

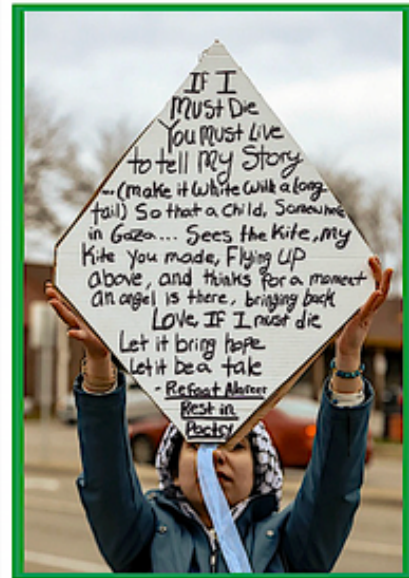
SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION FOR PALESTINE

STUDENTS • FACULTY • STAFF • ALUMNI

KITE

FROM KIMBALL

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



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*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 16* UK awarded £10 contract to Pearson Engineering, overseen by Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, currently under British sanctions. Smotrich last week: "We are deepening our roots in all parts of the Land of Israel and burying the idea of a Palestinian state." [DeclassifiedUK](#)

Bloomberg headlines: Russia Moves To Annex Occupied Ukrainian Land By September. Israel Moves To Assert Ownership Rights in West Bank, Sideline Palestinian Authority. [Assal Rad](#)

Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania refuses to accept Cinema for Peace Most Valuable Film award for her documentary "The Voice of Hind Rajab." The ceremony at Berlin's Hotel Adlon Kempinski was attended by former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and actor Kevin Spacey. The gala also honored former Israeli general Noam Tibon. Ben Hania left her trophy behind in protest against the event providing "political cover" for genocide by "reframing mass civilian killing as self-defense" and "denigrating protesters." "Peace is not a perfume sprayed over violence, so power can feel refined, and can feel comfortable. And cinema is not image-laundering," she said. "The Israeli army killed Hind Rajab; killed her family; killed the two paramedics who came to save her, with the complicity of the world's most powerful governments and institutions...I refuse to let their deaths become a backdrop for a polite speech about peace." She said she would return to accept the award when peace is "rooted in accountability for genocide." [DropSite](#)

Swarthmore threatens eight students with expulsion for passing out zines on campus. [SwarthmoreSJP](#)

Swiss public broadcasting commentator [Stefan Renna](#) narrates pro-genocide social media posts of US-Israeli citizen AJ Edelman during his Israeli bobsled run in the Winter Olympics.

Canada's Scotiabank fully divests from Elbit Systems, Israel's largest weapons manufacturer. [Dimitri Lascaris](#)

Hamas political spokesman Basem Naim: "Palestinian resistance and its weapons are a legitimate right, and disarmament is rejected and will not be accepted by any Palestinian. The problem is fundamentally political, not security-based, and its solution lies not in the weapons of the resistance but in ending the Zionist occupation. Gaza is not a real-estate project; it is an integral part of the Palestinian homeland." [DropSite](#)

- *Tuesday February 17* Israelis build iron gates at the entrance of Az-Zawiya, west of Salfit. [GoodShepherdCollective](#)

Israeli settlers storm Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan. [QudsNews](#)

"For Jordan, this bureaucratic annexation is the final signal that the status quo is dead. With the Israeli military's 'Iron Wall' operation crushing refugee camps in Jenin and Tulkarem, Jordan's political and military establishment is no longer asking if a forced transfer is coming, but how to stop it. 'The transfer is no longer a threat; it is moving to execution,' Mamdouh al-Abbadi, Jordan's former deputy prime minister, told *Al Jazeera*. 'We are seeing the practical application...The alternative homeland is something that is coming; after this West Bank, the enemy will move to the East Bank, to Jordan.'" [Aljazeera](#)

Immigration judge dismisses federal effort to deport Columbia pro-Palestine protester [Mohsen Mahdawi](#): "I am grateful to the court for honoring the rule of law and holding the line against the government's attempts to trample on due process," he said. "This decision is an important step towards upholding what fear tried to destroy: the right to speak for peace and justice." [ACLU](#)

Heavy Israeli bombing in Al Zaytoun, Gaza City. [Motasem Dalloul](#)

Organizers fight back as Missouri moves to crack down on Israel-related speech in schools. Rights groups warn HB 2061, co-drafted by a dark money group with ties to the Israeli government, will be used to silence criticisms of Israel and attack Missouri teachers. [Mondoweiss](#)

Palestine Action co-founder [Huda Ammori](#): “As a Palestinian, the best moment of my life was being on top of an Israeli weapons factory with a sledgehammer being able to destroy that site. And knowing that just by being there and causing damage, they would have to shut down. Not just while I was there, but for weeks after.”

