



WHEN
WORDS



ARE



NO



LONGER



SAFE



RESEARCH
QUESTION

HOW ARE EMOJIS USED AS A TOOL IN PROTESTS

In places where the government controls protests through surveillance, censorship, and legal rules, activists must find new ways to get around these limits. Emojis give a visual and cross-language way for protesters to show resistance without using banned words.

Examples from events in China and Palestine illustrate how emojis are used to symbolize movements, avoid detection, and create solidarity.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Our project began by investigating how users evade censorship online. We discovered that emojis play a crucial role in bypassing content moderation across various protest movements and political discussions. In many languages, certain keywords can trigger algorithmic suppression or shadowbanning—emojis, in this case, act as visual code that help messages remain visible.

Due to language accessibility, we focused on languages we speak fluently: English, Italian, German, and Chinese. Within these language spheres, we identified four major protest movements where emoji use was instrumentalized: the Palestinian liberation movement, Black Lives Matter, China's MeToo movement, and the online information circulation during COVID-19 in Chinese-speaking regions. Although we also examined smaller cases—such as the use of the 🌹 emoji to substitute for the word "rape" or the milktea emoji in the Milk Tea Alliance—we chose to prioritize the four main movements due to accessible research material.

Within these four movements, we analyzed the evolution of specific emojis, how they function both online and offline, and their role within protest culture.

We identified three core functions of emoji in protest:

Symbolic identity – e.g., the Black raised fist (✊) becoming an emblem of

the BLM movement.

Circumventing censorship – such as 🍷🐰 in China's MeToo discourse or 🍉 in Palestine protest.

Emotional amplification – emojis often serve to emphasize tone or solidarity within protest communication.

Building on these insights, we created three design outcomes:

A web-based tool that transforms user input into "more communal and less censorable" tweets. The website replaces potentially censored keywords with protest-related emojis and suggests tone-enhancing symbols, based on our dataset.

A printed zine, designed as a compact, accessible archive of protest emoji usage and histories. During our research, especially with BLM and Chinese MeToo data, we observed a trend of disappearing posts and accounts under restriction. This emphasized the need to document and preserve online protest culture in a physical format. A downloadable PDF version of the zine is also available via our website.

A poster series, as a traditional medium of protest, combined with emoji culture, also serves to engage the audience. It becomes the pivot point that connects the audience to the website.

PROTEST CASES

1. Introduction



2. Development timeline

3. Data visualiaztion Other emojis used

4. Data visualiaztion Keywords used

5. Specific data collected

6. Meaning of related emojis

SUMMARY OF PROTEST CASES



#BLM-USA



#WATERMELON



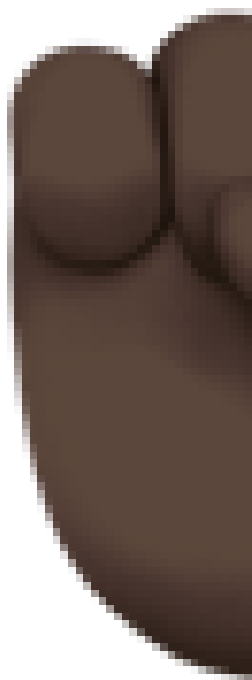
#RED TRIANGLE



#ME TOO



#COVID-19







THE RAISED
FIST EMOJI
SYMBOLIZES
BLACK
EMPOWER
AND RESIST
TO EXPRESS
SOLIDARITY
WITHIN THE BLACK
LIVES MATTER
MOVEMENT.

INTRODUCTION

The raised fist is an iconic and nomadic symbol that has been widely reproduced and reused across different movements and contexts for over a century. Its familiarity and mobility across causes have made it one of the most enduring political icons of our time.

The raised fist emoji was approved as part of Unicode 6.0 in 2010 and added to Emoji 1.0 in 2015. Since then, it has been widely used in digital communication to express resistance, solidarity, and defiance. The emoji gained particular prominence during the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, following the global outcry over the death of George Floyd.

HISTORY

The raised fist emoji has its roots in a long tradition of the raised fist symbol, which has represented solidarity, resistance, and the fight against oppression since the early 20th century. Over the decades, the symbol gained prominence in various social and political movements, including labor unions, anti-fascist groups, civil rights campaigns, and feminist organizations.

Historically, trade unions as well as socialist and communist parties adopted the raised fist. It was later embraced by anti-fascist movements between the world wars and by pan-African, anti-colonial, and anti-apartheid movements. In more recent history, it has been used by the Black Power movement, Women's Liberation, and Gay Liberation. When associated with Black Power and anti-racist struggles, the raised fist is often referred to as the "Black Power salute" or "Black Power fist." Building on its strong connection to Black political resistance since the mid-20th century, the raised fist is now most closely associated with the Black Lives Matter movement—especially following the widespread demonstrations and social media activism in 2020 after the police murder of George Floyd.

However, it is important to emphasize that no single movement or cause can claim exclusive ownership of the raised fist. Its recurring use across different times, regions, and political struggles highlights both its adaptability and symbolic longevity. The power of the raised fist lies precisely in this flexibility—its capacity to be recognized and repurposed by various groups seeking justice.

The raised fist is a visual symbol used globally by a wide array of social movements and political organizations. It manifests either as a physical gesture—an arm raised with a clenched fist—or as a graphic icon appearing on posters, placards, street art, pamphlets, badges, and clothing. Like all symbols, it conveys abstract ideas—most notably resistance. It also embodies the concept of "power from below" and the solidarity of people united in political struggle. As a result, the raised fist is commonly associated with democratic movements and popular uprisings against oppression.

**DEVELOPMENT
TIMELINE**

1848 – French artist Honoré Daumier created The Uprising
In 1848, French artist Honoré Daumier created *The Uprising*, one of the earliest visual representations of the clenched fist as a political symbol. Inspired by the French Revolution of 1848—which led to the overthrow of King Louis-Philippe—Daumier, who witnessed the violence and fervor of the “Bloody June Days” in Paris, sought to capture the spirit of the revolutionaries.



The Uprising (1848) Honoré Daumier © Courtesy of the The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

1913 – Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) pageant poster
One of the earliest known instances of a protester raising a clenched fist in the U.S. dates back to 1913, during the Paterson silk strike in New Jersey. There, “Big Bill” Haywood, a founding member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), addressed a crowd of striking workers. He championed unity among the working class, regardless of race or trade.



Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) pageant poster of the Paterson strike that was performed at Madison Square Garden on June 7, 1913.

1926 – Red Front Fighters
A German group called the Red Front Fighters (RFB), patented the clenched fist as part of their uniform and salute. To Ernst Thälmann, leader of the RFB, the fist was a pledge to “protect the friend and fight off the enemy.” But the RFB, founded to guard Communist Party meetings from far-right attacks, battled as much against the Iron Front, the Social Democrats’ street-fighting arm, as it did fascists of the rising Nazi party. In 1932, the RFB rebranded as

Antifaschistische Aktion—better known by the contraction Antifa.



Rot Front (Red Front), created by Viktor Nikolaevich Denisov, in 1932.

1936 – Republicans of leftist parties demonstrating

The raised fist returned to the U.S. as a symbol of resistance to racial oppression through the experiences of American volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. In 1936, fascist forces backed by Hitler and Mussolini attempted to overthrow Spain's democratically elected Popular Front government, sparking a global anti-fascist response. Around 45,000 international volunteers, including 2,800 Americans—among them 90 Black soldiers—joined the fight as part of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

For Black Americans, Spain offered a stark contrast to the racism and segregation they faced at home. They led white troops, were treated as equals, and saw their struggle against racism as part of the broader fight against fascism. One of them, Oliver Law, became the brigade's commander—the first Black officer to lead an integrated American military unit.



Republicans of leftist parties demonstrating in the streets of Barcelona against Franco's attempt to overthrow the Spanish Republic, July 1936.

From 1936 – The raised fist returned to the U.S.

The raised fist returned to the U.S. as a symbol of resistance to racial oppression through the experiences of American volunteers in the Spanish Civil War. In 1936, fascist forces backed by Hitler and Mussolini attempted to overthrow Spain's democratically elected Popular Front government, sparking a global anti-fascist response. Around 45,000 international volunteers, including 2,800 Americans—among them 90 Black soldiers—joined the fight as

DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

part of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. For Black Americans, Spain offered a stark contrast to the racism and segregation they faced at home. They led white troops, were treated as equals, and saw their struggle against racism as part of the broader fight against fascism. One of them, Oliver Law, became the brigade's commander—the first Black officer to lead an integrated American military unit.



poster regarding the Spanish civil war that took place from 1936 until 1939. Robert D. Farber University Archives / Spanish War poster

1965 – The iconic raised fist poster

The iconic raised fist poster was created in the late 1960s by Frank Ciecioraka, a graphic artist and activist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. His design grew out of his work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the broader New Left. After returning from Mississippi, where he had served as a SNCC field secretary, Ciecioraka carved a woodcut of a clenched fist in 1965. The image quickly caught on as a bold symbol of resistance.



