

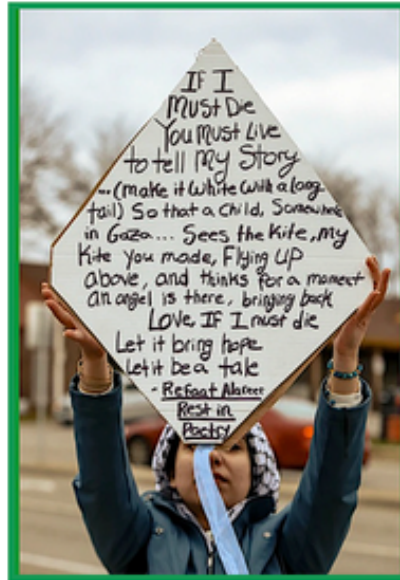
SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION FOR PALESTINE

STUDENTS • FACULTY • STAFF • ALUMNI

KITE

FROM KIMBALL

A newsletter from the
**SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION
FOR PALESTINE • VOLUME 4
FALL SEMESTER 2025**



VOL. 4 NO. 8 : MONDAY OCTOBER 20, 2025

*Welcome to the
fall semester's weekly newsletter
KITE, from the Sarah Lawrence Coalition for Palestine.*

KITE is open to contributions from within and beyond our Sarah Lawrence community. If you or someone you know would like to contribute—an event announcement, an event report, an opinion piece, a response to something we've published, a brief quote from what you read last week, a poem—please send to NEW EMAIL ADDRESS : sl.fs.jpalestine@proton.me.

Copy deadline is Sundays at noon. Thank you.

From a faculty member

I came across this Substack post by [Alexander Chee](#), about how it's possible to write in a time like this—and this quote stood out:

"So maybe one answer to how to write now is to teach yourself what you might need to be relentless. To ask yourself how do I tell the truth while I'm alive, and how do I keep telling the truth after I die? How do I keep showing up for what I believe in in ways that cannot be stopped? How can I keep making people feel possible?"

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Since our last newsletter:

- *Monday October 13* Trump receives standing ovation in Israeli Knesset as Hamas releases last 20 living Israeli hostages and Israel releases almost 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. [NPR](#) Among Palestinian prisoners not released was Marwan Barghouti, detained since the spring of 2002: "Some Palestinians view him as their own Nelson Mandela, the South African anti-apartheid activist who became his country's first Black president." [AP](#) Barghouti was beaten unconscious by Israeli soldiers while being transferred between prisons last September. His family fears for [his life](#). [AlJazeera](#) Also not released: 17 other doctors imprisoned without charge. [PHRIIsrael](#) 154 of the Palestinian prisoners released were forced into exile. [AlJazeera](#)

Hamas publicly executes 8 collaborators with Israel. [Mouin Rabbani](#) Knesset member [Tally Gotliv](#) last July: "Without hunger and thirst among the Gaza population, we will not be able to recruit collaborators, we will not be able to recruit intelligence, we will not be able to bribe people with food, with drink, with medicine."

“Trump Offers All Colleges Preferential Funding Plan Rejected by MIT” [Bloomberg](#)

- **Tuesday October 14** Israeli forces break ceasefire and kill 6 people in Shuja'iyya. [WAFA](#)

Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich: “There will be Jewish settlements in Gaza.” [TimesOfIsrael](#)

Palestinian novelist [Bassem Khandaqji](#), released after 21 years in Israeli prisons: “Peace be upon Gaza, on the day it fights, endures, and resists this colonialism.” [DropSite](#)

- **Wednesday October 15** Palestinian bodies returned by Israel show signs of torture and execution: “Almost all had been blindfolded and had gunshot wounds between the eyes.” [Guardian](#) “What’s extraordinary about this story is the Israelis didn't even bother to remove evidence of execution—bound hands, blindfolds—before handing the bodies back. Impunity.” [Richard Sanders](#)

UN Human Rights Office says Israeli forces ‘continue to kill civilians’ in Gaza. [AlJazeera](#)

CNN and *Washington Post* help construct pretexts for Israel to resume full-scale operations in Gaza. [Jordan Uhl](#) [Abubaker Abed](#)

“As famine swept Gaza, Google allowed Israel to run YouTube ads claiming ‘There is food in Gaza.’” [WashingtonPost](#)

“The British spy plane that has been gathering intelligence over **Gaza** for the Israeli military for 22 months has not turned on its transponder since ceasefire took effect. It needs to be impounded by the ICC before it flies back to the US. Then UK ministers need to be arrested.” [Matt Kennard](#)

Brown president declines “compact” : “Brown, meanwhile, had previously [struck a deal](#) with the federal government to restore millions of dollars in research funding paused in the spring and resolve several inquiries into its compliance with civil-rights law. That [agreement](#), announced in July, required the university to commit \$50 million over 10 years to work-force development in Rhode Island.” [Chronicle](#)

