

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**



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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.

*4 MORE ISSUES OF KITE! FOR THIS SEMESTER,
FINISHING VOLUME 5 ON MONDAY MAY 11.*

*WE'LL RESUME WITH THE SUMMER'S BIWEEKLY
VOLUME 6 ON MONDAY JUNE 1.*

AS ALWAYS, CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME.

Since our last newsletter:

• *Monday April 6* Israel-US bombs Iran's Sharif University of Technology, often informally referred to as Iran's MIT. [Kourosh Ziabari](#): "When the United States joined the Israeli regime's scholasticide as part of the ongoing war on Iran, I was convinced at least Sharif would be spared. I was wrong."

[Mouin Rabbani](#): "The bombing of Sharif University of Technology in Tehran validates what a friend recently said: 'Gaza has become a verb'."

US-Israeli forces again bomb Iran's South Pars petrochemical facility. [TürkiyeToday](#) Iranian forces bomb Saudi SABIC petrochemical facility in Jubail. [Mark Ames](#)

US-Israeli forces bomb Iranian [pistachio](#) warehouses near Rafsanjan Airport in Kerman. Yasha Levine, co-director of [Pistachio Wars](#), on billionaire [California](#) pistachio entrepreneurs Stewart and Lynda [Resnick](#): "The Resnicks' personal Zionist politics and their business politics are very much in alignment. It's also very circular because American foreign policy created the Resnicks' business: US meddling in Iran and subsequent economic sanctions created the conditions for the emergence of

California's pistachio industry. Then profits from that industry circulate and cycle right back into this imperial machine that works to basically create a consensus in America that Iran is our greatest enemy." [Nation](#)

"That Israel is attempting to annex South Lebanon and [displace over a million residents](#) is no secret—[such missions are claimed proudly now](#). Two related variables have changed over the last eighty years, though, as Israel has continuously assaulted Lebanon: the US position on these efforts (once opposed) and the mainstream press coverage (once empirical). Go back to 1982 and read *The Washington Post's* reporting on another of Israel's attempts to take Southern Lebanon (courtesy of the CIA): "[Maj. Saad Haddad, a cashiered Lebanese officer, has been acting as Israel's puppet warlord in the Litani River area for years](#)." Read that again—it was a sentence in an American newspaper you could buy at the airport. Statements like these (sassy, true) do not show up in corporate news now." [Sasha Frere-Jones](#)

Israeli forces open fire on a UN vehicle in Gaza and kill World Health Organization driver Majdi Aslan. [AlJazeera](#)

UCSD, USC quietly sell donors' bodies to US Navy for Israeli military training. Since November 2013, Israeli military medical personnel have come four times a year to the Navy Trauma Training Center at Los Angeles General Medical Center. Reporting by [Annenberg Media](#) reveals that members of the Golani Brigade, an infantry unit that [killed 15 medics](#) in Rafah in March 2025, recently trained at the Navy Trauma Training Center. The Navy has taken the first steps to extend the program that relies on anatomical donations from USC and the UC system until 2029. UCSD alum Jennifer Gomez: "The fact that my grandma's body, a very loving, liberal artist, whose body was intended to support students' studies and the advancement of science, could be used to train military personnel or support an institution that is literally carrying on a genocide blows my mind." [USCAnnenbergMedia](#)

Argentine president Javier Milei agrees to the creation of an Israeli statelet called Josué on land in Patagonia Israelis burned and then bought. [Tim Anderson](#)

Iran accuses IAEA of inaction that he said emboldens aggression against nuclear facilities like the Bushehr power plant. [AlJazeera](#)

Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny [Danon](#): "We have the legitimacy to target civilian targets in Iran."

US-Israel bomb the Rafie Nia synagogue in Tehran. Iran is home to West Asia's second largest Jewish community, with approximately 100 synagogues, 30 in Tehran. [Narjes Rahmati](#) "Grim metaphor for Israel's foundational and undisguised loathing of diaspora Jews." [David Klion](#)

Reporter to Trump: Mr. President, how would it not be a war crime to strike Iran's bridges and power plants?

