

SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION FOR PALESTINE

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KITE

FROM KIMBALL

A newsletter from the
**SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION
FOR PALESTINE • VOLUME 5
SPRING SEMESTER 2026**



VOL. 5 NO. 5 : MONDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2026

*Welcome to our 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 quote, a poem—
please send to sl.fs.jpalestine@proton.me.*

Copy deadline is Sundays at noon. Thank you.

Since our last newsletter:

- *Monday February 9* Australian police meet pro-Palestinian protests against Israeli President Isaac Herzog's visit to Sydney with violent crackdown. [Aljazeera](#)

Immigration court rules that Tufts student Rumeysa Öztürk can't be deported. In March of 2024, Öztürk co-wrote an op-ed for *The Tufts Daily* entitled "Try again, President Kumar: Renewing calls for Tufts to adopt March 4 TCU Senate resolutions." The article called on Tufts to divest from companies with ties to Israel and acknowledge the genocide in Palestine. She was then doxxed by Canary Mission, and in March 2025 was abducted by six plainclothes agents near her home in Somerville and detained in Louisiana. Last January, court records relating to Öztürk's case were unsealed by a federal judge in Boston. The files included Öztürk's Canary Mission profile and the op-ed she co-authored, with no other evidence. [WSJ](#) Secretary of State [Marco Rubio](#) in March 2025: "We revoked her visa. We revoked it and here's why. Let me be abundantly clear, okay? If you apply for a visa to enter the United States and be a student, and you tell us that the reason you want to come to the United States, it's not just that you want to write op-eds, but because you want to participate in movements that are involved in doing things like vandalizing universities, harassing students, taking over buildings, creating a ruckus—we're not gonna give you a visa."

Red Cross President: "What we have seen in Gaza exceeds all legal, ethical, moral and humanitarian norms." [MiddleEastMonitor](#)

- *Tuesday February 10* Venezuela ships first oil to Israel since mid-2020 as exports open after abduction of President Maduro. [Bloomberg](#)

Investigation reveals that Israel used US-supplied thermobaric munitions that have left no trace of nearly 3,000 Palestinians. [AlJazeera](#)

“In her book *Over their Dead Bodies*, Meira Weiss—who served as an officer in the Israeli military before becoming the head of the Israeli Forensic Institute between 1988 and 2004, then pivoting to academia—writes that during the first intifada, the Israeli army gave license to the state’s main forensic institute, called Abu Kabir, to harvest ‘organs from Palestinians using a military regulation that an autopsy must be conducted on every killed Palestinian.’” [Mary Turfah](#)

from “[Brothers in Arms](#): liberal genocide and intra-settler conflict in Israel,” Elian Weizman & Sai Englert: “International recognition of the genocide *as a genocide* is now widespread, yet significant action in terms of cutting off economic, military, or diplomatic relations with Israel remains wanting...The conflict is not over the settler-colonial project itself, but rather on how to best organise it.”

- **Wednesday February 11** Benjamin Netanyahu visits Washington for the sixth time in just over a year, crossing the airspace of Italy, France, Greece, and Canada, all signatories of the Rome Statute, the treaty that in 2002 established the ICC, which last year issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant for crimes against humanity. [CBC](#)

- **Thursday February 12** Whistleblowers say that the Committee to Project Journalists scrapped its “Impunity Index” to shield Israel. [ElectronicIntifada](#)

“ICE operations increasingly resemble Israeli occupation. That’s no coincidence. US immigration enforcement has long cultivated ties with Israel. Now it adapts algorithmic surveillance tactics from Gaza for use on American streets.” [+972](#)

- **Friday February 13** French foreign minister faces criminal complaint over misquoting Francesca Albanese. Lawyers group accuses Jean-Noel Barrot of spreading false information and exposing UN expert to risk of attacks after citing comments she did not make. [MiddleEastEye](#)

British High Court rules that banning Palestine Action as a “terror” organisation was unlawful. [AlJazeera](#) Palestine Action co-founder @HudaAmmori : "Most people understand that is not terrorism. Acting to save lives is a necessity." [Saul Staniforth](#)

The decision to rule the ban on Palestine Action unlawful was made by one of the most senior female Jewish judges in the UK. [Telegraph](#)

After a three weeks of testimony and five days of jury deliberations, deadlocked California jury cannot reach a decision in the trial of five current and former Stanford students accused of felonies after occupying administrative offices for several hours in June 2024. Judge declares a mistrial. [AP](#)

Demilitarize Brooklyn Navy Yard announces that their protests have forced weapons manufacturer [Easy Aerial](#) out of Building 77. Easy Aerial supplies the US Border Patrol and Department of Defense, the Israel Army, and Elbit Systems. Easy Aerial also lobbied the NYPD to start deploying drones to surveil New Yorkers in 2022.