- **Thursday October 16** "Israel returned 45 more bodies to Gaza today... [some] were blindfolded and handcuffed, others bore marks suggesting they'd been run over by tanks." [Channel4News](#)

"There are still over 9,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons, including 52 women, 400 children and more than 3,500 so-called 'administrative detainees,' held without even the pretense of a charge or trial." [Ali Abunimah](#)

Israeli forces raid Kafr Qaddum, east of Qalqilya. [Inés El-Hajj](#)

USC and Penn reject "compact." [Chronicle](#) "Our Politics Differ, But We Agree: Trump's 'Compact' Violates Academic Freedom" [Chronicle](#)

Ohio University professor Thomas Hayes removed from his course following his kidnapping and subsequent release from Israeli prison. [PostAthens](#)

M Gessen: "This is the first in a series of columns on new and emerging attempts to deliver on the promise of international justice...Albanese, for one, thinks that we are witnessing not the death of international justice, but a new beginning." [NYT](#)

Yahya [Sinwar](#) killed in Rafah a year ago today. "Here are some of the statements he made that continue to resonate in the minds of Palestinians." [QudsNews](#)

- **Friday October 17** British government loses appeal and fails to stop the legal challenge of the Palestine Action ban. The Judicial Review will go ahead on November 25-27th. [Huda Ammori](#)

"The Last Columbia Protester in ICE Detention" [NewYorker](#)

Israeli National Security Minister Ben Gvir brags about [abuse of Flotilla activists](#): "I am proud of the fighters and prison service fighters who acted according to the policies that I and Commissioner Kob Jacoby agreed on." [Ben Gvir](#) October 8 in Jerusalem: "We are the owners of the Temple Mount." [Ben Gvir](#) in a Palestinian village last June: "We are the owners of this house. This house is ours too."

French military equipment about to be delivered to Israel: spare parts to equip Hermes 900 drones, used to bomb Gaza and Lebanon. [Disclose](#)

"The 'Community Security Trust' is a Mossad-trained Israel front group, which acts as a vector for Zionist foreign influence operations in Britain. The [British government](#) just gave them £10 million." [Ammar Kazmi](#)

Dr Hussam Abu Safiya's "administrative detention," without charge, extended for another 6 months. [PHRIIsrael](#)

"Ongoing Vietnamese youth activism against the genocide in Gaza is the first and most sustained practice of anti-war activism in Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War." [Praxis](#)

UN warns against continued Israeli violations of ceasefire in Lebanon [UN](#)

"Yalla Na'merha" means "Let's rebuild." [SameerProject](#)

• **Saturday October 18** "Israel has violated ceasefire 47 times and killed 38 Palestinians." [Guardian](#)

Former Mossad officer [Avner Avraham](#) admits that Israel plants agents in Gaza to launch rockets at Israel to justify bombing and genocide: "We are going to erase Gaza."

• **Sunday October 19** "Israel resumes the genocide with full force; over a 100 'targets' bombed since this morning, including a school full of refugees. 18 Gazans killed so far. Israel halts all entry of aid to Gaza. This is the chronology of events tracking how we got here." [Muhammad Shehada](#)

"Outrageous distortion that does not befit the role of the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine. There is no 'intra-Palestinian violence,' there is collaboration with genocidaires and a penalty for that. This rhetoric is being used to justify US threats and Zionist killing." [Samidoun](#)

"The *Guardian*'s live feed reads like an Israeli press release. Shameful." ("Israel says it has resumed enforcement of ceasefire after waves of airstrikes on Gaza") [Hamza Yusuf](#)

Israeli settlers attack Palestinians trying to harvest olives in Turmus Ayya, near Ramallah. [Jasper Nathaniel](#) Yara Hawari: “Nothing encapsulates the Zionist settler colonial project more than this photo taken by [@infinite_jaz](#) in the West Bank today. An Israeli settler standing over a Palestinian woman he has beaten with a club because she dared to harvest her olive trees.”

Since the start of the ‘ceasefire,’ Israel kills 97 Palestinians in Gaza. [AlJazeera](#)

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- [March 27, 2025 letter from the House Committee on Education & Workforce](#) to 5 colleges: Pomona, Bowdoin, Northwestern, Barnard, & Sarah Lawrence.
 - [June 11, 2025 letter from the House Committee to Sarah Lawrence](#)
 - [August 5 lawsuit](#) filed by 10 Sarah Lawrence students & one faculty member against the College & the House Committee, to prevent shared attempts to equate anti-Zionism & anti-Semitism & to interfere with pro-Palestine anti-genocide protest.
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• FROM THE FACULTY & STAFF •

Back to the Basics? When Social Media Becomes a Tool of Surveillance

In her 2017 book, *Twitter and Teargas*, Zeynep Tufekci praises online platforms like *Facebook* and *Twitter* for making it infinitely easier to organize protests. She writes, "Thanks to a FB page, perhaps for the first time in history, an internet user could click yes on an electronic invitation to a revolution."

