

# 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**



VOL. 5 NO. 17 : MONDAY MAY 11, 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](mailto:sl.fs.jpalestine@proton.me).*

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

THIS WILL BE OUR LAST ISSUE OF KITE  
FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER OF 2026.

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

PLEASE SEND ANY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR  
OUR SUMMER ISSUES TO

SL.FS.JPALESTINE@PROTON.ME.

THANK YOU AS ALWAYS FOR YOUR  
SOLIDARITY & SUPPORT.

Since our last newsletter:

- *Monday May 4* In a span of just four days, Israel has killed at least 74 people across south Lebanon, adding to the toll of 2,679 killed since March 2. [Roqayah Chamseddine](#)

"This Hillel chapter funds students to volunteer in a support role for the IDF. They work directly with the Golani Brigade, which massacred 15 paramedics and buried their bodies along with their ambulances. How is appropriate to use mandatory student fees to support that?" [Ryan Grim](#)

- **Tuesday May 5** Protests at a real estate expo at the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan to sell Palestinian land for Israeli settlement. "Mayor Mamdani is deeply opposed to the real estate expo this evening that includes the promotion of the sale of land in settlements in the Occupied West Bank," said Sam Raskin, a spokesperson for Mamdani, in a statement to [The Intercept](#). "These settlements are illegal under international law and deeply tied to the ongoing displacement of Palestinians." The protests are met with barricades, block closures, and aggressive police. [FreedomNewsTV](#)

University of Michigan professor defends pro-Palestinian commencement remarks: "On a day meant to honor students for their accomplishments, I thought it important that we would honor the student activists who have, over the course of time, pushed the institution toward justice. The University has taken down the commencement video. But [here is my talk](#), if you'd like to hear the whole of it. As you will see, it is a talk about the salience of student activism in this institution's long history. " [CBS](#)

Palestine Action activists found guilty of criminal damage to UK Elbit factory supplying weapons to Israel. Zoe Rogers, 22, in her closing statement to the jury: "I am proud that I overcame my fear and took action, because of course I was scared, you don't just break into an Israeli weapons factory for fun. And I can say with absolute certainty that this is the best thing I have ever done, because there is a good chance that because of our actions that night, innocent lives were saved." [Guardian](#)

- **Wednesday May 6** Rutgers graduation speaker canceled for pro-Palestinian posts says decision sends 'dangerous' message. Rami Elghandour tells [Guardian](#) in exclusive interview that his speech was cancelled due to student complaints. "I think [Palestine] is the moral issue of our time and I believe it's been used to undermine democratic institutions in the US," Elghandour said. He referred to the cancelled invitation as a sign of "erosion of free speech and the first amendment." "We've seen a livestreamed genocide," he added. "And we're supposed to worry about the feelings of the people who support that."

At the height of McCarthyism, the University of Michigan fired three professors—an event that they later felt so ashamed of that they instituted an annual "intellectual freedom lecture" in their honor, called The Davis, Markert, Nickerson Lecture on Academic and Intellectual Freedom. [Gautam Bhatia](#)

- **Thursday May 7** How Israel Is Wiping Southern [Lebanon](#) Off the Map. [Libération](#)

4 years on, FBI investigation into Shireen Abu Akleh's murder stalled. Since May 2022, the Committee to Protect Journalists has repeatedly called on the US government to undertake a timely, impartial, and thorough investigation of Abu Akleh's killing. These efforts include a [public letter to former President Joe Biden](#) in June 2022, calling on his administration to thoroughly investigate the killing and hold the perpetrators accountable. CPJ's "[Deadly Pattern](#)" report, released a year after Abu

Akleh's killing, found that at least 20 journalists were killed by Israeli military fire over 22 years, between 2001 and 2022. No one has ever been charged or held responsible for these deaths. [CPI](#)

New testimony from Palestinian detainees released from Israeli prisons confirms that Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya is being slowly executed. [Maha Hussaini](#)

'Hondurasgate,' the alleged US and Israeli interference plot to destabilize Mexico and other progressive governments. Leaked audio points to former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández, Javier Milei, and Donald Trump as attempting to create a platform to spread fake news about the administrations of Claudia Sheinbaum, Lula, and Gustavo Petro. [ElPaís](#)

NYU investigates Instagram post advertising anti-Zionist Passover Seder. The Jewish students and faculty who organized the Seder are demanding the investigation be halted and calling for a boycott of NYU Hillel. NYU's chapters of Jews Against Zionism and Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine invited community members last month to celebrate Passover with a ritual meal "rooted in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle against colonialism and Jewish supremacy." The April 2 [Instagram post](#) also called for students, faculty and staff to "boycott" Hillel International—which had advertised its own Seder event about a week prior—as part of a [nationwide campaign](#) demanding universities shut down Hillel branches, citing its collaboration with the Israeli military. On April 6, Vice Provost Kristen Day told the groups that NYU would investigate the members' call to boycott Hillel and combat "Jewish supremacy" and urged them to "immediately remove" the post. Day added that NYU Hillel is a "vital venue for Jewish life" and said the groups are "excluding and ostracizing an organization and its members." NYU's Title VI office—which oversees complaints relating to discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity or religious affiliation—is probing whether the groups violated the university's Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment policies. [NYUNews](#)