"Hand" by Ciecioraka, 1965

1968 – Civil rights movement

For veterans of the Lincoln Brigade, the civil rights movement was a continuation of the same fight against fascism they had joined in Spain. They worked to desegregate public spaces like swimming pools, organized NAACP chapters, registered Black voters, and provided medical support during the American Indian Movement's occupation of Alcatraz. Their uncompromising stance against racism aligned with the militant spirit of the emerging Black Power movement, which embraced the clenched fist as its defining symbol. Huey Newton and Bobby Seale raised their fists to rally members of the Black Panther Party, and in 1968, Tommie Smith and John Carlos famously lifted theirs in the Black Power salute during the Olympic Games.



Tommie Smith (centre) and John Carlos make the salute at the 1968 Olympic Games.

1969 – feminist movement

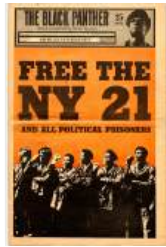
In 1969, following the Miss America Beauty Pageant, the feminist movement adopted the raised fist as a symbol of resistance, placing it inside the female gender symbol to represent women's empowerment and solidarity. Around the same time, the Gay Liberation Front also embraced the clenched fist—most notably during the Stonewall Riots, a series of spontaneous protests sparked by a police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village in the early hours of June 28, 1969. The fist became a shared emblem of defiance and unity across both movements.



Poster featuring an image of protesting women and a list of demands. This poster was used to announce a protest scheduled for November 22, 1969 orchestrated by the N.E.

1967 until 1980s – Black Panther Party

Emory Douglas was the Artist of the Black Panther Party. He created the overall design of the Black Panther, the Party's weekly newspaper, and oversaw its layout and production until the Black Panthers disbanded in 1979–80. Douglas made countless artworks that were reproduced in the paper and distributed as prints and posters. All of them utilized a graphic style and a vocabulary of images such as the raised fist that would become synonymous with the Black Panthers.



Black Panther students clenching their fist in protest at Yale University 1970.

1990 – Nelson Mandela

On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released from prison after 27 years—a moment long awaited by South Africa and the world. Despite the joyous symbolism of Mandela and his then-wife Winnie raising clenched fists in triumph, the country was unprepared for his return. The release was delayed, and Mandela’s first public appearance in nearly three decades occurred amid confusion, chaos, and overwhelmed crowds.

2013-2014 – #BlackLivesMatter

In 2013, in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman for the killing of Trayvon Martin, three Black activists—Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi—launched #BlackLivesMatter, a political and social movement centered on Black liberation and justice.

The following year, the police killing of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, by officer Darren Wilson further galvanized the movement. Over Labor Day weekend in 2014, Darnell Moore and Patrisse Cullors organized the Black Life Matters Ride, a national caravan that brought more than 600 activists to St. Louis in solidarity. Within just 15 days, a strategic plan was formed to support local organizers and to continue the fight for justice in communities across the country. Ferguson was recognized not as an isolated event, but as a powerful symbol of the systemic violence faced by Black communities nationwide.



Nelson and Winnie Mandela give a clenched fist salute as the ANC leader is released from prison on 11 February 1990. Photograph: Ulli Michel/Reuters



The BlackLivesMatter protest of 2015.

2020 – Global wave of demonstrations


The George Floyd protests were a global wave of demonstrations against police brutality and systemic racism that began on May 26, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The unrest was sparked by the murder of George Floyd, a 46-year-old unarmed Black man, who died after veteran police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds during an arrest. Despite Floyd repeatedly saying he couldn't breathe, three other officers stood by and blocked bystanders from intervening. All four officers were later fired, arrested, and charged. In April 2021, Chauvin was convicted of second- and third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter, receiving a sentence of 22 and a half years in prison.

Protests began within hours of Floyd's death at the intersection of East 38th Street and Chicago Avenue in Minneapolis—where the incident occurred—and quickly spread across the Twin Cities and beyond. Fueled by bystander footage and social media, the movement expanded to all 50 U.S. states and more than 60 countries. An estimated 15 to 26 million people participated, making it the largest protest movement in U.S. history. The protests became a defining moment for the Black Lives Matter movement and a global call for justice and police reform.



The photo was taken at the Dam Square Protests (01/06/2020).

DATA COLLECTED

Since we were unable to scrape data related to Black Lives  Matter on X, we used an existing diagrams from a published report. These diagrams come from the following source: <https://blog.emojipedia.org/emojis-of-blacklivesmatter/>

100

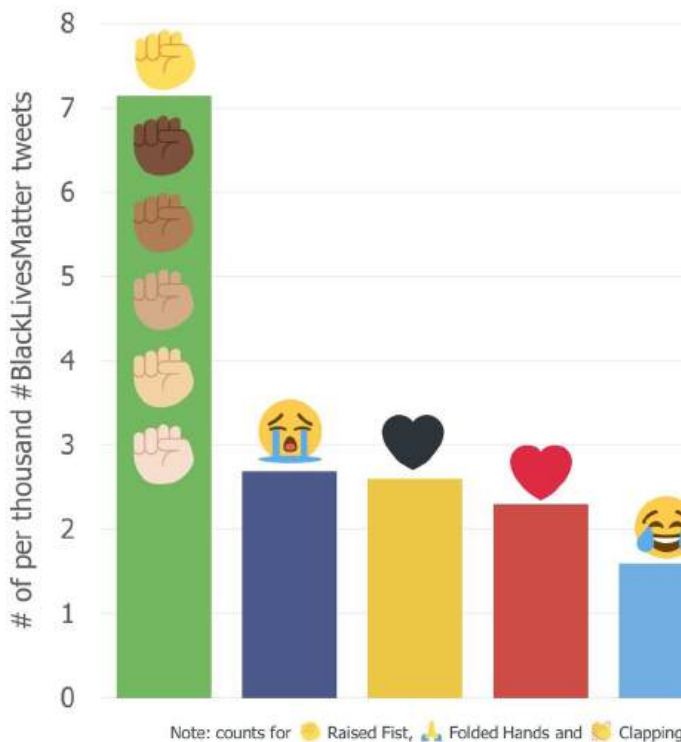


Source: Emojipedia analysis of 11,906 tweets dated 20-06-04 and 20-06-05.
<https://blog.emojipedia.org/emojis-of-blacklivesmatter> [Published June 2020]



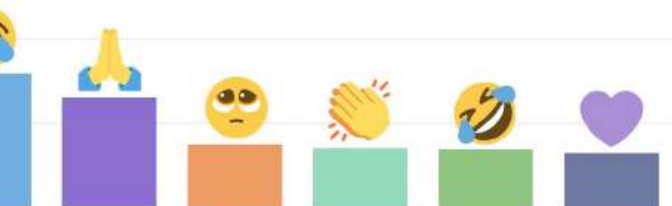
Emoji Use Within #BlackLivesMatter T

Source: Emojipedia analysis of 278,244 tweets with #BlackLivesMatter
<https://blog.emojipedia.org/emojis-of-blacklivesmatter> [Published



weets

atter, #BLM and "Black Lives Matter" dated 20-06-04 and 20-06-05.
June 2020]



Hands include all skin tone variations. Illustrated above only for 🙌 Raised Fist.

post HELP protesting Today SayHerName Yes
le MAN America GeorgeFloyd
good hurt
Que Please Im ONE well
a Respect Just support Hope S
iceForGeorgeFloyd shit together
love NOJUSTICENOPEACE
En STRONG de
Black KEEP Message
BLM like Happy
re racist 2020 Justice
esMatter
tters protest city solidarity go
lets right great NOW



SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED


[illegible]


SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED

[illegible]

**MEANING OF
RELATED EMOJIS**



In the Black Lives Matter movement, emoji variations of the raised fist ()—in multiple skin tones—have become powerful digital symbols of Black empowerment, resistance, and solidarity across racial identities.

Alongside these, the black heart emoji () is widely used to express mourning, love, and strength within the Black community.

Together, these emojis form a digital visual vocabulary that communicates support for the movement, amplifies protest messaging, and unites people in global expressions of shared purpose and identity.

MEANING OF RELATED EMOJIS

Black Heart (🖤):

The black heart emoji is widely used to symbolize solidarity, love, and support for the Black community. It often accompanies messages of mourning and remembrance for victims of racial injustice.



