

# SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION FOR PALESTINE

STUDENTS • FACULTY • STAFF • ALUMNI

## KITE FROM KIMBALL

A newsletter from the  
**SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION  
FOR PALESTINE • VOLUME 5  
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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](mailto:sl.fs.jpalestine@proton.me).*

*Copy deadline is Sundays at noon. Thank you.*

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Since our last newsletter:

• *Monday February 23* Israeli authorities issue 23 demolition orders for residential and agricultural structures in Umm al-Shakhalib, east of Abu Dis and southeast of Jerusalem. [GoodShepherd](#)

Hagar Shezaf: "Anyone with eyes knows it's foolish to think that the annexation of the West Bank will happen through a declaration. The government's actions are making annexation a reality, and it's happening now, out in the open.

"My conversations with diplomats during last weekend's Munich Security Conference confirmed what I thought: Everyone, with the possible exception of Israelis, is aware of the great drama that's unfolding." *Ha'aretz*

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on [Reshet Bet](#) radio: "Soon an ultimatum will be given to Hamas, according to which all weapons and headquarters must leave the Gaza Strip. The IDF is already working on plans in case they comply. In the end we will conquer the Gaza Strip and establish settlement there."

Dr [Feroze Sidhwa](#), American trauma surgeon and Gaza volunteer: "American airplanes burned American jet fuel to drop American bombs outfitted with American guidance systems on targets identified with AI software from American corporations, many of them here in the Bay Area, incidentally. The pilots might have spoken Hebrew, but the machinery of death's first language is English."

• **Tuesday February 24** Israeli settlers burn Palestinian homes and vehicles in the village of [Susya](#), in Masafer Yatta. [Ihab Hassan](#)

New law blocks Palestinians who've graduated from universities in the occupied West Bank from teaching in Israeli schools. [Saul Staniforth](#)

Israeli forces seal off the town of Bethlehem. All entrances and exits are closed. No one can enter or leave. [Ihab Hassan](#)

"I was speaking with a friend who works as a cook in a kitchen run by World Central Kitchen...He told me the kitchen may completely stop cooking and distributing food to displaced people in Gaza within the next two days. The reason is shocking: the trucks that bring cooking supplies and fuel are being prevented from entering. Without them, they cannot light a single fire or prepare a single meal...Hundreds of thousands of people rely on these meals every single day. Many families have no food in their tents at all and wait for these meals the way a drowning person waits for air. It is Ramadan, and people are already struggling to find something to break their fast with. If this kitchen stops, it will not simply be the suspension of a humanitarian service people will immediately feel hunger returning to the camps. If the trucks are not allowed in soon, this will not be a distant possibility. It will become a real catastrophe within days. Here, when food stops, it simply means that thousands of families will go to sleep hungry again." [Tamer Nahed](#)

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid: "'I support anything that will allow the Jews a large, broad, strong land and a safe haven for us, our children and our children's children. That I support.' When asked 'How broad?' Lapid responded: 'As broad as possible.' He added that there were practical 'considerations of security and policy and time,' but said Israeli territory could expand as far as Iraq." [MiddleEastEye](#)

• **Wednesday February 25** "Campus Crises and the Limits of Title VI" [Columbia Law Review](#)

Investigation reveals that New York City is providing over \$2 million in rent breaks and construction incentives to Crye Precision, a military contractor supplying gear to ICE, US Border Patrol, and the Israeli Defense Forces. Crye Precision has operated out of the city-owned Brooklyn Navy Yard since

2002 and holds multiple leases with significant financial incentives, including rent waivers and subsidized construction costs. [QudsNews](#)

"The Israeli military has committed more targeted killings of journalists than any other government's military since CPJ began documentation in 1992." [Committee To Protect Journalists](#)

- **Thursday February 26** Two Palestinians killed by an Israeli strike on during a funeral at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. [Reuters](#)

- **Friday February 27** New York Supreme Court judge Gerald Lebovits [reverses expulsions](#) of students who occupied Hamilton Hall in the spring of 2024, calling Columbia's internal panel's determinations that students committed disciplinary violations "arbitrary and capricious."

