

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. 10 : MONDAY MARCH 23, 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 March 16* Israeli launches largest ground invasion of Lebanon since 1982. [Shaiel Ben-Ephraim](#) "Israel's Defense Minister has announced a ground invasion of southern Lebanon and stated an intention to completely destroy Lebanon's border villages, 'like Rafah and Beit Hanoun.' Israel is explicitly signaling a plan to use in Lebanon the same genocidal tactics it employed in Gaza." [Nicola Perugini](#)

One Million People Displaced in Lebanon as Israel Launches Ground Assault: "At least 886 people have been killed in Israeli strikes since March 2, according to Lebanese authorities. The World Health Organization said at least 98 of those killed were children...In Iran, the focus of US and Israel bombing, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates that as many as [3.2 million](#) people have been internally displaced since the conflict began on Feb. 28." [Time](#)

Former UN NY High Commissioner for Human Rights [Craig Mokhiber](#): "Politicians and public figures must stop accommodating Zionists and 'both sidesing' apartheid, aggression, and genocide. There is no such thing as a 'liberal Zionist,' just as there is no such thing as a liberal slaver, a liberal Nazi, or a liberal fascist. And there is no morally defensible position that grants the blood-soaked, genocidal Israeli regime a 'right to exist.' Zionism is a deeply racist, fundamentally violent, and necessarily colonial ideology. It cannot be put into practice without aggression, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. It is, by definition, an annihilatory ideology. If we are to defend human rights, peace, the self-determination of the indigenous people of Palestine and the region, and the integrity of governments across the West and beyond, Zionism must be defeated, the Israeli regime dismantled, its perpetrators held accountable, its victims compensated, our governments and institutions freed from its corruption, and a new dispensation based on human rights and equality established and defended. Evil is not defeated by accommodation. It is defeated by confrontation, resistance, and solidarity."

Leqaa Kordia released after over a year in a Texas jail. Kordia was arrested during the 2024 Gaza solidarity protests at Columbia University. Those charges were dropped, but Kordia was later detained at a routine immigration check-in in New Jersey. [DemocracyNow](#)

On this day in 2003, US International Solidarity Movement activist Rachel Corrie killed by Israeli bulldozer driver in Rafah while trying to protect a Palestinian home from demolition. Driver on his radio, from [live footage](#): "I think the object got hit. Yes, I saw him, I think he is dead." Afterwards, "Israeli soldiers had a 'fun' time making what they called 'Rachel Corrie pancakes.' Photos of the event were posted on the Facebook page of the 'Heritage House,' a settlement in occupied East Jerusalem that houses so-called 'lone soldiers,' men recruited from overseas to join the Israeli occupation forces." [Ali Abunimah](#)

- **Tuesday March 17** Israeli forces assassinate Ali Larjani. [DemocracyNow](#): "Israel's military says it has killed Iranian security chief Ali Larjani, as the US and Israel continue massive airstrikes across Iran. Larjani was among the most powerful figures in the Islamic Republic and helped direct nuclear negotiations with the US and other Western powers. His reported assassination comes just days after he joined senior Iranian officials in a march through central Tehran in a public act of defiance against the US and Israeli war."

[Mark Ames](#): "The feigned naivete of the BBC presenter, who just can't allow himself to consider why Israel would intentionally murder the Iranian official best positioned to negotiate an end to Israel-US's criminal war."

Israel targets the Beirut home of Lebanese journalist Mohammed Sherri, killing him and his wife and injuring his grandchildren. Sherri was the head of political programs at Al Manar TV. [Dyab Abou Jahjah](#)

House Committee issues a [report](#): "How Campuses Became Hotbeds: The Rise of Radical Antisemitism on College Campuses," including an appendix with private emails turned over by Sarah Lawrence.

- **Wednesday March 18** Israel bombs South Pars natural gas field in Iran, one day after the 75th anniversary of the nationalization of Iranian oil by Mohammad Mossadegh in 1951. [Radwan Mortada](#): "What happened today surpasses all previous American-Israeli aggressions against Iran. Targeting the South Pars gas field—the world's largest gas field and the shared field between Iran and Qatar—is not a routine event, but a direct strike at the Gulf's energy lifeline...Consequently, we are facing an escalation of utmost danger, one that transcends the immediate military dimension to threaten the region's strategic energy infrastructure. And this American-Israeli escalation will not pass without an unprecedented Iranian response and counter-escalation."

Iran [retaliates](#) by bombing the Ras Laffan liquefied natural gas complex in Qatar. [Javier Blas](#): "Qatar says that its Ras Laffan industrial city, home to a massive LNG plan, was hit by Iranian missiles.