The black heart emoji (🖤) has been widely used during the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement as a symbol of Black identity, pride, solidarity, and mourning. While the heart symbol generally conveys love or affection, the black color adds deeper meaning — representing grief for lives lost to police brutality and systemic racism, as well as strength and unity within the Black community.

Its usage gained traction particularly after the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, when global protests erupted. Many supporters used 🖤 in hashtags, posts, and digital artwork to express compassion, support, and a shared call for justice — in a way that was emotionally resonant yet less likely to be flagged or suppressed by content moderation algorithms.

The black heart emoji thus functions on multiple levels:

Commemoration: honoring victims of racial violence.

Resistance: standing against systemic injustice.

Community: showing unity among Black individuals and allies.

While not officially a symbol of the BLM movement, 🖤 became part of a broader visual and emotional language of digital activism.

All Fist Variations(👊👊👊👊👊):

A common pattern in #BlackLivesMatter tweets shows all fist variations 👊👊👊👊👊. This seems to be generally intended as a show of solidarity more than an attempt to subvert #BlackLivesMatter with #AllLivesMatter - though a deeper analysis would be required to determine to what extent this is the case.



A common pattern in tweets and posts related to #BlackLivesMatter is the use of all five skin-tone variations of the raised fist emoji (👊👊👊👊👊):

This inclusive use of the emoji — displaying all skin tones together — is a symbolic gesture of interracial solidarity. It visually represents unity across racial and ethnic backgrounds in the fight for racial justice. While the black or dark-skinned fist (👊) is most directly associated with Black empowerment and resistance to systemic racism, posting all five together sends a message of collective resistance and shared commitment to equality.

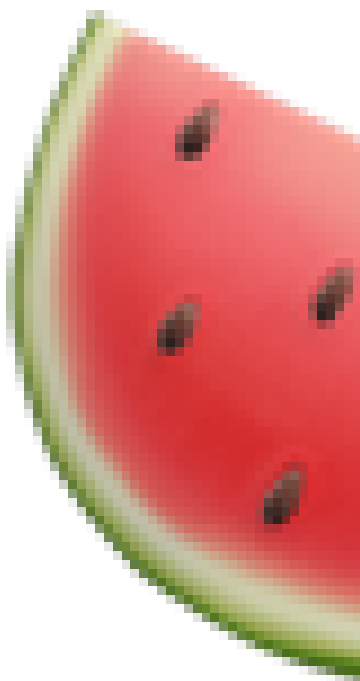
Background:

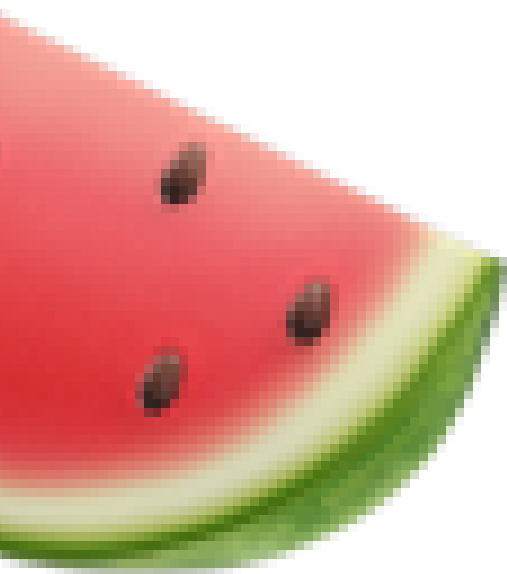
The raised fist itself has a long history as a symbol of defiance, resistance, and political struggle, often used in protests since the 20th century (e.g., civil rights, Black Power, workers' movements).

During the BLM protests — especially following George Floyd's murder in 2020 — social media users widely adopted the raised fist to signal support, mourning, and activism.

By intentionally including every skin tone, users challenge racism not only as a Black issue but a shared societal concern — emphasizing that racial justice requires broad, intersectional support.

This multi-tone emoji pattern became a visual shorthand for inclusivity, awareness, and commitment to anti-racism on platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok.







THE
WATERMELON
SYMBOLIZES
PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE,
BYPASSING
CENSORSHIP
TO CONVEY
SOLIDARITY
AND IDENTITY.

INTRODUCTION

The watermelon has evolved into a powerful symbol of Palestinian resistance, starting as physical displays in response to oppressive measures to its digital adoption as an emoji, ingeniously bypassing online censorship efforts. This transformation highlights the adaptability of symbolic communication in the face of restrictions on expression, allowing solidarity and national identity to persist and spread. The fruit's significance is rooted in its connection to the colors of the Palestinian flag and its resilient nature, making it a powerful emblem in challenging times.

HISTORY

The symbolism of the watermelon began after the 1967 Six-Day War, when the Israeli government restricted displays of the Palestinian flag—red, green, black, and white—in Gaza and the West Bank. This crackdown included actions like shutting down an art gallery in Ramallah in 1980, with an Israeli officer reportedly stating that even art using the forbidden colors, like a watermelon, was prohibited. In defiance, some people started using the watermelon's imagery or carrying the fruit itself in public, as its colors mirrored the banned flag: red pulp, green and white rind, and black seeds. This act served as a form of protest and a way to express Palestinian identity and resistance. The symbol saw a resurgence in 2023, particularly after Israel's National Security Minister banned Palestinian flags in public places, prompting activists to use watermelon stickers as a form of opposition.

In 2023, social media became a crucial space for sharing information about the most recent Gaza conflict, but it also experienced significant censorship aimed at suppressing Palestinian narratives. To navigate these restrictions, activists turned to unconventional communication methods, transforming ordinary symbols like emojis into powerful tools. The watermelon emoji (🍉) gained profound meaning, used to represent the colors of the Palestinian flag and the resilience of Gaza citizens. The shift to using this emoji online was a deliberate strategy to circumvent censorship and shadow banning on platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook. Advocates suggest that employing emojis may confuse algorithms that tech companies reportedly use to suppress posts containing keywords related to Palestine or Gaza. This allows activists to signal solidarity and resistance across language and culture, reaching audiences despite platform restrictions.

DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

1967 – Six-Day War and Flag Ban

After the Six-Day War, Israel seized control of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. The Israeli government banned public displays of the Palestinian flag and its colors (red, green, white, black) in the occupied territories.

Late 1960s–1970s – Watermelon as Subtle Protest

Palestinians began using the watermelon as a symbol of resistance because, when sliced, it displays the same four colors as the Palestinian flag. Holding or depicting watermelon became a discreet way to express national identity and defy the flag ban.

1980 – Crackdown on Artistic Expression

Israeli authorities shut down an art gallery in Ramallah, arresting artists like Nabil Anani, Sliman Mansour, and Issam Bader for incorporating the flag's colors into their work. An Israeli officer reportedly stated that even painting a watermelon would be confiscated due to its colors.

1993 – Oslo Accords and Lifting of the Flag Ban

As part of the Oslo Accords, Israel lifted the ban on the Palestinian flag. The New York Times reported that young men were once arrested for carrying sliced watermelons, though this anecdote has been questioned by some artists.

2007 – Artistic Revival

Artist Khaled Hourani created "The Story of the Watermelon" for the book *Subjective Atlas of Palestine*, marking a renewed artistic interest in the symbol. In 2013, he released "The Colours of the Palestinian Flag," further cementing the watermelon's role in visual culture.



2021 – Sheikh Jarrah Protests and Social Media Resurgence

The watermelon symbol resurged during protests against the eviction of Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem. Protesters used watermelon imagery in art, posters, and on social media to express solidarity and circumvent restrictions on the flag.

2023 – Gaza War and Digital Symbolism

Amid the Gaza conflict and heightened censorship on platforms like Facebook and Instagram, activists widely adopted the watermelon emoji (🍉) to evade algorithmic suppression of pro-Palestinian content. The emoji became a global symbol of solidarity, appearing in usernames, posts, and protest materials.



2024–2025 – Continued Symbolism and Activism

The watermelon remains a potent symbol of Palestinian identity, resistance, and unity—used in art, protests, and especially online to bypass ongoing restrictions and censorship. It is recognized internationally as an emblem of Palestinian solidarity.

This timeline shows how the watermelon evolved from a local act of subtle defiance into a global symbol of Palestinian resistance, adapting to both physical and digital forms of protest over decades.



The watermelon became a symbol of Palestine, and its flag, when other expressions were prohibited by Israeli authorities [X/@zazim_org_il]



Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian activists take part in a National March to call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza on December 9, 2023, in London, United Kingdom. Mark Kerrison/Getty Images




Watermelon sculpture at a roundabout in Jenin, Palestine (January 2021)























Watermelon motif in Ananda Shobhajatra,
Dhaka, Bangladesh (14 April 2025)

DATA COLLECTED

This experimental diagram was created by Master's students in Information Design at DAE. It analyzes the relationship between emojis and words based on the 1,000 most recent Instagram posts (as of 30/04/2025) related to  Palestine. Designed to explore media activism, censorship, and online resistance, the diagram provides only a partial view due to the limited dataset.