"...the evidence before the panel still did not show by a preponderance that petitioners committed disciplinary violations other than being in Hamilton Hall during the 22 hours that it was occupied," the judge noted. [Meghnad Bose](#)

[Montclair State](#) faculty federal lawsuit for the right to oppose genocide reaches discovery stage. "Our case, fought by a few passionate lawyers and by us, has survived in federal court against a major university and its corporate law firm for 8 months, to reach the heart of the matter: discovery, depositions, and the uncovering of how this kind of repression really worked on college campuses in 2024-2025."

'Terror Was Needed to Make Arabs Leave': What the Israeli Army Did in 1948. [Ha'aretz](#)

- **Saturday February 28** First Israeli and moments later US forces attack Iran. On Trump's list of pretexts: "And it was Iran's proxy Hamas that launched the monstrous October 7 attacks on Israel." [CBS](#) By the end of the day, more than a dozen countries are involved in a regional war, and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been assassinated.

- **Sunday March 1** Israeli message in southern Lebanon to the people of the villages of Srifa, Maaroub, Sela (Tyre), Dabaal, Bafliyeh, Barish, Arzoun, Qalawiya, Shahabiya (Tyr Zebna), Dardaghia, Bstiyat, Arab Salim, Hawsh al-Rafqa, Yahmar (West Bekaa), Midoun, Dalafy, Ain Qana, Kniseh, Mansouri (Tyre), Majdal Zoun, Mazraat Bayout al-Sayyad, Jabal al-Batoum, Zibqin, al-Sama'iya, Aytit, Qana, al-Bayad

(Tyre), Deir Amas, Ayta al-Jabal (al-Zat), Hanin (Bint Jbeil), Haris, Hadatha, Mahrouna, Beit Leef, Yater (Bint Jbeil), Shaqra, Houla, Barashit, Bint Jbeil, Jmeijmeh, Aytrun, Safad al-Batikh, al-Bazouriya, Ainatha, Hanawiya, Jannata, Burj al-Shamali, Ma'raka, Siddiqin, al-Majadel, Wadi Jilo, Darwis (Baalbek), and Mays The Mountain: "For your safety, you must evacuate your homes immediately and move away from the villages to a distance of at least 1,000 meters into open areas." [Courtney Bonneau](#)

Israeli forces put the West Bank under curfew, threatening to arrest or shoot anyone who moves. [@JalalAK\\_jojo](#)

Israeli forces bomb Shatila refugee camp in Beirut. [Sulaiman Ahmed](#)

Israeli forces bomb Beit Lahiya in Gaza, after sealing off all entrances and exits. [Motasem Dalloul](#)

US and Israeli forces bomb Gandhi Hospital in Tehran. [CodePink](#)

US and Israeli forces bomb a girls' primary school in Minab, Iran and kill 148 students. [EuroMedMonitor](#): "The blood of children in classrooms marks the failure of all humanity."

Israeli forces bomb Red Crescent Headquarters in Tehran. [Robert Inlakesh](#)

[Wall Street Journal](#) editorial: "The biggest mistake President Trump could make now would be to end the war too soon, before Iran's military and its domestic terror forces have been more thoroughly destroyed." Bret Stephens in the *New York Times*: "Trump and Netanyahu Are Doing the Free World a Favor."

[Bassam Haddad](#): "Teach your students about the lack of professionalism and consistent unethical filth of American mainstream media, especially when it comes to Israel--with thousands of articles/titles like this one to back up this charge" : *New York Times*, "Iran Says Dozens Are Killed In Strike on School" — "9 Killed in Israeli City Near Jerusalem After Iranian Missile Strike."

[Francesca Albanese](#): "We warned you: the wholesale destruction of Gaza was not an exception, it was a blueprint to crush anyone who opposes the plutocratic imperialism embodied by US/Israel and their

global allies. Act now: defend international law from lawlessness, before the rupture becomes irreversible.”