'Emergency response teams were deployed immediately to contain the resulting fires, as extensive damage has been caused.'" [Jeet Heer](#): "It's hard to even process how catastrophic this is."

"'I woke up this morning and thought, No, please no,' said Anne-Sophie Corbeau, a former head of gas analysis at BP who is now at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy. 'This has always been my nightmare scenario, my Armageddon scenario, the one I didn't want to happen.'" [FinancialTimes](#)

Israel says it is bombing bridges to disrupt Hezbollah supply lines, but the reality is stark: entire routes into southern Lebanon are being severed, effectively cutting off around 1 million people from their homes. [Steve Sweeney](#)

French journalist Marine Vlahovic found dead in her home in Marseille while working on a documentary covering Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. [QudsNews](#)

Cardiff woman who told a crowd that Hamas is "fighting for freedom" found not guilty of expressing support for a proscribed organisation. "I would never condemn the resistance of Palestinians because their resistance is due to the occupation." [DefendOurJuries](#)

"The reason jury trials are being curtailed in Britain is because the jury system allows for a public break with our political and media class and government policy collusion in genocide and apartheid. Juries repeatedly acquit campaigners and activists in step with public opinion." [Joe Guinan](#)

- **Thursday March 19** UNRWA: 46% of essential medicines and 66% of medical consumables out of stock in Gaza. Crossings remain largely closed. Shortages of spare parts threaten the basic infrastructure keeping hospitals and water systems running. [GazaNotifications](#)

Lebanese Ministry of Health: 1,001 people killed and 2,584 people wounded in Israeli attacks since March 2nd. [Courtney Bonneau](#)

Israeli strike [nearly hits](#) Irish reporter Steve Sweeney mid-broadcast in Lebanon. [Roqayah Chamseddine](#) : "From the scene of the targeted attack on colleagues [@SweeneySteve](#) and Ali Sbeity on Al-Qasmieh Bridge, south Lebanon—taken the next day. The location is just feet away from a Lebanese Army installation. The attack was intended not only to disrupt ongoing coverage of Israeli war crimes in south Lebanon, but to destroy civilian infrastructure and a key transportation link that connects major roads in the south."

"Until now, Tyre had been a safe haven for 1000s of displaced people. Despite Israeli threats, residents told us they do not want to leave the South. 'We've had enough of displacement.'" [Nada Maucourant Atallah](#)

Federal Court Finds Columbia University May Have Acted as Government's Instrument to Suppress Palestinian Advocacy—in Violation of the First Amendment. [CAIR](#)

Benjamin [Netanyahu](#): "If you are strong enough, ruthless enough, powerful enough, evil will overcome good."

Mustafa [Barghouti](#): "A message to Netanyahu: Good will always triumph over evil, whether you like it or not."

[Da'Shaun Harrison](#) and [Tea Troutman](#): "The creation of the IMF and World Bank ensures that the Middle Passage exists in perpetuity. So long as black and black(ened) nations are trapped in [endless cycles of debt](#), their land, labor, and resources remain in service to—and under the ownership of—the Western world. And that debt, while legitimized today through the institutionalizing of a global

economy, is created from nothing more than the continued war on blackness. This debt guarantees that wealth flows outward, that profits accumulate elsewhere, and that the machinery of dispossession never stops turning. The global economic order, then, is not a framework for growth; it is a ledger meticulously tracking the profits of a war on the slave that never ended." [Scalawag](#)

• **Friday March 20** "Is it time to settle southern Lebanon?" [JerusalemPost](#)

US ambassador in Beirut says that the US government asked the Israelis to "spare Christian villages" in South Lebanon. "We asked the Israelis to leave the Christian villages in southern Lebanon and we asked the army to keep a unit of it there." [Asad Abukhalil](#)

Following attacks by Iraqi Resistance and Iran, NATO begins complete withdrawal from Iraq. [Cradle](#)

"The 'internationalist underground network' that burned down an Elbit Factory this morning in the Czech Republic is called 'The Earthquake Faction.' The 99th Surah of the Qu'ran is called 'The Earthquake': '7 So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it. 8 And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it.'" [Calla Walsh](#)

• **Saturday March 21** Lebanese Ministry of Health: 1,024 people have been killed and 2,740 have been injured in Israeli attacks on Lebanon since March 2nd. [Courtney Bonneau](#)