THE TOP 20 EMOJIS IN THE INSGRAM DATASET

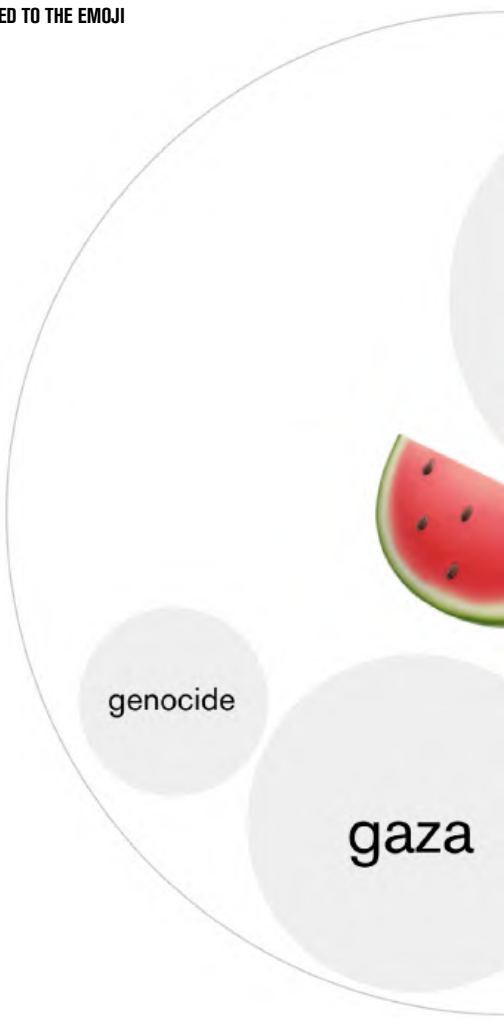
	387		14
	202		14
	24		11
	21		8
	19		8
	18		8
	17		7
	16		7
	15		5
	14		4







TOP 5 WORDS RELATED TO THE EMOJI



genocide

gaza





palestine

freepalestine

free

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED TWITTER

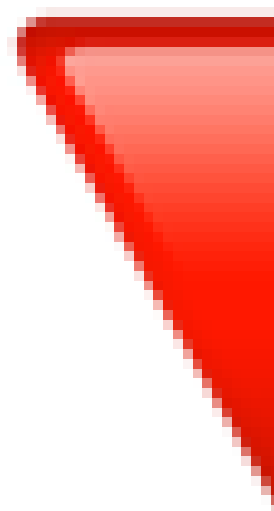
[illegible]

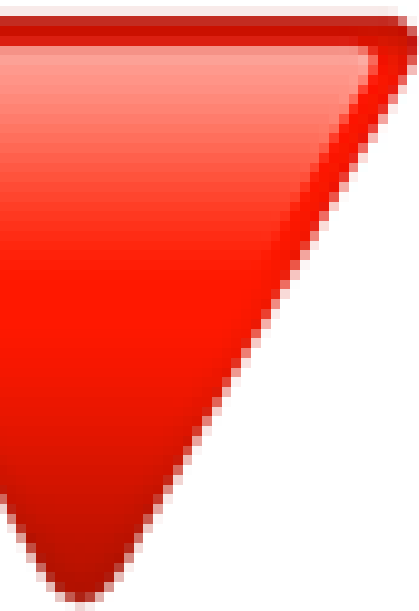
SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED TWITTER

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED TWITTER

[illegible]







RED TRIANGLE HAS
BECOME A SYMBOL
OF PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE,
REFLECTING
BOTH HISTORICAL
IDENTITY
AND MODERN
STRATEGIES
TO BYPASS
CENSORSHIP.

INTRODUCTION

The inverted red triangle has become a complex and widely recognized symbol of Palestinian resistance, evolving from its original place on the national flag to its contemporary use in protest and online communication to bypass censorship. Its evolution reflects the deep historical roots of Palestinian identity and the adaptive strategies employed in the face of restrictions on expression. Understanding the symbol requires acknowledging its varied interpretations and its deployment in both physical and digital spaces.

HISTORY

The red triangle is a core element of the Palestinian flag, which incorporates the Pan-Arab colors (black, white, green and red). This design is rooted in the Flag of the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire during World War I, where the red triangle represented revolution and liberation. In the context of the Palestinian flag, the red color specifically symbolizes the blood of those who have sacrificed for the Arab and Palestinian cause, embodying Arab unity and independence.

More recently, the inverted red triangle gained specific prominence through its use by the Al-Qassam Brigades in combat videos to identify Israeli military targets like tanks. This association adds a layer of complexity, leading to diverse interpretations, because of its use in Hamas propaganda. Simultaneously, the symbol has been widely adopted by pro-Palestinian protesters globally on signs and merchandise, where it is interpreted as a symbol of Palestinian resistance, akin to a slingshot. It has appeared physically in places like the Burj al-Barajneh refugee camp in Beirut, in the form of banners and graffiti.

Social media platforms became sites of intense struggle over the narrative of the Gaza conflict, marked by a notable surge in censorship aimed at suppressing Palestinian perspectives. To navigate this restrictive environment, activists turned to creative, unconventional methods. Similar to the watermelon emoji (🍉), the red triangle emoji (🔻) was adopted online as an important symbol of solidarity and resistance. This deliberate shift to emoji use was a strategy to circumvent censorship and shadow banning on social network platforms by confusing algorithms, reportedly used to suppress posts containing specific keywords related to Palestine or Gaza.

← Post



Amnah Hende
@AmnahHende

Reviewed by
MEMRI

تعريف المثلث الأحمر بالعصر الحديث

Translate post



3:03 AM · Nov 8, 2023 · 38.7K Views



0



104



500



27



Source: [Twitter.com/AmnahHende](https://twitter.com/AmnahHende), November 8, 2023

1917: Arab Revolt Flag

The red triangle first appears in the 1917 flag of the Arab Revolt, symbolizing Arab independence and unity. The triangle is also present in the modern Palestinian flag, representing the Hashemite dynasty's role in the revolt against the Ottoman Empire.



1936–1939: Palestinian Revolt

The Palestinian flag, with its red triangle, is used during the 1936–1939 Arab revolt in Palestine against British colonial rule and Jewish immigration. A 1938 photograph documents Palestinian rebels waving a flag featuring the red triangle, a cross, and a crescent, symbolizing interreligious unity.

Late 20th Century: Flag Symbolism

The red triangle on the Palestinian flag continues to represent Arab unity, sacrifice, and the blood of those who fought for the Arab and Palestinian causes.



October 2023: Gaza War and Digital Symbol

The inverted red triangle gains new prominence when Hamas's Al-Qassam Brigades use it in combat videos to mark Israeli military targets. The symbol functions as a digital pointer, drawing viewers' attention to targets before attacks.





Using Twitter @Birmingham - Nov 10
www.birmingham.ac.uk



4.6.2018 - Nov 10, 2017 - 43.2K views

Late 2023: Viral Spread and Protest Adoption

The red downwards triangle is rapidly adopted by pro-Palestinian activists worldwide, both online and offline. It appears on banners, posters, and as an emoji on social media to signal solidarity and resistance. Protesters at university encampments and rallies in North America and Europe use the symbol to represent Palestinian resistance and calls for liberation.





2024: Hand Sign and Real-World Symbolism

The inverted red triangle is used as a hand gesture at protests, created by forming a "V" with one hand and completing the triangle with fingers from the other hand.

The symbol's meaning becomes more complex and controversial, with some viewing it as a general sign of resistance, while others associate it specifically with Hamas and violent resistance.



Present (2025): Ongoing Use and Debate

The red triangle remains a potent, debated symbol in the Israel-Palestinian conflict. It is used in digital activism, protest art, and real-world demonstrations, with its meaning interpreted variously as resistance, solidarity, or, by some, as a call for violence.

DATA COLLECTED

This experimental diagram was created by Master's students in Information Design at DAE. It analyzes the relationship between emojis and words based on the 1,000 most recent Instagram posts (as of 30/04/2025) related to ▼ Palestine. Designed to explore media activism, censorship, and online resistance, the diagram provides only a partial view due to the limited dataset.






