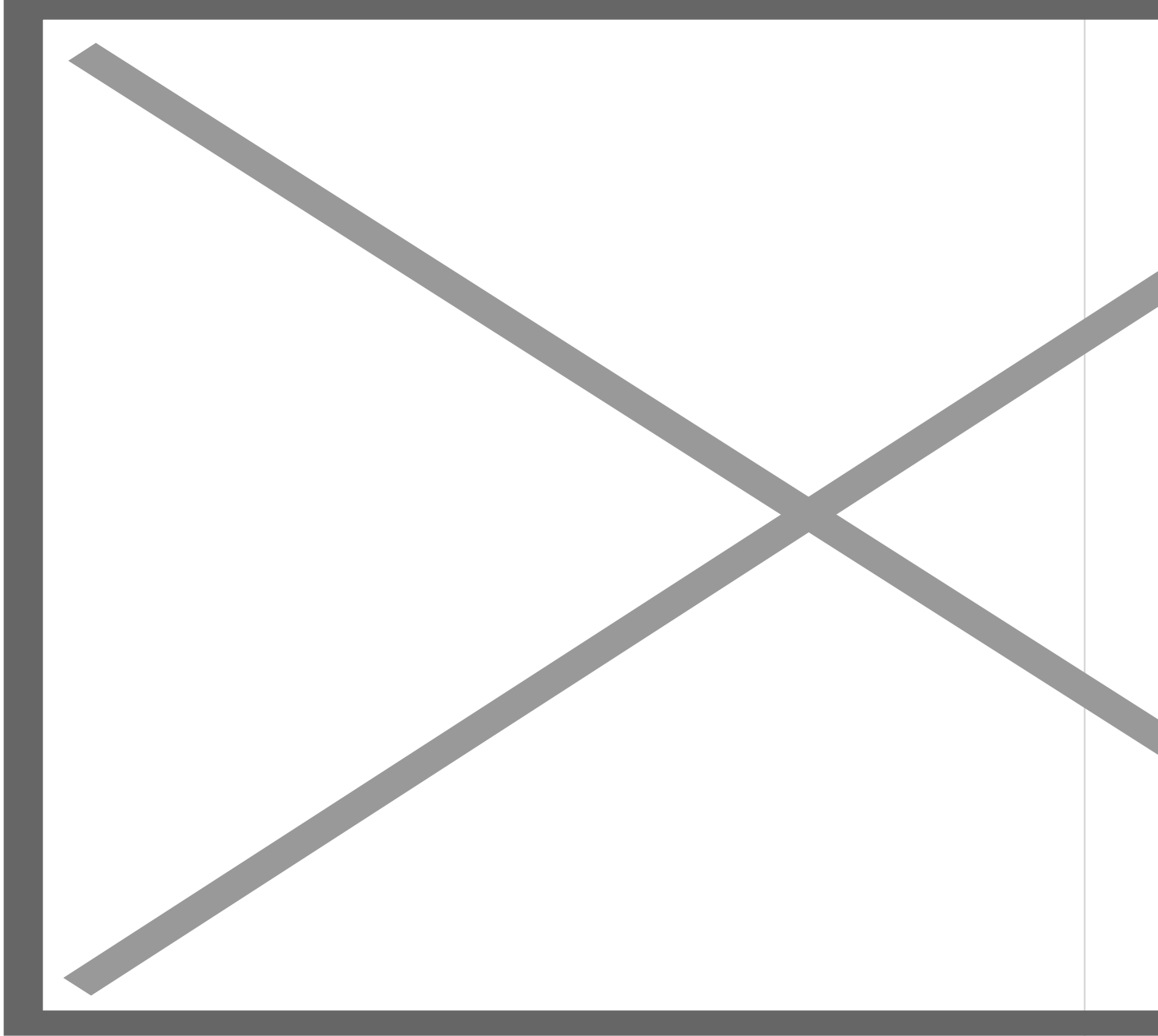


*Berlin demonstrators skip New Year's celebrations in solidarity with Gaza*

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**Demonstrators display a banner reading "Freedom for Palestine" during a pro-Palestinian protest in Berlin (File Photo / AFP)**

Berlin, January 1 (RHC)-- Thousands of pro-Palestine activists gathered in Berlin on Sunday for a solidarity rally in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip ahead of the New Year's Eve. The demonstrators held a symbolic protest choosing not to celebrate the New Year as a sign of solidarity with the people in Gaza.

One protester emphasized the humanitarian aspect of the Gaza war, stating, "We are here because we have compassion.... We don't celebrate the New Year's Eve and we won't tolerate others celebrating the

New Year's Eve either."

The protest's motto was "No New Year's Eve for Gaza," reflecting the participants' commitment to expressing solidarity with Palestinians. The demonstrators chanted and holding placards reading in German, "Israel bombarding, Germany financing."

The demonstration unfolded peacefully accompanied by a significant police presence. Berlin police had previously banned another pro-Palestinian demonstration in the Neukolln neighborhood due to security concerns.

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