Trump: Because they killed 45,000 people last month. More than that. It could be as much as 60. They killed protesters. They're [animals](#)."

Trump later: "The entire country could be taken out in one night. And that night might be tomorrow night." [Aaron Rupar](#)

Israeli forces kill the mother of Palestinian journalist Jihad Abu Shamala in central Gaza. [WearThePeace](#)

"Israel is committing a new massacre in Maghazi camp in Gaza." [Omar Hamad](#)

• *Tuesday April 7* Trump on Truth Social: "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will." Iranians [gather](#) around bridges and power plants to try to protect them. [CurrentReport](#)

"Trump is carrying out the ruling class agenda. It is bipartisan." [Bree Newsome](#)

JD Vance: "...we're gonna get a response from the Iranians by 8 o'clock tonight. I hope they make the right response...we want a world where oil and gas is flowing freely, where people can afford to heat their homes and cool their homes, where people can afford to transport themselves to work. That's not gonna happen if the Iranians are engaged in acts of economic terrorism. So they've gotta know, we've got tools in our toolkit that we so far haven't decided to use. The President of the United States can decide to use them, and he will decide to use them if the Iranians don't change their course of conduct."

[Senate Republicans](#): "Iran would be wise to take President Trump at his word. They can choose the easy way or the hard way."

BBC Senior Reporter Ghoncheh Habibiadzad's [article](#) quoting an anonymous "Iranian" begging for Iran to be left without electricity and water before being "levelled" and "nuked to death" is edited to remove the quote without explanation. [TRT](#) "Was the BBC caught manufacturing consent for the use of nuclear weapons against Iran?" [Lowkey](#) "The BBC has employed a pro-monarchy Pahlavi propagandist as 'Senior Iran Reporter.' Ghoncheh Habibiadzad was an employee of Marjan TV Network, the parent company of [@manotv](#): the Pahlavi regime's whitewashing machine." [Shahab Esfandiary](#)

Dr. Alireza Zarei, Mathematics Professor and Head of IT Center at Sharif University of Technology, holds his "Randomized Algorithms" class for graduate students inside his office destroyed by the United States and Israel. [@aliasghar 1999](#)

Handala outs the Israeli military [team](#) responsible for the making of the Elbit Hermes drone. [Calla Walsh](#)

Reporter to Marco Rubio: Does the US operation constitute war crimes, Mr. Secretary, if we wipe out a civilization?

Rubio: (Silence.) (Exits.) [HQNews](#)

Israeli soldiers kill 68-year-old Sabriya Shamasneh in a dawn raid on her home in Jiyus, north of Qalqilya. [Mustafa Barghouti](#)

Israel-backed militia launches deadly attack on Deir al-Balah refugee camp in Gaza. [DropSite](#)

Iran's Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei approves Pakistan's 2-week ceasefire proposal, after intense diplomacy and last-minute pressure from China. [Workshops4Gaza](#)

"An official from one of the mediating countries tells me that the 11th-hour deal between US and Iran came together after the involvement of two unlikely actors: Vice President JD Vance and China. Vance was looped in late Tuesday and China helped get Iran on board." [Farnoush Amiri](#)

[Suleiman Maswadeh](#): "An Israeli source tells me about the ceasefire: We were surprised by Trump's decision. We received updates in the final moments when everything seemed finalized. We are committed to the ceasefire."

"According to the Pakistani mediator, Lebanon is included in the ceasefire arrangement. As such, many eager displaced Lebanese southerners are returning now as we speak to their villages in south Lebanon." [Marwa Osman](#)

"We should work toward nuclear disarmament in the entire world, but it should start with disarming the two nations that pose the most serious threat to global peace: Israel and the United States." [Jostein Hauge](#)

• **Wednesday April 8** Israeli attacks kill hundreds of people in Lebanon, in the largest [strike](#) since the start of the war, launching 100 air attacks in 10 minutes, on the South, the Bekaa and Beirut. [SuppressedNews](#) Israel calls the assault on Lebanon "[Operation Eternal Darkness](#)."