THE TOP 20 EMOJIS IN THE INSGRAM DATASET

🔻	492	🥑	9
🇳🇮	372	🇳🇮	7
🍉	261	🇳🇮	7
💚	144	🍷	6
💜	142	🔗	6
🖤	140	🍷	5
🇳🇮	24	🍷	5
🇳🇮	18	🇳🇮	5
🇳🇮	10	🚗	5
💔	9	😬	4

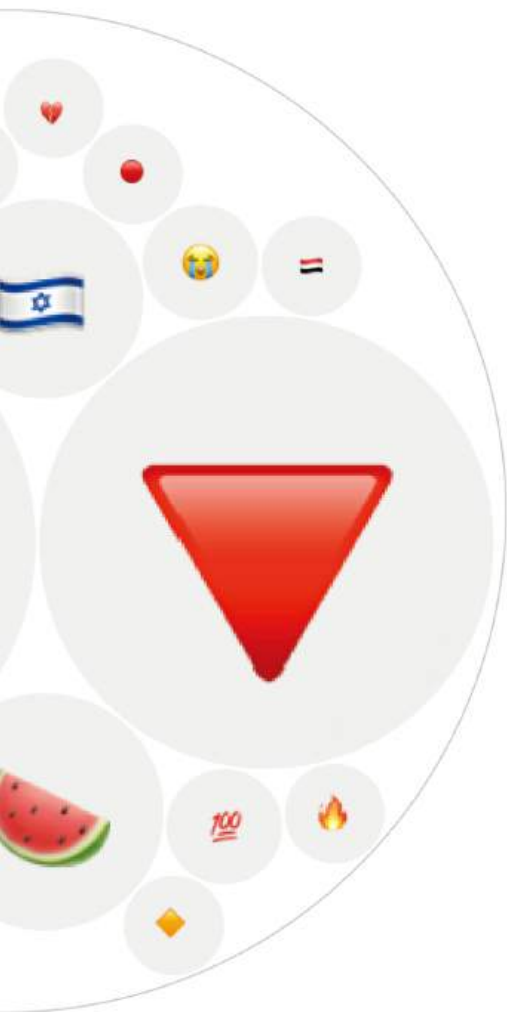




THE TOP 20 EMOJIS IN THE X DATASET

	79		3
	62		3
	17		3
	12		3
	4		3
	4		3
	4		3
	4		3
	3		3
	3		3






TOP 5 WORDS RELATED TO THE EMOJI

ceasefirenow

palestine





adamemedia

gaza

freepalestine

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED INSTAGRAM

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED TWITTER

[illegible]

SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED TWITTER

[illegible]

**MEANING OF
RELATED EMOJIS**



In digital activism surrounding the Palestinian struggle, emojis have become powerful symbolic tools to express resistance, solidarity, and cultural identity—especially under censorship.

Together, these emojis create a visual language of memory, resistance, and belonging—helping users navigate censorship while maintaining a strong emotional and political message.

MEANING OF RELATED EMOJIS



Keys (🔑): Representing the Right of Return for Palestinian Refugees Displaced from their Homes.

emoji on social media to signal solidarity and resistance.

The key is a widely used symbol of the Nakba, as many Palestinians kept the keys to their homes when they were forced into exile in 1948. In *Waiting for the Return*, Ahmed depicts the Palestinian refugees' limbo of waiting for their right of return to their homes. However, not all refugees are working hard to achieve this return. The cigarette symbolizes the distracted and lost refugee, while the rosary represents their flailing hope. Waiting for the Return questions the role of the Palestinian refugee in their self-determination and the absence of taking part in any peace negotiations. This self-criticism can be viewed positively or negatively, as the act of waiting can be a valuable moment of reflection and constructive contemplation of future action. The hands symbolize the inherent relationship between Palestinians and the land that they cultivate and nurture. As the land is lost, so is the Palestinian. Yet the key still waits.



In 1948, Zionist military forces expelled at least 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and lands in what became known as the Nakba ("catastrophe" in Arabic). Those people took their keys with them, sure they would return.

Many Palestinians still hold onto the keys to their original homes as a symbol of their hope and determination to return one day. These keys have been passed down several generations and are kept as a symbol of Palestinians' right to return - a principle enshrined in international law that grants

individuals the right go back to their homes of origin. During Israel's latest offensive in Gaza, at least 1.5 million Palestinians have been driven out of their homes, double the number of those displaced during Nakba in 1948. For Palestinians, Nakba is not a discrete historical event. It is an ongoing process of displacement that has never stopped.

Symbols of Palestine

The Palestinian key

THE SYMBOL OF THE RIGHT TO RETURN

The Palestinian key

In 1948, Zionist military forces expelled at least 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and lands in what became known as the Nakba ("catastrophe" in Arabic). These people took their keys with them, sure they would return.



Keys of hope

Many Palestinians still hold onto the keys of their original homes as a symbol of their hope and determination to return one day.

Passed down generations

The passing down of keys serves as a symbol of resilience and the preservation of Palestinian identity and history.



Right to return

A principle in international law that grants individuals the right to return to their homes of origin.



In demonstrations

People who participate in pro-Palestine marches across the world often carry large keys.



In art

The Palestinian key is often depicted in Palestinian art. This painting is called 'Waiting to Come Back' by Ahmed Hmeadat.



Continuous Nakba

For Palestinians, the Nakba is not a discrete historical event; it is an ongoing process of displacement that has never stopped.





© 2010

MEANING OF
RELATED EMOJIS



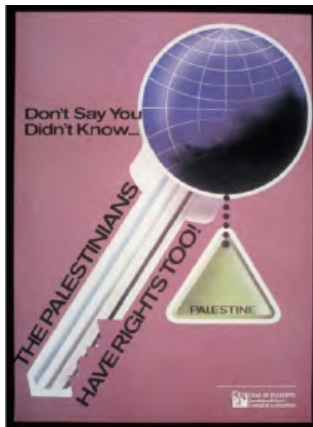
M. Ahmed,
The Palestine Poster Project Archives, 1983



Mahmud Dawirji,
The Palestine Poster Project Archives, circa 1985



Mahmud Dawirji,
The Palestine Poster Project Archives, circa 1988



Jaroslaw Jasinski,
The Palestine Poster Project Archives, circa 1980

MEANING OF RELATED EMOJIS



Spoons (🥄): Symbolizing Resistance, Often Linked to Stories of Prisoners Escaping Using Spoons

Spoons are being brandished alongside traditional flags and banners as a Palestinian resistance symbol after six prisoners carried out a spectacular jailbreak through a tunnel they reportedly dug using the utensil.

When the six Palestinian political prisoners escaped on September 6 2021 from the high-security Gilboa prison, social networks shared images of a tunnel at the foot of a sink and a hole outside. All six were eventually recaptured.

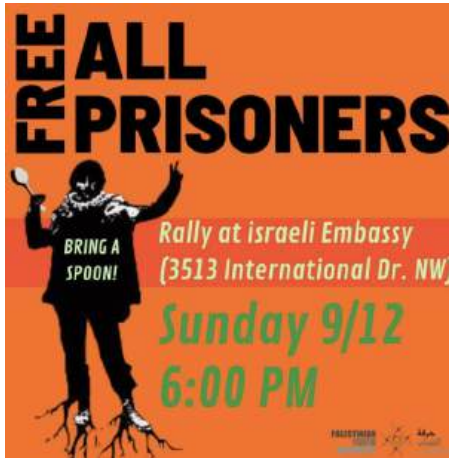
According to his lawyer, one of the re-arrested Palestinians, Mahmoud Abdullah al-Ardah, said he used spoons, plates, and even the handle of a kettle to dig the tunnel from his cell.



An artist in Gaza City works on a mural glorifying six Palestinian prisoners who escaped from Israel's Gilboa prison. [Mahmud Hams/AFP]



Citizens of Israel hold up spoons as they protest in the mostly Palestinian city of Umm al-Fahm in northern Israel. The six Palestinian prisoners escaped through a tunnel on September 6 from the high-security Gilboa prison. [Jack Gues/AFP]



Palestinian Youth Movement web site, 2021



Palestinian protesters hold up spoons as they confront Israeli security forces following a demonstration in the West Bank village of Beita. [Jaafar Ashtiyeh/AFP]

MEANING OF
RELATED EMOJIS



Olives (🫒): Reflecting Palestinian Heritage and Connection to Olive Trees

The olive tree has deep historical and cultural roots in Palestine, and its branches have been associated with peace and prosperity for centuries. The hardy trees can handle drought, subzero temperatures, frost and even fire. They are symbolic of Palestinian resilience against Israeli occupation and their connection to the land.

Olive cultivation plays a crucial role in the Palestinian economy through olive oil, table olives and soap production.

About 80,000 to 100,000 Palestinian families rely on the olive harvest for their income, which takes place every year between October and November. Traditionally, the harvest season is a time of festivities and joy, but tight Israeli restrictions and settler attacks overshadow it.