“Greater Israel is being started before our very eyes, and nobody is acting to stop it. See also Southern Syria, Gaza, the West Bank.” [Craig Murray](#)

Palestinian National Initiative Secretary General [Dr. Mustafa Barghouti](#) from the audience at the Munich Security Conference, which leapt to its feet for US Secretary of State Marco Rubio: “I feel sometimes we are living in a bubble of illusion. While we are talking, the Israeli government has declared that the whole West Bank is available for settlements. They’ve practically nailed the last nail in the coffin of the Oslo Agreement. In front of the whole world. And it is the Prime Minister of Israel who declared that Israel would be from the river to the sea, including Gaza.”

- ***Saturday February 14*** Wave of Israeli airstrikes across south Lebanon hitting multiple sites including Houmine al-Fawqa, Mlikh, Bouslaiya, and the Rihan Heights. [Steve Sweeney](#)

Israeli forces uproot 777 trees in the West Bank over the past week, valued at more than \$761,000. [PalestinianInformationCenter](#)

• *Sunday February 15* British Museum removes references to Palestine from its displays because of complaints and pressure from UK Lawyers for Israel. [Hamza Yusuf](#)

[Harry Eccles](#) on the people slandered, beaten, and arrested for defying the British ban on Palestine Action: “Turns out they weren't terrorists all along. Who would have thought it.”

Road to Abu Hammam, near Al-Mughayir, northeast of Ramallah, blocked with rocks in the night by Israeli settlers. [QudsNews](#)

For the first time since 1967, the Israeli government approves the law that allows Israeli settlers to occupy the West Bank. [Elijah J Magnier](#) “Breaking: Israel is moving to register vast areas of the West Bank as state land, accelerating the erasure of Palestinian existence under Western cover. Empty condemnations won't stop the theft—this is annexation in plain sight.” [Ramy Abdul](#)

• [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.



Disruption, discipline, & dominance

Last week the British High Court declared that the banning of direct action group [Palestine Action](#) as “terrorist” was “disproportionate and unlawful”; co-founder Huda Ammori, who brought the High Court challenge, called the decision a “monumental victory.” The group uses direct action to disrupt the UK arms industry supporting the Israeli genocide in Palestine. They have broken into arms factories and military facilities and damaged the weapons the genocide requires. For this they have been labeled terrorists and imprisoned; for months, any British demonstrator holding a sign in support of the banned organization has been arrested. Green Party leader Zack Polanski said after the recent decision, “It is time for the government to stop criminalising the people protesting a genocide.”

On Friday London activists disrupted an elegant party during International Petroleum Week, hosted at the Natural History Museum by the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan ([SOCAR](#)), which supplies Israel with 40% of the crude oil it needs to proceed with the genocide. No doubt the well-dressed courteous guests who attended the party were engaged in civil dialogue according to the time, place, and manner customs of our day, and were grateful to the security officers who hustled out [the young woman in a green dress](#) who shouted, “SOCAR who is hosting this party gives Israel 40% of the crude oil that it needs to commit genocide against the Palestinian people.” The protesters did not engage in bridge-building dialogues with the party’s guests. The woman in the green dress shouted, “Your hands are covered in Palestinian blood, and you are trying to hide it.”

After decades of punishing the people of Cuba for making their revolution in 1959, our government is now cutting off oil shipments to Cuba, a new phase of trying to starve an anti-colonial rebellion into submission. Sarah Lawrence has had a study abroad program in Cuba for twenty-five years, and not a single College official has raised a public voice to oppose these measures, nor to express solidarity with the Cuban people in their time of deepest trial.

