



CAIR GEORGIA

We Protect Each Other: Event Safety For Palestinian Solidarity

As many hold solidarity events in support of the Palestinian people, CAIR chapters across the country have seen some people disrupt otherwise peaceful events. This can look like attendees encouraging violence or people on the sidelines heckling attendees and starting arguments or fights. If you're organizing a solidarity event, it's important to be as prepared as possible. This is how we keep each other safe, avoid unintentional arrests, and ensure that any news coverage is on the message being conveyed, not on conflict coming out of the event itself.

This resource is designed to serve as a checklist to help ensure you have all the event basics covered. We highly recommend reading through the *Get In Formation: A Community Safety Toolkit* from Vision Change Win. This will dive deeper and walk through how to do each task.

You'll Need

- A very clear plan of how the event will run, from beginning to end
- All necessary permits (even if you're using a public space, permits may be necessary)
- Knowledge of what is and isn't permitted locally (i.e. sound system and volume restrictions)
- Access to bathrooms for organizers and attendees
 - Don't forget about those who may need wheelchair accessible bathrooms
- Legal observers (contact National Lawyers Guild or Asian American Advancing Justice-Atlanta to request legal observers)
- Marshals
- Medic
- Legal support and connection to a bail fund (even if you're planning a peaceful event with no intentional arrests, have these on hand just in case)
- We strongly recommend a robust safety team for large events. See pages 23-24 of the Vision Change Win Community Safety Toolkit for a full list of security roles.

Pro-Tips

- Walk your march route/event space in advance, ideally on the same day and time as your event (i.e. planning a march for 5pm on a Friday? Walk the route the previous Friday. If you do it Saturday, traffic is going to look very different.)
- Stay on public property
- Cover your face and advise attendees to do the same. This protects you from surveillance
- Organize using an encrypted message service like Signal
- If your event is on the sidewalk, keep moving or leave space for passersby to get past
- Think through likely problems and how you'll address them in advance
- Determine in advance how you'll interact with law enforcement. For example, if they tell the group they have to move, will you? Or will you stay in place to be arrested? Deciding in advance can limit chaos and confusion in the moment and help keep people safe.
 - Be mindful of how these decisions impact immigrants and People of Color who attend
 - If there's a plan for some people to be arrested, communicate that to attendees so those who aren't able to take that risk can avoid the area