"What are seeing now unfolding before our very eyes is an ethnic cleansing operation on a larger scale than the Nakba. More than one million people—some 20 percent of the Lebanese population—forcibly displaced, a war crime under international law. The Greater I\$rael project in action. They have called it many things over the years, but this is an imperialist land grab that won't stop at the south of Lebanon. They'd hoist the Zi0nist flag over Beirut if it wasn't for the resistance." [Steve Sweeney](#)

"I have been reporting on and documenting settler terrorism in the West Bank for three years, and I have never seen anything like this. Tonight's major pogrom across the West Bank was highly organized and fully backed by the Israeli government and the Israeli army. It did not happen in a vacuum—it was fueled by incitement from Israel's Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich, and other Israeli Knesset members. If this tells us anything, it is that this is not the peak; it is a warning of something far worse that may soon unfold in the West Bank: Genocide and ethnic cleansing." [Ihab Hassan](#)

"The world energy shock is coming. The US and Israel's illegal attack on Iran will provoke a global economic catastrophe." [NewStatesman](#)

Swarthmore [SJP](#): "In this unprecedented moment of aggression across the region, we as Students for Justice in Palestine call for an end to the war in Iran and stand in absolute solidarity with global forces leading the anti-imperialist struggle against the US-led destruction of the Global South."

Israel deliberately targeting medical facilities in south Lebanon. Medics and officials say there is systematic use of double-tap strikes in campaign to make the south uninhabitable. [Guardian](#)

[Ali Alizadeh](#) on the assassination of Ali Larijani: "Israel is selling these attacks as form of artificially intelligent oriented smart wars. The way they assassinated Ali Larijani, it had nothing to do with smart wars. In order to detect where he is, they come up with six or seven places and they bomb all of them in a blind way. In order to assassinate Ali Larijani, Israeli terrorist regime killed more than 500 people. And that's what they call a smart wars."

• *Sunday March 22* [Wall Street Journal](#) calls civilian power infrastructure a legitimate military target.

[Mustafa Barghouti](#): "Settler terror hordes are exploiting the world's and the media's preoccupation with the war on Iran and Lebanon to carry out a campaign of brutal, vengeful terrorist attacks, under the protection of the Israeli army, on villages, towns, and roads in the West Bank. These attacks, which took place last night and this morning, included the burning of homes and vehicles and rural councils, as well as stoning and shooting at vehicles on West Bank roads. The attacks targeted villages and towns of Jalo ud, Burin, Hawara, Za'tara, Hawara, and 'Awarta in the Nablus area, as well as the burning of homes and vehicles and physical assaults in the towns of al-Fanduqomiya and Sila al-Zahr in the Jenin area. The settler terrorists also assaulted homes in Ein al-Hilweh in the Jordan Valley, the town of Tuqu' in Bethlehem, the village of Haris in Salfit, and the town of Yatta in Hebron. They also launched brutal attacks on vehicles in the vicinity of the Rawabi area and the main streets in Ramallah governorate."

[Orit Perlov](#), Israeli Institute for National Security Studies: "Instead of a power plant strike, a plague of the firstborn: tomorrow evening, eliminate the children of Vahidi, Araghchi, and Ghalibaf. If we can't get to the parents, harm their children (it took us two years to do it in Gaza. We haven't done it in Lebanon yet)."

"We are saying that a global United Front must take shape. All the oppressed people of the world must come together into a great anti-arrogance front—one that can transform the global stage. The world order is changing. America is no longer the same unchallenged superpower that once dictated terms to everyone. And the alignment of emerging powers and transformative forces can reshape that order." [Sadegh Shahbazi](#)

- [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.



• FROM THE FACULTY & STAFF •

A kernel of truth

On Wednesday March 18, Sarah Lawrence president Cristle Collins Judd wrote to our community about recent communications from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. The Committee issued a [press release](#) and a document it calls a "bombshell [report](#) on antisemitism in higher ed," as actual US-Israeli bombshells fall on Iran, Lebanon, and Palestine. "Antisemitism continues to spread like wildfire at schools across the nation," said Committee Chair Tim Walberg, who in [2024](#) said at a Michigan town hall meeting, "We shouldn't be spending a dime on humanitarian aid. It should be like Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Get it over quick." In [2025](#) he referred to "the weeks-long violent encampments that engulfed campuses across the country," and said that the purpose of the founding of the national Faculty for Justice in Palestine was "to bring antisemitism into the classroom and lend institutional legitimacy to antisemitic sentiments." Cristle's letter last Wednesday reminded us what the Committee was intent on attacking: "I first wrote to you about this in March 2025, after the Committee sent a letter to the College outlining its concerns and raising questions about the College's response to protest activity in the Fall 2024 semester." In a faculty meeting on April 1, 2025 responding to the House Committee's letter, soon after receipt, she made her position clear: "There's also a kernel of truth in it."