Instead, it’s become the policy of the College, since October of 2024, to meet federal pressure with compliant silence, and to meet protest with threats of discipline. The letter our president sent to faculty, staff, and students the day after the Ezra Klein event focused not on “building bridges” across

the campus divide over that controversial invitation, but on passing judgments that echo the rhetoric around Palestine Action before the recent High Court decision: “deeply disturbing,” Cristle called the protests, “antisemitic,” “an atmosphere of discomfort and intimidation,” “conduct that intimidates or dehumanizes,” “referred for investigation.” It would be impossible to tell from the letter that a genocide has been unfolding for more than two years, and that the students were taking their risks in yearslong principled attempts to resist it. The students are painted as random vandals, evading their responsibilities as members of an academic community, vs fulfilling them in ways much deeper than listening to soft power propagandists from the *New York Times*—“poison laced with honey,” as [Ori Goldberg](#) has described it—manufacturing the consent for the state murders of tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Last Saturday, Marco Rubio gave a speech to the Munich Security Conference that earned him a standing ovation. It was a call for the resurgence of “the West’s age of dominance,” “the age of Columbus,” praising “its missionaries, its Pilgrims, its soldiers, its explorers” and their ambitions to “settle new continents” and “build vast empires.” “The great Western empires,” as Rubio called them, have been pushed toward decline by “godless Communist revolutions and by anti-colonial uprisings that would transform the world.” The continuum of values between settler-colonialism and what we’ve called fascism has never been clearer.

We of Sarah Lawrence FSJP are wishing we heard no resonances between Rubio’s “protect our values and crush the rebels” rhetoric and that of higher education in the United States. We’re wishing we didn’t see similarities between the officers arresting British protesters for supporting Palestine Action and the Campus Safety officers sent to police the anti-genocide protests of our students. We’re wishing we didn’t recognize the looks on the faces of the disrupted Petroleum Week partygoers from the looks on the faces of some in our own community when confronted by the protesters’ disruptions. We’re proud of our students and eager for the day when their disruptions are met not with policing and disciplinary proceedings but with respect, gratitude, and participation. We’re grateful to them for forcing into the open the questions asked of us all in a time of genocide: Did you recognize it for what it was when it arrived? Did you speak up? Did you oppose the powers supporting it? Did you take risks to try to stop it? Did you stand with the victims, or collaborate with the perpetrators? Did you let the propaganda deceive you as to who was which? In the years of the genocide, what did you do?

from "The Garden," Yasmin Zaher

"I loved my friend's house but I knew that it was haunted. Even at a young age, I knew that there was a family out there in the world that was still holding on to the key. No, I didn't know this intuitively. Each time my mom picked me up from the house she made a remark about it. Of course, the door had long been changed, it was a modern glass door with a keyhole fitting a small aluminum key, which my friend kept on a friendship bracelet. I remember that above the door they had garlic cloves hanging. My friend told me that it was there to ward off vampires, but I think it was to keep the spirit of the original inhabitants away."

"...Nature is clean. It's civilization that's dirty." [*Bidoun*](#)

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.

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 •



ajamonet • 23h
Just like Heaven



إلى من لم يأس
الحب معاً وممة

To those who haven't Given up





blis_collective, italysblur and laneythepoet



BLIS COLLECTIVE

OUR HEARTS ARE BIG ENOUGH

A BLIS Collective **Poets for Liberation** Showcase

FEB 21, 2026
2:30-7:00 pm ET

BRIC
647 Fulton St,
Brooklyn, NY, 11217

Featuring Poets

Layli Long Soldier,
Delaney Jocelyn, Italy Ja'Rae Lee,
Somah Toya Haaland, Aja Monet





“let us not be idle or stunned by fear
not be so comfortable that we ignore
another’s grieving instead
of ending what forces her grief.

let us not be scared of the work
because it’s hard
let us move the mountain
because the mountain must move.”

From *Bluff*
by Danez Smith



@graywolfpress

Fundraisers

The Sameer Project is a donations-based aid initiative in Gaza led by Palestinians. Their multiple campaigns serve families across Gaza with medical supplies, food, tents, and other necessities. linktr.ee/thesameerproject

Amal for Palestine is an organization founded in 2021 providing financial help, services, and meals for families in Gaza. Since the escalation of the genocide, Amal for Palestine has continuously raised funds for food and other necessities for displaced Palestinians in the north of Gaza. givebutter.com/SevBF8

Gaza Soup Kitchen is run by the Almadhoun family and their friends. Gaza Soup Kitchen sources ingredients from remaining farms, and buys supplies as soon as they hit the market in order to provide hot meals for displaced families. Based in the north of Gaza, they feed around 3,000 people daily. tinyurl.com/gazakitchn