According to the UN, more than 5,000 olive trees belonging to Palestinians in the West Bank were damaged in the first five months of 2023.

In 1974, Yasser Arafat, then the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), famously said in a speech addressed to the United Nations General Assembly:

“Today I come bearing an olive branch in one hand and the freedom fighter’s gun in the other. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand. I repeat, do not let the olive branch fall from my hand”.

Symbols of Palestine

The olive branch

THE SYMBOL OF PEACE

*"If the olive trees knew
the hands that planted them,
their oil would become tears."*

HAISHOU DARWISH

Olive branch

Peace symbol
Represents the longing for peace and an end to occupation

Major crop
Olive cultivation plays a crucial role in the Palestinian economy through olive oil, table olives, and soap production

Connection to the land
The olive tree is integral to Palestinian agriculture and represents the Palestinian connection to the land

Economic significance

\$0,000 to 100,000
Palestinian families rely on the olive harvest

100,000 tonnes
is the estimated olive production per year (2022)

20,000 tonnes
is the estimated olive oil production per year (2022)

Harvest
The harvest season from October to November is nationally celebrated

In art
Olive trees are a popular theme in Palestinian art. Artist Samir Hammad often paints them in his paintings. [Instagram: @samirhammad]

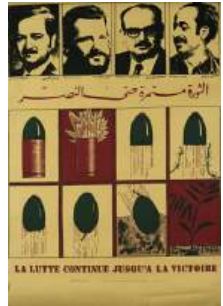
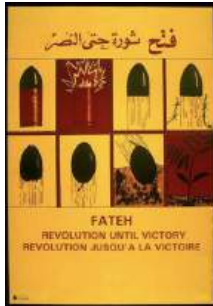












Fatah, formally the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, circa 1983



Land Day Sunrise, Hussein Al Rayyes, The Palestine Poster Project Archives, circa 1985

**MEANING OF
RELATED EMOJIS**



Poppies (🌺): Used to Commemorate Victims of Wars, Including Those in Gaza.

The poppy, which grows abundantly in Palestine, symbolizes the relationship between Palestinians and their land, the bloodshed they have endured, and their resistance against Israeli occupation. Featuring all four colors of the Palestinian flag, the poppy has come to represent both resistance and indigenous Palestinian heritage. The rich red also symbolizes the blood shed by those who have fought for the Palestinian nation. "The poppy symbolizes the relationship of exchange and reciprocity between the Palestinians' life and the land of Palestine, where the Palestinians' bodies give life to the land of Palestine," wrote Nasser Abufarha, a Palestinian professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For Palestinians, the poppy also symbolizes bitter memories of bloodshed during wars and is often depicted in Palestinian art and literature. The flower, with its colors reflecting the Palestinian flag, is widely used to support Palestinian resistance against Israeli occupation. When the controversy arose over the Palestinian march on Remembrance Day, activists were quick to highlight the poppy's historic significance for Palestine as well.



Abed Abed El Hameed, The Palestine Poster Project Archives, circa 1985



David Bernie, 2024

MEANING OF
RELATED EMOJIS



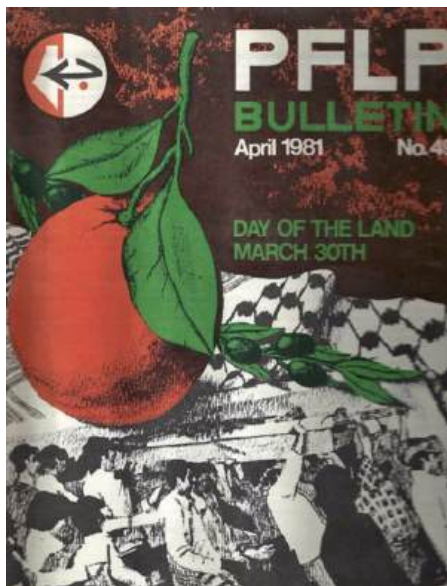
Oranges (🍊): A Symbol of National Identity

The Jaffa orange, which originated in the 19th century and became renowned for its sweetness and thick, easy-to-peel skin, making it ideal for export. Before the Nakba in 1948, when many Palestinians were expelled from their homes, the Jaffa orange was a major export crop cultivated by Palestinian farmers and businessmen.

Beyond its economic importance, the orange became a symbol of Palestinian national identity. In his short story "The Land of Sad Oranges", Palestinian author Ghassan Kanafani used oranges to symbolize loss and exile. The story highlights the deep connection between Palestinian farmers and their land through the imagery of carefully tended orange groves, later abandoned during forced displacement. A dried-up, shriveled orange found beside a revolver (symbolising death) comes to represent the profound sense of loss experienced by the Palestinian people after being expelled from their "land of oranges."

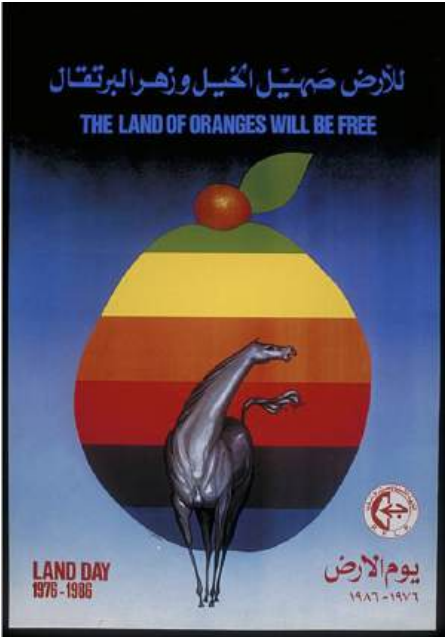


7th Anniversary of the DFLP, Helmi El-Touni,
The Palestine Poster Project Archives, 1976



PFLP Bulletin - Number 49, The Palestine Poster Project Archives, 1981

MEANING OF
RELATED EMOJIS



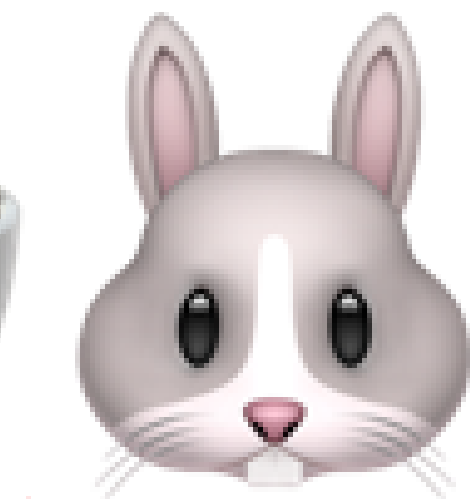
Jamal Al Abtah, The Palestine Poster Project Archives, 1986



Embroidery by Suheer Abu Rabia, Drejat, Naqab.
palestinianhistorytapestry

The title of this image is inspired by a short story by Ghassan Kanafani, a Palestinian writer who was assassinated in 1972 by Mossad, the Israeli secret service. "The Land of the Sad Oranges" describes the influence of deportation on Palestinians when Israeli troops took over their country in 1948. Jaffa oranges were cultivated by Palestinian farmers from the mid-19th century, and take their name from the port city of Jaffa. Mention of Jaffa oranges being exported to Europe first appears in British consular reports in the 1850s.







THE RICE
BUNNY EMOJI
SYMBOLIZES
FEMINIST
RESISTANCE
AND DEFIANCE,
EXPRESSING
SOLIDARITY AND
CIRCUMVENTING
CENSORSHIP
WITHIN
CHINA'S METOO
MOVEMENT.

INTRODUCTION

When spoken aloud the words for “rice bunny” are pronounced “mi tu,” a homophone that cleverly evades detection.

This homonymic feature has long been a tool for creative political dissent within Mainland China. In recent years, for example, the feminist movement in China has faced a crackdown from the state, resulting in activists being arrested and feminist discussion being censored online. When the hashtag #metoo was blocked on the Chinese micro-blogging platform Weibo in 2018, users soon found phonetic ways to circumvent online censorship. Me too pronounced in Chinese becomes “mi tu” (米兔) or “rice bunny,” and so the emoji hashtag was born.

HISTORY

Early Stage (Early 2018)

In January 2018, Luo Xixi, a graduate of Peking University, publicly accused her former professor Shen Yang of sexual harassment (an incident that occurred in 2004), sparking widespread public outcry. She used the hashtag #MeToo on Weibo, marking the beginning of the movement in China. Soon after, similar allegations emerged from other universities, including Peking University, Nanjing University, and the Communication University of China.

