

# We Belong to Them

Nikita Gill poem, based on a James Baldwin quote.  
Sung by protesters against ICE in Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 2026.

Annie Schlaefer

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "e - v'ry-one, oh, e - v'ry-one, oh, e - v'ry-one of these peo-ple are ours, just as". The second staff starts at measure 5 and features a long, sweeping melisma over the words "theirs." and "we be -". The third staff starts at measure 9 and continues the melody with lyrics: "long to them they be - long to us." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## Every bombed village is my hometown

by Nikita Gill

*"Every bombed village is my hometown" - James Baldwin*

And every dead child is my child.  
Every grieving mother is my mother.  
Every crying father is my father.  
Every home turned to rubble  
is the home I grew up in.  
Every brother carrying the remains  
of his brother across borders  
is my brother.  
Every sister waiting for a sister  
who will never come home  
is my sister.

Every one of these people are ours,  
Just like we are theirs.  
We belong to them  
and they belong to us.