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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 •

Letter from concerned Sarah Lawrence faculty re the threat of disciplinary procedures for student protest

Dear Shadia, Dave, Rachael, and the General Committee:

As Sarah Lawrence faculty members, including dons of students who recently received letters notifying them that the College is investigating student protests of Ezra Klein's visit to campus January 28, we write to ask for further discussion with faculty on the disciplinary process itself before any further steps

are taken in these proceedings. We are concerned about potential risk to the College that may arise from inadequate deliberation. We'd like to consider together how we might proceed in the spirit of the College values articulated in the Student Handbook:

*"The Code of Conduct is inspired by the principles of restorative practice, which seek to: (a) support and care for individuals and communities that have been harmed and compassionately respond to their needs; and (b) respect the rights of all individuals in this process and encourage harmed individuals to have a voice in the process, as well as to create space for students who have caused harm to express remorse, make amends, and take steps to repair the harm caused. It is important to recognize that, while individual accountability and acceptance of responsibility is primary, there are often other mitigating social factors at play that promote or reinforce negative behavior."*

We'd like to consider as a community the following questions and concerns:

1 We ask for clarification and definition of disciplinary terms including "disruption" and "interruption." What standards are being applied to determine this distinction, which could lead to disciplinary consequences?

2 It's our understanding that the free expression board is designed to permit free expression. While recognizing SLC's prerogative as a private institution to establish an alternate standard for free speech, we are deeply concerned about the increasing willingness of institutions of higher education to restrict 1st amendment rights. Is this antithetical to our core institutional values? What message would this type of restriction send to our students and larger campus community, especially at this time?

3 The president's letter of January 30 described the students' actions as "antisemitic" prior to any investigative process or determination. We are concerned about the impact of this assertion on our ability to conduct unbiased proceedings. Do we have a working definition of hate speech, which could be the basis of our policy on mutual respect? What constitutes a violation? How do we decide this as a community?

4 We ask for transparency in relation to the disciplinary process, including appointment of hearing panelists. How and by whom are panelists selected?

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NOTE: the letter above is not from SL FSJP, nor from the Sarah Lawrence Coalition for Palestine, and was written before the dramatic expansion of US-Israeli attacks. We of FSJP would like to add our concerns that we as a community don't at the moment have ways to talk to each other to deal with the magnitude of what's happening in our world.

Our faculty meetings are convened not by faculty but by administrators; our panels are infrequent, hierarchical, and undemocratically chosen, and leave little time for real discussion and exchange. Our classrooms and our conference system are the only models we have that function with benefit to everyone in our community.

For us at this time it's an urgent priority to think together about expanding our models for democratic community discussion, where everyone's voice might be heard, without fear of reprisal. For us any decisions about disciplining student protest should pass through a process of real community discussion, for which so far no model exists. Would this mean small group meetings within each campus constituency? Small group meetings mixing representatives from each constituency? Groups chosen at random, or convened based on affinity? Meeting once or twice, or on a more regular basis? What might a process be for these groups to meet and to communicate the results of their discussions to the campus as a whole? In a time of widespread attacks on democracy, we'd like to think about how we might expand democracy's possibilities on our campus, as these world-shifting events unfold.

## from Palestinian diplomat Leila Shahid 1949-2026

"I believe it's this freedom and this form of combativeness that the West doesn't understand. The West, and its intellectuals in particular, see the Palestinian fighters as soldiers. But for me they are not soldiers at all."

Rami Abou Jamous: "Leila Shahid didn't defend the Palestinian cause, she embodied it."

Palestinian Ambassador to France Hala Abou Hassira, who by the end of November 2023 had lost 60 relatives to Israeli bombings—on Leila Shahid: "In her memory, we commit to continuing what she

started. Her fight is our fight. Her determination is our compass. Her demand for dignity, justice, and truth remains our roadmap.”

## 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.

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*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](mailto:sl.fs.jpalestine@proton.me).*

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• 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](mailto: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 (howdidgetsol8)\*, 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>.

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**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](http://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](https://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](http://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](https://tinyurl.com/khanyouniswater)

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zinneducationproject

ZinnEdProject.org

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**How many** of these  
gentle people have I  
helped to kill just by  
paying my taxes?

— **June Jordan**, from  
“Nicaragua: Why I  
Had to Go There”  
January, 1984





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• *FROM THE STUDENTS* •