At that meeting, Cristle said she was looking forward to the opportunity "to tell our story of free expression in the context of mutual respect." One faculty member said they thought that every

accusation in the Committee's letter was true, and that the campus protests were anti-Semitic, and several others agreed. One guest faculty member asked, "Given that the letter's accusations are baseless, if there is a subpoena, do we turn over information knowing the danger?" "We will respond in some way," Cristle replied. "We can't ignore this, we're federally funded. But we're going to protect our students." As the microphone passed elsewhere, the questioner asked, "How?"

The parts of the Committee's report focused on Sarah Lawrence are not so far aimed at students by name—the attacks are focused on our Students for Justice in Palestine as an organization, our Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine, and Sarah Lawrence administrators and faculty. The section called "Suggested Best Practices" provides a worrisome template for some of the changes in Sarah Lawrence customs in dealing with political protest since 2024: "Adopt policies governing protests—including masking and encampment restrictions and Time, Place, and Manner guidelines—and enforce them consistently and without faculty or student involvement." "Disciplinary processes for enforcing these policies should not involve panels consisting of students or faculty."

The Endnotes include the heartbreaking sight of citations for the private emails Sarah Lawrence turned over to this nefarious project.

³¹ SLC-0002022 (on file with Comm.).

³² SLC-0002190 (on file with Comm.).

³³ SLC-0002214 (on file with Comm.).

³⁴ SLC-0002214 (on file with Comm.).

³⁵ Screenshot on file with Comm.

³⁶ SLC-0001618 (on file with Comm.).

The report includes an 881-page [Appendix](#), which gathers some of the material the Committee demanded from other colleges and universities, and which those institutions, without subpoenas, agreed to provide. Pages 21 to 29 are internal Sarah Lawrence emails from the fall of 2023, as well as an [Instagram post](#) from our FSJP in February 2024, when the national FSJP was founded. Pages 879 to 881 end the Appendix with three pages of internal Sarah Lawrence emails about the student walkout in April 2024. Among the names not redacted in these emails the College turned over to the Committee are those of staff in charge of our Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the VP for Advancement and External Affairs, the Firstyear Dean, and that of one of the co-founders of our Sarah Lawrence FSJP.

The Appendix also includes the gleanings of informants, trolling the classroom practices and social media accounts of student and faculty Palestine activists and passing on their findings to the Committee. The beautiful teaching materials of UC Berkeley's Ussama Makdisi, nephew of Edward Said, appear as evidence of anti-Semitic malfeasance, including an assigned excerpt from Mahmoud Darwish's *Memory of Forgetfulness*, "The sky has gone crazy': Beirut, Summer 1982." The Haverford dean begins bias complaint proceedings by writing to the brave, clear students of their campus SJP about an Instagram post supporting "the complete dismantling of the apartheid settler-colonial state of Israel." The Committee has put together for future archives a record of the shameful work of anonymous informers and the capitulations of institutions.

For us of SL FSJP, there is not a kernel of truth in this Committee's accusations, but a kernel of something else: a confidence that an institution claiming to respect truth and to teach young people how to search for it could be made to betray that purpose, with a little show of federal power. The Committee didn't even need a subpoena. All they needed was the willingness of our community to put aside its historical sense of opposition to federal coercion and agree to cooperate, because of our divisions about Zionism and the state of Israel. In this moment, we of FSJP are listening to the wisdom of the protesters outside the recent ADL "Never Is Now" conference in New York, holding a banner that said, "Jewish Elders To ADL: Stop Doing MAGA's Dirty Work."

I'll finish remembering the words of another former Sarah Lawrence president, Harold Taylor, speaking to students in 1951, defending our campus from the bullying attempts of the American Legion to decide what higher education will be:

"I have one last thing to say. I believe that the most important possession we have at Sarah Lawrence College is our political and intellectual independence and our freedom to carry out a democratic educational program. We can only preserve this independence and this freedom if we all stand together as students and faculty against the attacks on this freedom from whatever quarter they may come."

Yours,



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from "The Conscripted Container," Lama Zuhair Khouri

"I worked at the United Nations between 1990 and 2004, most of which I spent at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as a Political Affairs Officer. I entered with the Charter — *we the peoples* — believing my role was to carry the voices of the oppressed and marginalized. Over fourteen years, I learned to metabolize what the institution required: to convert moral obligation into procedural

correctness, so that abandonment felt not like betrayal but like professionalism. I did not resist this. I called it maturity.