Since then, Tufekci said she lost enthusiasm for the power of social media. Recently, she said that it was "specifically designed to draw you in, and waste your time, and distort your thinking." However, even at the time of writing *Twitter and Teargas*, despite her overall rosy analysis of social media as a helpful organizing tool, Tufekci expressed important reservations. Precisely because social media made the process of organizing so easy—all you needed was a Google spreadsheet and a Twitter hashtag—it weakened a more effective long-term building of movements, by de-emphasizing organizational structure and creating no common culture, no leaders, and no durable social and political institutions.

To Tufekci's list of concerns, we can now add one more: increased monitoring of social media accounts. A journal editor was [fired](#) for sharing a headline from *The Onion*, which read, "Dying Gazans Criticized For Not Using Last Words To Condemn Hamas." A tenured professor was [fired](#) after writing a post on her personal Instagram page against normalizing Zionism. More recently, several faculty and staff were [fired](#) or suspended for comments they made online about [Turning Point USA](#) founder Charlie Kirk, a right-wing podcaster who made a career of disparaging and attacking people of color, women, immigrants, and other marginalized communities, and launched Turning Point's [Professor Watchlist](#). The Department of Homeland Security task force actively [sieves](#) through international students' social media histories in order to deny or revoke visas of those who appear critical of the US administration or Israel. Many universities, in the US and elsewhere, concerned with campus protests against genocide in Gaza, actively monitor their students' online activity.

On Wednesday, October 8th, Sarah Lawrence students organized a "Walkout for Gaza"—a day-long affair with rallies, workshops, and teach-ins. Teaching spaces were decorated with banners; large numbers of students attended, led, and actively participated. The turnout was truly impressive. What was conspicuously missing was...social media and technology.

Students announced a "Walkout for Gaza" on Instagram, but few details were provided. After many incidents of doxxing and disciplinary action against anti-genocide student

activists, students avoided posting names of speakers or photos from the event on their social media pages. During teach-ins, attendees were asked to leave their devices outside.

Most came prepared, armed with pens and notebooks. Given so little social media publicity, the turnout was especially impressive. Students continued to share information about other events happening on campus by having face-to-face conversations and passing fliers. As social media platforms have shifted from being an effective tool for organizing to a highly monitored space to help repress and punish organizers, students are beginning to replace online activism with building on-the-ground organizational structures. This is much more labor-intensive, but it is also more rewarding—not only because online networks are weak and unreliable, but because they cannot replace live, human interactions. Perhaps, as students face growing repression in their fight for Palestinian liberation, the methods they use may themselves become a part of this liberatory project.

• MONTHLY SL PALESTINE COALITION MEETING •

OPEN TO STAFF, FACULTY, STUDENTS, & ALUMS
MONDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 3, 8PM EASTERN TIME
EMAIL US AT NEW ADDRESS FOR
LINK: SL.FS.JPALESTINE@PROTON.ME

Lawsuit brought by Sarah Lawrence Palestine activists to protect anti-genocide protest

On August 5, 2025, ten Sarah Lawrence students, past and present, joined by one member of our faculty, filed a suit in federal court to try to prevent further attempts by the College and the House Committee on Education & Workforce to equate anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, and to surveil, stigmatize, discipline, and prevent campus protest against the Israeli genocide in Palestine.

We of FSJP are hopeful that a supportive decision on this case could prevent further harmful cooperation of the College with the House Committee, and could protect the College from further Committee demands for information about Palestine-related protest.

The suit aims to constrain both the College's cooperation with the Committee and the illegitimate operations of the Committee's sham "investigations."

For us the plaintiffs in this case represent the best of the values of Sarah Lawrence: a willingness in a time of political danger not to assist in projects of persecution, as in the time of Senator Joseph McCarthy's similar Committee, but to stand up for the values undergirding our Principles for Mutual Respect: to respect each other; to work with integrity and honor; to foster honest inquiry, free speech and open discourse; to embrace our diversity in all its dimensions; and to inflict no harm on one another, or on anyone else, near or far. In a time of genocide, silence is complicity. We commend our fellow community members for continuing to break that silence, and look forward to this upcoming year's conversations about other ways that work might continue.

CALL FOR DIALOGUE AND PARTICIPATION. SL FSJP would like to extend a special invitation to our fellow staff and faculty members to participate in making our weekly KITE newsletter as we start a new academic year.

What you might think of as a small contribution—a brief observation, a contentious letter, a note from a meeting, an interview of only a few questions, a captioned photograph, a quote—would benefit us all, whether contributed with attribution or anonymously. As above, you can reach us at sl.fs.jpalestine@proton.me.

• FROM THE ALUMNI •