"Multiple Israeli airstrikes hitting Beirut right now." [Courtney Bonneau](#)

British MQ-9 Reaper drone departs from RAF Akrotiri and circles over Lebanon near Baalbek for 13 hours. At same time, Israeli strikes kill 18 people in the area. [Matt Kennard](#)

"This day in Lebanon will live in infamy. It will expose and discredit those in government and media who, for a fee, have promoted peace with the genocide killers of Tel Aviv." [Asad Abukhalil](#)

Emirati Air Force targets Iran's oil and petrochemical plants on the islands of Siri and Lavan and multiple other petrochemical facilities in the region. [Maryam Jamshidi](#): "This is how Israel keeps this war going. By having their attack dog in the Gulf hit Iran after a ceasefire goes into effect. The UAE is not a sovereign state. It is a holding company and its biggest shareholder is Israel." Iran [retaliates](#) with strikes on Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE.

"Iran issues warning: It says the Strait of Hormuz will not reopen unless the ceasefire includes Lebanon & Gaza, warning that attacks on Lebanon will trigger a response & could halt shipping through the Strait. The warning comes following a massive wave of simultaneous attacks by Israel, against the entirety of Lebanon including its capital Beirut. The message is blunt: No ceasefire across all fronts, no ceasefire at all (where Israel is concerned)." [Hala Jaber](#)

The White House says Lebanon is not part of the ceasefire agreement. [OSINTtechnical](#)

Reporter: And you're okay with the Israelis continuing to hit them?

Trump: It's part of the deal. Everyone knows that.

[Elizabeth Landers](#)

Iran attacks Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline, "an economic lifeline for the kingdom since the near closure of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz." [FaytuksNews](#)

[Dr. Mustafa Barghouti](#): "It is the duty of US President Trump and his administration to rein in Netanyahu and force him to stop the brutal bombardment of Lebanon, which Netanyahu is using to undermine the ceasefire agreement."

"We're back in the unreality zone of political discourse in the US. Israel is actively trying to blow up the ceasefire. No politician and no pundit who wants a career in legacy media can talk about this. The most relevant factor isn't part of the conversation." [Sean Padraig McCarthy](#)

Dr. Wen Feng, a former [Stanford](#) School of Medicine professor, has filed a complaint against the university claiming they were fired for their political beliefs and activities. The complaint, filed with the California Labor Commissioner's Office, says Stanford interfered with Dr. Feng's right to participate in political events. The dispute stems from Dr. Feng's attendance at a "[Sick from Genocide](#)" event in early 2025—a medical awareness event that Stanford labeled "political" because of its connection to pro-Palestine advocacy.

re ICE's detention of Milwaukee Muslim leader Salah Sarsour: "US Rep. Tom Tiffany—the frontrunner for the Republican nomination who has made his absolute devotion to the Trump administration the

central feature of his gubernatorial bid—approved the targeting of Sarsour by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the same agency that launched the chaotic and deadly surge by armed and masked agents in Minneapolis earlier this year. Tiffany immediately identified Sarsour—a longtime Milwaukee furniture store owner, Muslim community leader and prominent advocate for Palestinian rights, now being held without bail in Indiana—as an ‘Islamist terrorist’...State Rep. Francesca Hong, whose gubernatorial bid has topped several recent polls, said, ‘Mr. Sarsour is a Palestinian man, a beloved father and a friend who had been a steadfast leader in the community for over 30 years.’ Sarsour has been targeted ‘because of his opposition to the Israeli occupation of Palestine,’ Hong said.” [CapTimes](#)

After a relentless campaign that openly called for his murder, Israeli forces assassinate Palestinian journalist Mohammed Samir Washah in his car west of Gaza City. [GazaNotifications](#)

Automatic draft registration for US military to begin in December. [TheHill](#)