Water for Khan Younis is an initiative to support clean drinking water for displaced Palestinians in Al-Mawasi, in southern Gaza. With the donations so far, they have been able to deliver two drinking water trucks on a daily basis (6,000L or 7,500L each day). tinyurl.com/khanyouniswater

• FROM THE STUDENTS •

 Westchester Mutual Aid 

 **CALLING FOR**

 **DONATIONS** 

Help us fund hygiene kits for our upcoming distribution event in Yonkers! These kits will go to community members in need.

a \$4 donation provides a full  hygiene kit, complete with:

 **dental floss, mouth rinse, toothpaste, toothbrush, combs, razor, soap, deodorant, shampoo, and washcloths!***



TO DONATE:

 **@westchestermutualaid on Venmo** 

*We will purchase these materials locally and not use big corporations like Amazon

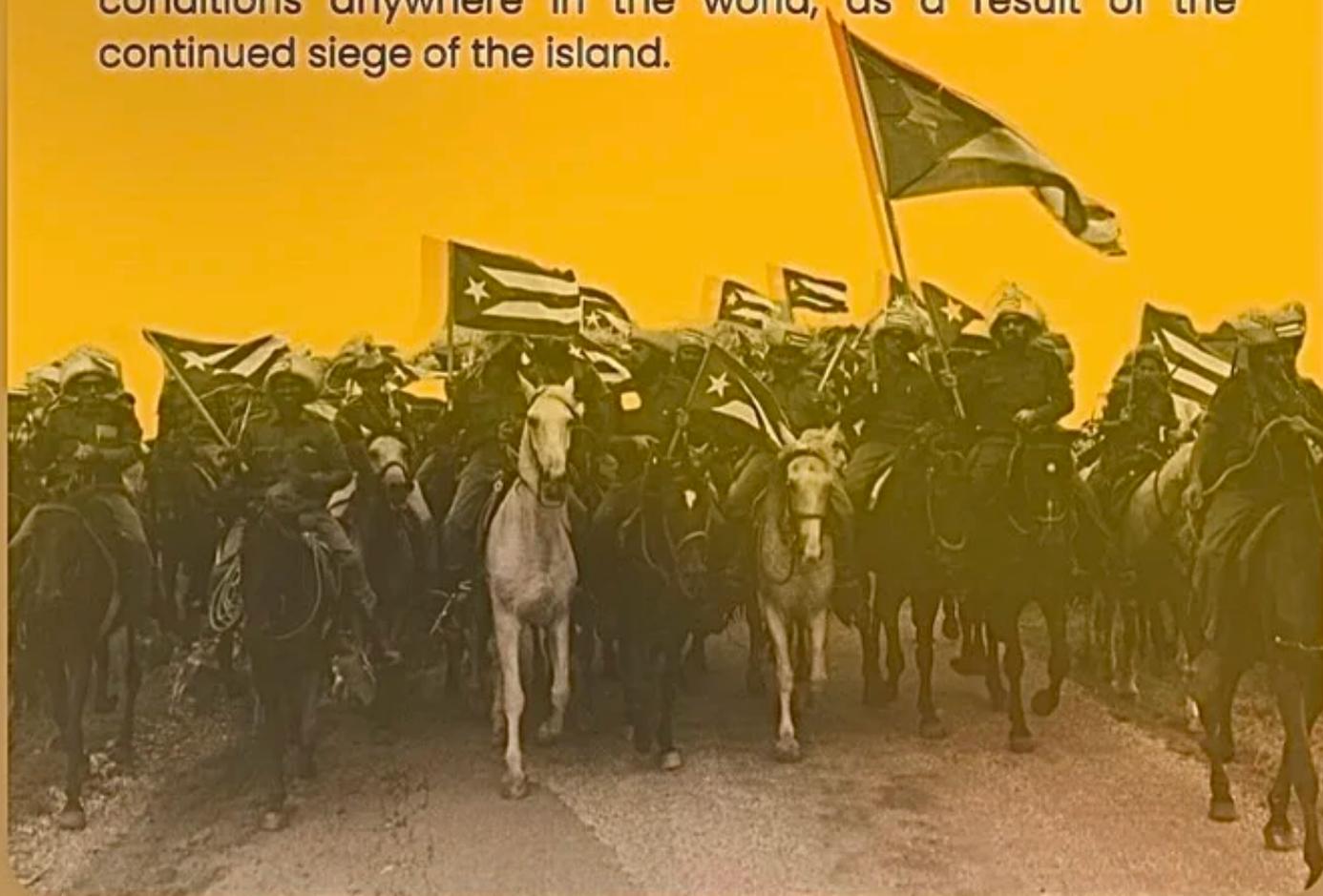
@westchestermutualaid 



**The US blockade on Cuba is an act of genocide,
designed to strangle the Cuban people to the
point of starvation and death.**

This is the **collective punishment** of a people who have refused to live under neo-colonial rule and have instead chosen the path of dignity, sovereignty, and liberation.