- **Wednesday February 18** 19-year-old Palestinian-American Nasrallah Abu Siyam, a Philadelphia native, is shot and killed by an armed Israeli settler during a raid on the West Bank village of Mukhmas. Roughly 30 masked settlers, accompanied by Israeli soldiers, stormed the area after harassing a shepherd and attempting to seize livestock. Ambulances were delayed at an army checkpoint, forcing villagers to transport the wounded by car. Abu Siyam was pronounced dead hours later, after suffering massive blood loss. Abu Siyam is at least the 7th American killed in the West Bank since October 7, with no known accountability in any of the cases. [DropSite](#)

The Israeli government installed and maintained security system at Epstein apartment, where former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak frequently stayed. [DropSite](#)

On the eve of the first day of Ramadan, Israeli authorities suspend Gaza delivery of vegetables, the core component of the pre-dawn Sohour meal. [Motasem Dalloul](#)

London’s People Against Genocide targets and blockades Chubb Insurance, which provided insurance for Elbit’s UAV Engines factory in Staffordshire after Aviva was forced to drop them. [Aftershock](#)

Gaza death toll for first 16 months of war far higher than reported, says peer-reviewed study. Lancet Global Health research suggests more than 75,000 people were killed during that period, 25,000 more than announced at the time. [Guardian](#)

- **Thursday February 19** Harvard Law professor [Ben Eidelson](#) before the US Commission on Civil Rights: “The critical point is that Title VI is an anti-discrimination statute. It is not a general anti-

hostility statute. And the essence of discrimination is that it's adverse treatment because of a protected characteristic. People mistreat each other in all kinds of ways--but without that special connection to a protected characteristic, claims about that misconduct are in the domain of campus rules, pedagogy, potentially other laws, about all sorts of things, but not federal civil rights law under Title VI.

"So everything turns initially on this 'because of a protected characteristic' question. And the protected characteristics under Title VI are limited to just three: there's race, color, and national origin. We're talking about these immutable, heritable characteristics...and people of Jewish ancestry are protected under Title VI from that form of discrimination, just like anybody else.

"...But the government's recent enforcement actions rest on a very different premise: that the statute also covers discrimination or hostility based on support for Israel, or Zionism, as opposed to just race or ancestry. And that premise, respectfully, is just not supported by the law.

"...The other argument you hear...is that anti-Israel protests are just really seriously offensive to lots of Jewish people, and make the environment feel hostile to them...again: not everything that's bad is a violation of Title VI. And the version of hostile environment liability that some people are advancing in order to try to capture all of that is just way beyond anything the law supports.

"...For the most part, the choice of what balance to strike between free speech and avoiding offense is one that a university is free to make based on its own mission and academic values. And the government and outside groups do not get to dictate that based on their own political agendas."

Father of American who took part in the Israeli genocide in Gaza: "Among the soldiers of the IDF, the largest component are American citizens, my son included. In my son's unit, half of them are fleeing—because they cannot travel. They are outed. The Hague is looking for them. Our new mayor of New York wants to basically obey the Hague over America. They know thousands of their names—they're preparing cases. One of my son's comrades had to flee Germany, one had to flee South Africa, another had to flee Belgium. When it comes to America, what will be done in that moment, so they can be secure in what they have done, for am Ysrael and for all of America too? Is America prepared for when they will be arrested somewhere in this world?"

US ambassador [Mike Huckabee](#): "The US is committed to doing everything it can to neuter both the ICC and the ICJ, the two entities that are pushing for these prosecutions...These people have no sense

of propriety, no sense of even right and wrong. It is a level of hate and a level of lawfare that is very dangerous, and frankly is utterly unfounded by anything in legitimate law.”