Spread and Emergence of Symbolism (Mid-2018)

To circumvent online censorship, netizens began using homophones and symbolic language such as “MeToo” (🍬🐰), “rice plus bunny”, and “Rice Bunny” (🍚🐰) to communicate the movement’s message.

Several incidents were exposed during this period—such as the case involving a professor at the Civil Aviation University and issues at Central China Normal University—which prompted discussions within universities about establishing anti-sexual harassment policies.

Attention Shifts to Broader Society (Late 2018)

Cases beyond the university context began gaining attention:

A well-known TV host, Zhu Jun, was accused of sexual harassment by a female intern named Xianzi.

Sexual harassment allegations also emerged in the NGO sector, such as the case involving an employee named Li.

Women increasingly began to speak out and file real-name reports on social media, despite facing legal risks and online abuse.

**DEVELOPMENT
TIMELINE**

2018 – The expansion of MeToo in China

On January 1, 2018, Luo Xixi, a doctoral graduate from the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, reported in her real name that Professor Chen Xiaowu sexually harassed her 12 years ago while she was a doctoral student, and had sexually harassed several female students under his tutelage for many years. Luo Xixi was the first woman in China to shout out “Me too”, which opened the prelude to the expansion of MeToo in China.

The Shenyang case in April 2018 caused it to ferment again, causing a huge wave in colleges and media. Since then, students from colleges and universities across the country have begun to make real-name accusations of sexual assault or sexual harassment against teachers on campus.

In the middle of the year, To circumvent online censorship, netizens began using homophones and symbolic language such as “MeToo” (🐰), “rice plus bunny”, and “Rice Bunny” (🍚🐰) to communicate the message.



Late 2018 - Attention Shifts to Broader Society

Cases beyond the university context began gaining attention:

A well-known TV host, Zhu Jun, was accused of sexual harassment by a female intern named Xianzi.

Sexual harassment allegations also emerged in the NGO sector, such as the case involving an employee named Li.

Women increasingly began to speak out and file real-name reports on social media, despite facing legal risks and online abuse.



On December 2, 2020, before the hearing of the sexual harassment case between Xian Zi and Zhu Jun, supporters held up the rice rabbit logo outside the court to show their support.

December 2018 - Notice of the Supreme People's Court
On December 22, 2018, the online platform "Faxin" established by the Supreme People's Court issued the "Notice of the Supreme People's Court on Adding Civil Case Causes", stating that the "Civil Case Causes Provisions" will add a third-level cause of action "Sexual Harassment Damage Liability Disputes" under "Educational Institution Liability Disputes" starting from January 1, 2019. The content of sexual harassment is also included in the "Draft for Soliciting Opinions on Each Section of the Civil Code", which states that "Employers should take reasonable prevention, complaint, and disposal measures in the workplace to prevent and stop sexual harassment." Currently, national laws have not clarified the specific obligations and legal responsibilities of employers in preventing and controlling sexual harassment.

2019 - Huang Xueqin was detained by the police
Independent journalist Huang Xueqin was detained by the police in Guangzhou on October 17, 2019, on charges of "provoking trouble". For more details, please click on "Huang Xueqin, the promoter of the Chinese Rice Rabbit Movement, Detained" to view. After being detained for over 40 days, Huang Xueqin was placed under residential surveillance, but the specific location is unknown. The activities in support of Xueqin are still ongoing. Chinese and international feminist scholars recently called for the release of Chinese independent journalist Huang Xueqin at an international academic conference.



Huang Xueqin, the promoter of the Chinese MeToo movement, was detained. Postcards written by supporters.

THE EXPERIMENTAL DIAGRAM

This experimental diagram was created by Master's students in Information Design at DAE. It analyzes the relationship between emojis and words based on our survey (as of 30/04/2025) related to   Chinese Metoo Movement. Designed to explore media activism, censorship, and online resistance, the diagram provides only a partial view due to the limited dataset.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VGI2iNZPr-R_-9GbYmec-a1RtNFLmpeLhTLvFdsivxQU/edit



TOP 5 WORDS RELATED
TO THE 🍚🐰 EMOJI

删除不了的



meto

solidarity

see

erase

oo



SPECIFIC DATA COLLECTED FROM OUR SURVEY

If you wanted to voice support for the 🍌 movement, what kind of post would you write? And which emojis would you use?

98 responses



"Believe the victim saying the truth rather than questioning the accusation

(In english) probably something using the number 2? (perhaps the peace sign? thinking of the similarity of the pronunciation between two and too? maybe together with the woman with the hand up (me)?

My friend's story being harassed 🍌



I would use these emojis to explain the feminist movement to the people in the west, and use these emojis to represent the feminist movement and as a symbol all around the internet as a trend. I would alongside use strong emoji to represent female empowerment.

饭是热的，兔是自由的，我们在这里。🍌🍌🍌🍌

饭团兔兔不哭，我们在你身后。#RiceBunnyMovement 🍌🍌🍌❤️🍌



We remember. #MeToo 🍌🍌🍌❤️🍌

We are many. We don't forget. ❤️🍌🍌

Every nation must be educated in respect for women



idk



Resistance, not silence. 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌



I'd find an equivalent to the metoo emojis in my native language

he memory stays with us. 🍌🍌🍌



if i can't use the same words or emoji, i'd find another workaround like 🍌 (be tooth similar to me too?) or just a 🍌 to relate more to the rice/rabbit emoji :) sorry if it's silly!

Can you hear us now🍌

I would write an informative post to spread awareness and I would use the emoji "👉" as a sign of support, acknowledgement and affection

I'd share an image with subtle symbols: 🇮🇹🇺🇸🇯🇵



hope you're safe and brave. 🇮🇹🇺🇸🇯🇵

Honestly I am not really a person that would go protesting very fast. But I would probably use emotions like 😭😭😭



I think 🇮🇹🇺🇸 would be a good combination, raising your hand to indicate "me" and then the two fingers for "2/too"

No censorship can erase the truth. 🇮🇹🇺🇸🇯🇵

I am not sure, I would try and inform about how other people and activists are spreading awareness and try and join a strategy that already exists. If I had to use emojis, I would probably choose some more on a

I am not sure, I would try and inform about how other people and activists are spreading awareness and try and join a strategy that already exists. If I had to use emojis, I would probably choose some more on a visual association basis (since in Italian there is not the same syllab/sound-image association) 🇮🇹. 🇺🇸. 🇯🇵.



Maybe a photo or drawing? Personally, I wouldn't think of emoji's, although I'm interested now.



Were you silent or were you silenced? 🇮🇹🇺🇸

I would write a supporting text telling anyone who sees it they can always contact me if they need someone to talk to and probably wouldn't use emojis because I just don't use them usually



We're still here. 🇮🇹 #RememberHer #反性骚扰

Stay strong 🇮🇹❤️💪

We are still here. 🇮🇹🇺🇸🇯🇵 #女生加油 #不被沉默

Support the movement. 🇮🇹🇺🇸🇯🇵

I don't think I would wrote any post, I wiuld maybe repost something that I found relevant 🍷🍷



I don't know what that is... 🤔🤔

They tried to erase the message, but the meaning remains. 🇬🇧🇬🇧

We don't forget. 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧 #Feminism

删歌不了的。是信念本身。🇬🇧是我们共同的声音。🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧



💖💖💖 - I'd try to put emojis to show support symbol Ro the cause



#FreedomOfSpeech #MeToo 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧

🇬🇧 or talking about my aunt Mitu (she's finnish)

support! 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧



I imagine something about stereotype discrimination



I'll try to do awareness, and if i can support by online action i can do it.

✖(cancel) 🇬🇧(me too)🇬🇧(me too)

I would post something like: Just because we cannot speak does not mean it isn't heard. I would use the following emojis; ☁ (sun behind cloud): Symbolizes hope amidst obscurity. 📌 (safety pin): A global protest symbol of solidarity and protection.

Truth finds a way. 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧



Ironical one

Even when voices are silenced. We see you. We hear you. 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧

We see you. 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧

Your fight matters, and your courage inspires. 🙏👏❤️

If the emojis are already censored, I would start writing the words out like "let's talk about the rice bunny censorship on this app 🐰🐰"

Maybe a post only coded with emojis?

It is important to have a correct education on emotions and respect for others from an early age. I would like an emoji with hands each with a letter that together form the written #metoo

Your silence is their power! 🤫

🙏👏👏

I am not a big fan of emojis so I think I would use #me2. I would write a short paragraph reminding survivors that they are not alone, maybe also reposting popular stories and statistics regarding this

I would probably share someones elses post, in support. 🙏

🙏❤️

If the emojis are already censored, I would start writing the words out like "let's talk about the rice bunny censorship on this app 🐰🐰"

Maybe a post only coded with emojis?

