Toronto Metropolitan Graduate Students' Union (TMGSU)

Date: 10/01/2025

Dear President Lachemi,

We write as the collective leadership of the three student unions at Toronto Metropolitan University to condemn the brutal assault of a TMU student by campus security on Friday, September 19, 2025. [Video from the incident clearly shows two GardaWorld officers body-slaming a student protester to the ground and pinning her down with their knees.](#) This was not simply a moment of “escalation.” It was a targeted act of repression against a student expressing her opinions and protesting TMU’s complicity in the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people.

As representatives of TMU’s student unions, we are committed to the safety and dignity of all students. We reject all forms of hate. However, this violence cannot be understood in isolation. It is part of a pattern of institutional silencing and suppression of Palestinian students and their allies. While students have been disciplined, surveilled, and brutalized for demanding justice, we condemn the University’s silence on the genocide itself while actively working to suppress speech, limit protest, and police student dissent. TMU cannot claim neutrality: by refusing to divest from Israeli apartheid and by partnering with corporations like GardaWorld, a company that profits from repression globally, [including staffing armed guards at Florida’s so-called “Alligator Alcatraz” migrant detention compound](#), the university is choosing complicity.

We are equally alarmed by the continued presence of Magen Herut, a militia-style group that has appeared on campus, intimidating Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, and allied students. This is not an abstract concern: Magen Herut members recently assaulted a student at York University, a chilling reminder of the real threat these quasi-militia groups pose. Failing to prevent the presence of this quasi-military group on our campus while policing legitimate and peaceful Palestine solidarity actions by students reveals the profound double standard in how TMU enforces “safety.”



TMAPS
Toronto Metropolitan Association of Part-time Students
Local 105 of the Canadian Federation of Students



TMSU
TORONTO METROPOLITAN
STUDENTS' UNION



This university cannot hide behind claims of being “[committed to freedom of expression, including free speech](#)” while failing to address the presence of militia groups on campus, hiring repressive security forces, and silencing those who speak out for Palestine. The student who was assaulted could have been killed, and she was assaulted simply for speaking her mind and joining millions of voices around the world to demand justice for Palestine.

We therefore call for TMU to immediately:

1. Issue a public apology to the student harmed, and provide immediate redress in the form of medical, counselling, and academic support.
2. Drop any charges or [disciplinary actions](#) against the assaulted student and affirm her right and the right of all students to protest freely.
3. End its contract with GardaWorld and permanently remove their presence from campus, and begin a transparent review of all security services with meaningful student participation.
4. Pursue the strictest disciplinary measures against the officers who assaulted the student, and publicly disclose outcomes.
5. Commission an independent external investigation into this incident and all related safety policies, led by a qualified third party, with terms of reference and findings made public.
6. Ban Magen Herut and similar militia/vigilante groups from TMU grounds, and commit to protecting Palestinian students from harassment and intimidation.

We request a written response to this letter by Friday, October 3, 2025, addressing each of the demands above.

If the university fails to act promptly and transparently, the student unions will pursue all available avenues of escalation, including public demonstrations, media engagement, and coordinated action with students, faculty, and community allies.

The safety, dignity, and rights of all students at TMU are not negotiable.

Sincerely,

TMAPS, TMSU, TMGSU