[Steve Salaita](#) at Queen Mary University, London, from “Existence and Belonging: Six Reflections on Palestine”: “Palestinians keep pointing to big names on social media as Zionist and then get lambasted. *How is he a Zionist? Where is the evidence? Why are you being divisive?* We won’t beg you to figure out what we already know. But, okay, fine, here are some possible reasons. He writes for Zionist publications. He spread atrocity propaganda after October 7. He treats resistance as illegitimate. He trades in discourses amenable to US imperialism. Is that good enough for you? Does that not tell you all there is to know? If it doesn’t, then you understand neither Zionism nor anti-Zionism. A lack of understanding is forgivable, but in snidely questioning what should be obvious you’re *choosing* not to understand...Whitewashing these tedious luminaries is worse than a waste of time; it is actively harmful to the development of a coherent anti-Zionist movement.”

• **Thursday April 9** Israel’s cabinet approves 34 new illegal settlements in the West Bank. The total now stands at 103. [WestBankNotifications](#) Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich: “There will be expansion in Gaza that will extend our borders. In Lebanon, to the Litani, in Syria, Mount Hermon, parts of the north, south, and east.” [Ihab Hassan](#)

The financial infrastructure behind the Zionist movement also funds the organizations meant to dismantle it. We built a database of 14,653 nonprofits that shows exactly how. [GoodShepherdCollective](#)

Letter from 75 Swarthmore Faculty and Staff In Defense of Students’ Freedom of Expression: “As Swarthmore staff and faculty members, we write to express concern about the disciplinary charges recently issued to eight students for their alleged distribution of zines containing criticisms of the Board of Managers and the College administration. The March 5, 2026 issue of The Phoenix [reports](#) that the College has issued multiple charges, including for “Bullying and Intimidation”

and “Endangerment or Affliction of Physical Harm.” These charges, whose potential outcomes include suspension and expulsion, pose a significant threat to students’ freedom of expression...In the classroom, we teach students careful observation, informed analysis, and engagement with a wide range of perspectives, including those that do not conform to our own worldviews. We are concerned that the disciplinary system is taking a different approach, one that undercuts the College’s own learning goals.” [SwarthmorePhoenix](#)

After Mahmoud Khalil [appealed](#) an immigration judge’s decision finding him removable, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) issues a “final” administrative removal order in retaliation for his speech in support of Palestinian rights. The order does not change the status quo and will be appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Khalil still cannot lawfully be detained or deported while his separate, ongoing federal habeas corpus case continues in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. “I am not surprised by this decision from the biased and politically motivated Board of Immigration Appeals. I have committed no crime. I have broken no law. The only thing I am guilty of is speaking out against the genocide in Palestine—and this administration has weaponized the immigration system to punish me for it,” said Mahmoud Khalil. “My family is here. My life is here. I reject any attempt to intimidate me out of my home based on lies and ideological attacks. This is not justice. This is just another attempt to retaliate against me. I will continue fighting for my rights in court, and I will not be deterred—for me, my family, and all immigrants in this country who want to speak out against injustice.” [CCR](#)

Former Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi and head of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations dies from injuries sustained in the US-Israeli airstrike that killed his wife last week. [Ali Hashem](#)

More than 70 transport planes land in the Middle East within 24 hours of the ceasefire taking effect, suggesting possible preparation for a ground offensive, solidifying suspicion that Trump is using the truce to regroup. [Bashkarma](#)

- **Friday April 10** Negotiation delegations arrive in Islamabad. Iran’s is called Minab 168, after the schoolgirls killed by one of the US-Israel strikes that began the war. [Sulaiman Ahmed](#)

The West Bank is witnessing the most intense crackdown since the days after October 7. “As would be imagined, Israeli military invasions constitute the largest category of violations, averaging 15.2 per day. The pattern is consistent: forces enter a town, patrol, arrest residents, and withdraw. On April 8, Ramallah experienced seven separate invasions. Arrests averaged 6.6 per day. The Daily File reported that Jenin camp had been closed continuously for 443 days as of March 31, while Tulkarm camp had been effectively closed for over 400 days.” [GoodShepherdCollective](#)

Documents reveal that the FBI cut ties with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) last year, citing concerns that the ADL was operating a private surveillance network.