Former Mossad officer [Victor Ostrovsky](#): “When I was in the Mossad and we had a guy that gave us problems in the US, and he was speaking out, saying ‘Israel is bombing Lebanon with cluster bombs,’ we’d say, ‘Hey. Who’s that guy?’ ...So what you do is you get in touch with a guy in the station in New York, or the station in Washington, and you say, ‘Tell the guys at B’nai Brith to label him.’ And of course the campaign starts, and before you know it, the guy’s labeled. And he’s an anti-Semite. Because that’s what we say he is. And that’s one stain you cannot wash.”

EU sanctions German journalist Hüseyin Dogru for Gaza reporting. [ElectronicIntifada](#)

Forensic Architecture director Eyal Weizman: “There is no genocide without genocide denial.” [Saul Staniforth](#)

- **Friday February 20** Israeli attacks in Lebanon kill at least 12 people. [AP](#)

Leona Kamio, recently released prisoner among Palestine Action’s Filton24: “We were driven by love, not hate...I did what I did because I knew I couldn’t live with myself if I didn’t do something to prevent more Palestinian children from being murdered in front of their families.” [SovereignMedia](#)

LA Review of Books editor banned discussion of Gaza in editorial meetings, and referred to a Californian who’d volunteered for the IDF as a “[survivor](#).” [Nathan J Robinson](#)

- **Saturday February 21** Watermelon Books opens in a south-LA community space called Holy Ground: the first Palestinian bookstore in the United States. [Hoodline](#)

- **Sunday February 22** Palestinian Journalists’ Syndicate holds Israeli occupation authorities responsible for serious deterioration in the health of freed journalist and former detainee Mujahed Bani Mufleh. While detained for seven months, he was subjected to deliberate medical neglect, given inappropriate medications, and endured systematic torture and starvation. The syndicate called on international institutions to launch an urgent investigation into Bani Mufleh’s case, emphasizing that it would alert all relevant organizations, including the International Federation of Journalists, to halt

what it described as a deliberate and systematic attempt to endanger the lives of Palestinian journalists. [WAFA](#)

FSJP opposes CUNY's Title VI training, mandated for all full-time faculty. "A joint report by the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) and AAUP raises the alarm on the increasing weaponization of Title VI in relation to protests against the genocide in Gaza and Palestine. This training participates in such weaponization." [CUNYFSJP](#)

MIT grad students cancel credit cards and pull \$150,000+ worth of personal savings from Capital One over its line of credit to Elbit Systems. [MITG4P](#)

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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 •

Teaching compliance in a time of genocide

On February 13, at least 20 Sarah Lawrence students received a letter via Maxient from Dean of Student Life Shadia Sachedina, Dean of Students Dave Stanfield, and Assistant Director of Campus Community Standards Rachael Gebhart, entitled "Notice of Alleged Violation." "The evidence reveals that you may have violated the following sections of Conduct Code," the letter said—"Non-Discriminatory Harassment; On-Campus Demonstration or Protest; Damage / Graffiti; Trespass; Compliance; Disruptive Behavior; Fire Safety; and Freedom of Expression." The accused students' dons were not notified. The students were informed that they are under investigation and may expect further communication about a hearing, after a Campus Safety report identified them as having participated in protests against the campus visit of Ezra Klein.

We of Sarah Lawrence FSJP are dismayed to see that attacks on the College's historic tradition of protecting and respecting student protest have not retreated since 2024 but broadened. Our hope remains that our community can find a way to remember that students should not face disciplinary charges for political activity, and that protests should be met with dialogue, not with Campus Safety officers. If this is impossible, because of our community divisions over the Israeli genocide in Palestine, we hope at least that we can see the serious flaws in the procedures being used against our students, and work together to revise them and make them fair, for this circumstance and beyond.

Some of our questions:

- Why is Campus Safety lodging complaints about student political activity, and Westlands then responding to them with disciplinary hearings? Why does Campus Safety have a role in campus political disagreements and demonstrations?
- What is the role of surveillance in Campus Safety's accusations against students in campus protests? What are the consequences when students are misidentified in this surveillance?
- Under current rules, is there any distinction between random vandalism and principled interruption as political protest?
- What is the process for choosing the panels for these conduct hearings? Is the process consistent no matter what the accusations are?
- In these proceedings, who are the accusers? Are they present in the hearings? Do the students have a

right to know who is accusing them?

- Do hearing processes risk bias when administrative narratives are widely shared before hearings begin?
- How do the hearing panels make their decisions? Majority vote? via recommendation to someone else who makes the decision? What happens if there isn't panel unanimity in its judgment?