For nearly sixty years, the island of Cuba has continued to resist and remain true to their **principles of anti-imperialism** amidst some of the most dire living conditions anywhere in the world, as a result of the continued siege of the island.







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The
Intercept_

SUPPORT US



NEW YORK WOMEN'S PRISON FORCES PEOPLE TO GO WITHOUT SHOWERS OR RECREATION

The conditions at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility are akin to solitary confinement, local experts say — an apparent violation of state law.

Jessica Washington

 Share

fund_the_inside F2L NETWORK MEMBERS SPEAKING
OUT FROM THE INSIDE !! ...





TC

**Palestinian corpses
used in Israeli medical training
through US university programs**

Source: The Baffler



Briahna Joy Gray  @briebriejoy · Jan 31



They didn't protest Ezra Klein hard enough, actually.



 Share full article

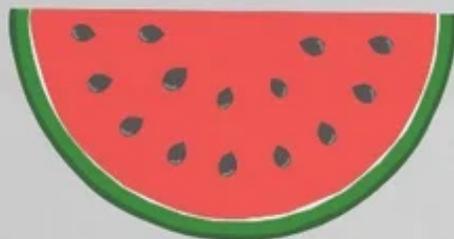


I think I should say, before I start this episode, where I am on the Epstein story. If you forced me to give you my best guess, I think this guy had a lot of powerful friends, and that he was a predator and a pedophile, and those sides of his life were mostly separate.

I don't think there is a list of boldfaced names. The reason I don't think there is a list is that there have been a lot of big law firms hunting for cases here. There is a lot of money to be made in suing anyone connected to Epstein. Very, very powerful firms — to say nothing of media organizations — that are capable of hiring excellent investigators are just not finding much.

KITE from Kimball
newsletter to be
published every
Monday during
the semester

contributions due via email
every Sunday by noon EST
sl.fs.jpalestine@gmail.com



5 Questions

We've had the honor of printing responses to these 5 questions from SL alums Sarah Ihmoud, Kathy Engel, Megan G, Miller Oberman, Randall Wallace, & Deborah Augustin, as well as from two current faculty members. We'd like to open our community-wide dialogue to anyone else who might be willing to answer them, whether by name or anonymously. As above, reach us at sl.fs.jpalestine@proton.com.

Here are the questions:

1 Can you say a little about your connection to Sarah Lawrence?

2 Can you say a little about what your life has been like since October of 2023?

3 Something the Sarah Lawrence administration has said consistently since the fall of 2023: the rights of Zionists must be respected. Can you say a little about what that means to you?

4 What's the role of a college or university in a time of genocide?

5 What are the values of Sarah Lawrence that you respect?

Comments from our readers

- "Thank you and thank you again for your words. I have been longing to hear your voice and didn't even know it. The fact that you are there at Sarah Lawrence is a source of comfort and my greatest thanks."

- “I read this newsletter every Monday morning. I imagine that it is a major undertaking to put this together. I so appreciate the team for keeping it going through the summer.”
- “I’m always glad to receive this. Student and faculty journalists very much on the ball.”
- “Finally: just amazing kudos for the work you are all doing at SL and the newsletter, as testament to organizing across groups and standing strong, is so powerful!”
- “amazing amazing work.

keep it up.

so erudite. so clear so human. amazing writing. can’t be found anywhere else.

amud to u”

- “We love KITE, and will definitely consider submitting something. Please keep up the good work!”
- “fabulous work, people!”

Sarah Lawrence & Palestine

KITE is a newsletter from a coalition of Sarah Lawrence groups organizing for Palestine since the fall of 2023: faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We welcome all contributions, responses, and suggestions. You can reach us at sl.fs.jpalestine@proton.me.

Sarah Lawrence Coalition for Palestine, 1 Mead Way, Bronxville, NY 10708, USA

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