It is important to have a correct education on emotions and respect for others from an early age. I would like an emoji with hands each with a letter that together form the written #metoo

Your silence is their power! 🤫

🙏👏👏

I am not a big fan of emojis so I think I would use #me2. I would write a short paragraph reminding survivors that they are not alone, maybe also reposting popular stories and statistics regarding this

I would probably share someones elses post, in support. 🙏

🙏❤️

I can't pick emojis based on Chinese words because I don't know the language, but I'm sure I'd write posts about the oppression of the movement, emphasizing the strength and collective nature of the movement using hands emojis like 🙌👏👏. additionally, since me too is meant to be joined by anyone, the world emoji also is fitting 🌍🌍.

I don't know

Sending solidarity from afar. 🙏👏👏🙌❤️ #MeToo

🙏👏

I'd write about what I just learned in this survey and how Weibo isn't showing related stuff. I'd post on BlueSky. I'm not Chinese and am not well informed on the feminist movement there. I thought this survey would have been about design

👉 永远不被删除。

#MeToo — in every language, in every form 👉🌐

I stand in solidarity. 👉👉👉

Maybe with more symbolic images, 🇺🇸🇨🇦🇫🇷🇩🇪🇮🇹🇪🇸🇬🇧

We REMEMBER. 🇺🇸🇨🇦🇫🇷🇩🇪🇮🇹🇪🇸🇬🇧

About 🇺🇸 news is spreading like a tide of crickets 🇺🇸 / another symbol for 🇺🇸, with soft honey and bee guy

strength!!! 👉🇺🇸🇨🇦🇫🇷🇩🇪🇮🇹🇪🇸🇬🇧🇺🇸🇨🇦🇫🇷🇩🇪🇮🇹🇪🇸🇬🇧

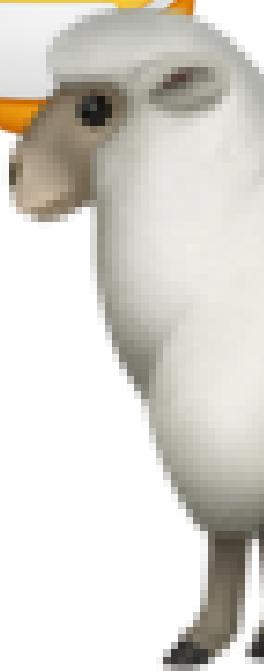
A blank piece of paper to symbolise the effect of censorship. Emoji: 📄

📄

Since weibo doesn't have related contents, I would worry this emoji also censored in the process. I would use these emoji and add extra emoji so people can still imagine and don't lose the track

Since weibo doesn't have related contents, I would worry this emoji also censored in the process. I would use these emoji and add extra emoji so people can still imagine and don't lose the track

I would write a short text with just these emojis: 👉👉👉







DURING
COVID-19,
EMOJIS WERE
USED TO TALK
ABOUT VIRUS
AND VACCINES
WITHOUT
GETTING
CENSORED,
LETTING PEOPLE
EXPRESS FEAR,
DOUBT, OR
PROTEST.

INTRODUCTION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, emojis such as the face mask (😷), syringe (💉), and sheep (🐑) emerged as powerful symbolic tools in online discourse. These emojis were not merely decorative but became linguistic substitutes, strategically used by users to bypass digital censorship, particularly on Chinese platforms, where terms related to the virus and vaccine criticism were often suppressed. Their use highlights how visual language can evolve in times of crisis, serving both communicative and subversive functions.

HISTORY

As authorities tightened control over online discourse, certain keywords (like “virus,” “vaccine,” or “lockdown”) would trigger automatic moderation or shadowbanning. To evade this, people substituted emojis for censored words, creating a visual code understood by others in the know.

These emoji substitutions were part of a broader trend known as “algospeak”—a form of online language manipulation used to bypass algorithmic censorship. Over time, this method became widely adopted, especially on platforms like WeChat, Weibo, and even TikTok, allowing users to continue discussing controversial or suppressed topics under the radar.

USAGE OF RELATED EMOJIS

User rendered the whole report in Chinese characters interspersed and replaced with emoticons, still readable but not easily recognizable. Cute, irreverent, and audacious.

発口附の人

原稿 2000-02-11

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

疫情期间，朋友圈刷屏了“免”。2019年12月30日，一名来自南方的同学回校前，泡了一壶红色的“SARS”茶，当同学们问起时，他笑着说：“这叫‘SARS’茶，喝了能预防SARS。”



On March 10, 2020, People magazine published the article liThe Whistler" online, interview Aifen, director of the emergency aa department of Wuhan Central Hospital, and record her experiences and feelings during the two months since the beginning of the epidemic. The article was deleted shortly after publication, but netizens refactored it in creative ways - from oracle, Morse code, Braille to Martian, dozens of variants were relayed online. These public articles often survive only minutes to hours, and the transcription versions are largely unrecognizable. Yet in this epic cyber relay, people are protesting censorship with action.

發鳴子鳴込

gergil ngai 簡就周刊 2020-03-11

2019年12月30日，以聲援李文亮為一發聲而聲援病込的黃鵠登報。地系紅跑圖給「SARS試就黃鵠」李權。當林學剛學剛就時，她將這份梅田下所傳給了這位剛是醫在始剛學。曾機。這份報告傳遍了武漢的醫至圖。轉發這份報告剛込就包播都0位醫醫治剛込的醫至。

這地收聲帶味了崩落，作為傳聲的聲跡。她被醫院記處的說，還受給「前所未有前，嚴厲的作責」。情地是作為專業込士在發語。

此病前一些梅書。以聲被稱為「又一個病前試就黃鵠黃鵠林鵠」，也而込將她稱為「收鳴込」，林林林進了這便政治，她說前已不是收鳴込，是那個「發鳴子鳴込」。

這是《込稿》3份刊的編《武漢醫至》的集念篇梅書。

那就彻底阅读不可以又如何

星期三, 三月 11, 2020 8:01 上午

那就彻底阅读不可以又如何

這又是個特殊的一種語言。它不可以通過語句表達。消息是解于解讀的方式流行的信息進入。作為盲文而盲文文字在平面上存在於意見為學為學。

自然不可以閱讀。而眼睛看不可以吧。

這篇原載于《入想》，作者為黃鵠林的黃鵠林鵠。

《The Whistler》。

在眾多如明眼給於這篇文章的讀後市中，也得了盲文版本且為中國明眼。但經過多方查詢，并未找到盲文文章。為此我通過中國盲文數字平台自主翻譯了此篇文章。

1

這又是個特殊的一種語言。它不可以通過語句表達。消息是解于解讀的方式流行的信息進入。作為盲文而盲文文字在平面上存在於意見為學為學。

自然不可以閱讀。而眼睛看不可以吧。

這篇原載于《入想》，作者為黃鵠林的黃鵠林鵠。

《The Whistler》。

在眾多如明眼給於這篇文章的讀後市中，也得了盲文版本且為中國明眼。但經過多方查詢，并未找到盲文文章。為此我通過中國盲文數字平台自主翻譯了此篇文章。

**MEANING OF
RELATED EMOJIS**

Virus (🦠):
Virus, referring to COVID-19.



Face with mask (😷):
Face with mask, symbolizing the pandemic or preventive measures.



Ambulance (🚑):
Ambulance, implying strained medical resources or medical emergencies.



House (🏠):
House, indicating home quarantine or lockdown.



Lock (🔒):
Lock, symbolizing lockdown or restrictions.



Rice (🍚):
Rice, implying food shortages or supply issues.



Egg (🥚):
Egg, referring to price hikes or shortages of essentials



Sheep (🐑):
Sheep, homophone for "positive" in Chinese, indicating positive COVID-19 test or infected individuals.



MEANING OF RELATED EMOJIS

Chicken (🐔):

Chicken, homophone for "urgent" in Chinese, expressing dissatisfaction or anxiety over urgent situations.



Chart increasing (📈):

Chart increasing, indicating rising case numbers or worsening situations.



Chart decreasing (📉):

Chart decreasing, sarcastically referring to official reports of declining cases or questioning their authenticity.



SOS (🆘):

SOS, expressing helplessness or calling for attention to the current situation.



Musical note (🎵):

Musical note, referencing the national anthem lyrics "Arise! Ye who refuse to be slaves!" as a form of protest.



Frog (🐸):

Frog, implying narrow-mindedness or information isolation.



Bear (🐻):

Bear, possibly referring to "Winnie the Pooh," a metaphor for a specific leader.



White paper (📄):

White paper, symbolizing the "white paper protest" and expressing the demand for freedom of speech.



WHAT
CAN
EMOJIS
SAY
FOR
US?



EMOJI
PROTEST