Sarah Lawrence has a proud tradition of standing apart from national pressures toward anti-Communism and racial segregation, and of protecting members of our community who have faced calumny and persecution because of their politics. It's a long, sad distance from that proud tradition to these current policies and the failures of leadership they reflect. From teaching students to take risks on behalf of principles far more important than Handbook regulations, we've moved to trying to compel compliance in a time of genocide. We're grateful for those outside of our community who've voiced firm support of our students. We're proud of our students, who refuse to learn this dangerous lesson. Our educated guess is that the histories of the future will be proud of them too.

from the Black Panther Party newspaper September 25, 1971
honoring George Jackson, written by Palestinian poet Samih Al-Qasim

I may—if you wish—lose my livelihood.

I may sell my shirt and bed.

I may work as a stone cutter,

A street sweeper, a porter.

I may clean your stores

Or rummage your garbage for food.

I may lie down hungry,

O enemy of the sun,

But

I shall not compromise

And to the last pulse in my veins

I shall resist.

You may take the last strip of my land,

Feed my youth to prison cells.
You may plunder my heritage.
You may burn my books, my poems
Or feed my flesh to the dogs.
You may spread a web of terror
On the roofs of my village,
O enemy of the sun,
But
I shall not compromise
And to the last pulse in my veins
I shall resist.
You may put out the light in my eyes.
You may deprive me of my mother's kisses.
You may curse my father, my people.
You may distort my history,
You may deprive my children of a smile
And of life's necessities.
You may fool my friends with a borrowed face.
You may build walls of hatred around me.
You may glue my eyes to humiliations,
O enemy of the sun,
But
I shall not compromise
And to the last pulse in my veins
I shall resist.
O enemy of the sun
The decorations are raised at the port.
The cries fill the air,
A glow in the hearts,
And on the horizon
A sail is seen

Challenging the wind
And the depths.
It is Ulysses
Returning home
From the sea of loss.
It is the return of the sun,
Of my exiled ones
And for her sake, and his,
I swear
I shall not compromise
And to the last pulse in my veins
I shall resist,
Resist—and resist.

from Dylan Saba's "Fugitive Solidarities," [*Parapraxis*](#)

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 •

Fundraisers

Dearest friends,

We're in the midst of Ramadan and our friends in Gaza are still very much in need. Any amount signifies such relief and the possibility of spreading smiles and hope during this holy month. We hope you'll consider donating or sharing any of the following links. Reach out for questions!

The Al-Raqab Family: "Bassem continues to struggle to provide shelter, safety, medication and food for his loving family. Hussam, his brother-in-law, and Ariana (SLC '14) talk every so often to make sure Doaa, Tariq, Yasmina and Selina are as provided for as possible. PayPal @husamabujami, hossamjami8@gmail.com, or: <https://gofund.me/0a190ca92>

The Nassar Family: "Unfortunately, the Nassars have gone through some devastating losses during the past few months. Any support during their time of grieving would be more than welcomed though the following link": <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-talya-and-her-family-in-gaza>.

Joan's Family: "Joan, a young girl living with asthma, lost her home, community, and nearly all of her possessions. She now resides in a makeshift tent with her family." Through Venmo (@hazelrootgrace), or via: <https://chuffed.org/project/130518-support-joans-respiratory-treatment-and-medication>.

The Shamia Family: "Ahmed and his family are still trapped in Gaza, where there continue to be regular bombings and attacks on Palestinians. The family—which now includes Ahmed's daughter, Laura—is also living in a rented shelter with limited amenities, following the destruction of their family home". Via: <https://chuffed.org/project/110769-help-evacuate-the-shamia-family>

The Wadi Family: "While many families prepare to welcome this month with peace and comfort, my family of seven is still struggling every day to secure the most basic necessities. Finding food and essential supplies has become a daily challenge, and with Ramadan, the need becomes even greater." Venmo (@caroline-aych) or Paypal (howdeditgetsol8)*, or: <https://gofund.me/97fc746aa>.

The Ayyad Family: "Sad update for you all—Tareq's youngest brother is recovering from a deeply infected leg wound. He's been able to receive the necessary surgery and antibiotics to begin his

recovery, but these things aren't without cost in Gaza. Anything helps them to afford medical treatment." <https://www.gofundme.com/f/f6hzgp-help-my-family-escape-death-in-gaza>.

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