"A year ago today. Columbia still employs the officers who brutalized me. Zero accountability." [Fadi](#)

- **Friday May 8** Arab Israeli prosecutor hospitalized after police home raid over noise complaint. [Ha'aretz](#)

HSBC fully withdraws its holdings in Israel's biggest weapons producer, Elbit Systems. In the previous quarter, the bank dumped 96% of its shares in Elbit. After sustained direct action, HSBC has now ended all of its investments in Israel's Elbit Systems. [Aftershock](#)

Jordan Devlin, a Palestine Action activist acquitted over a protest at Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit's UK site, says he and his five co-defendants "did the right thing." [Guardian](#)

"I discovered anti-Zionism at the University of Michigan. I'm glad it lives on there." "As the mother of a recent college grad, I was humbled by the determination of these kids, who put up tents, organized

teach-ins, and then suffered as police [turned off](#) their bodycams and used [pepper spray](#) against them. They were lawfully protesting for the university to divest from Israel as it bombed the people of Gaza, the children of Gaza—which is now home to the [largest](#) number of child amputees in modern history. What I understand, and Professor Peterson understands, is that the student activists that he lauded at the commencement are fighting not against Jewish life but for Palestinians' right to survive daily, as people, and as a people. These activists have asked us to understand, finally, that Zionism is what it does." [Forward](#)

- **Saturday May 9** Mahmoud Khalil Hurtles Toward Potential Deportation as US Speeds Case: "They put me through a sham immigration process while guaranteeing the outcome in advance." [NYT](#)

Towson student confronts Israeli soldier visiting campus, ripping his banner and calling him a terrorist. Reactions online were sharply divided. Some users supported the Maryland student's actions and argued that confronting supporters of the Israeli military was justified given the ongoing conflict. *"VERY valid crashout,"* one Reddit user wrote. Others questioned why foreign military members were appearing on American college campuses in the first place. Some commenters also claimed universities were intentionally allowing these situations to happen to create controversy around student protests. *"That's why they're there, for this to happen so they can crack down on the students. Stand up against injustice in the face of actual terrorists and you'll have your life ruined. They are letting them on campus for a reason. Your dean and executive board are the real problem,"* another user [commented](#). Meanwhile, [supporters of Israel](#) and the reservist criticized the student's behavior and accused him of acting aggressively. Some users called the student ignorant, while others defended the reservist's right to speak on campus regardless of political disagreements. [NerdStash](#)

ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt credits Trump pressuring college campuses to shut down anti-Israel protests for much of the 33% fall in the number of "anti-Semitic incidents" tallied by the ADL in 2025. [Chris Menahan](#) "US colleges allowing criticism of Israel threatened with DOJ lawsuits and having funding pulled > forced to implement draconian policies effectively banning on-campus protests > "antisemitic" incidents drop by 33%." [gato fumante](#)

End of the first page of new White House "counterterrorism strategy": "We Will Find You and We Will Kill You," printed above the president's signature. The document identifies "narcoterrorists and transnational gangs" as one of the nation's three primary terrorism threats, alongside "legacy Islamist terrorists" and "violent left-wing extremists, including anarchists and anti-fascists." [Jason Bassler](#)

"An Israeli drone targeted a 12 year old girl THREE times today in Nabatieh. She and her father were on a motorcycle when they were first struck. They both survived, but the drone hit again, killing her father. As the wounded child fled, the drone struck a third time." [Nada Maucourant Atallah](#)

"Israel killed 40 Lebanese today and the world barely notices, it's not even second-tier news." [Abier Khatib](#)

"Almost three years of Palestinians and Lebanese being killed, family by family." [Maya Mikdashi](#)

"More than 50 people killed in South Lebanon in the past 24 hours. This is not a ceasefire. It is Israel trying its best to end it." [Karim Safieddine](#)

• **Sunday May 10** [Global Sumud Flotilla](#) activists Saif Abu Keshek and Thiago Avila are [released](#) from Israeli detention after beatings and prolonged aggressive interrogations.

"There is a clear escalation in Israeli attacks on Gaza. Daily airstrikes continue to hit multiple areas, Israeli tanks are advancing in several locations, and a Palestinian fisherman was shot and injured by the Israeli navy this morning. New yellow blocks are also being placed in residential neighbourhoods, marking further land seizure under the so-called 'Yellow Line.'" [Maha Hussaini](#)

Spanish journalist Marta Maroto shares an update from As-Saksakiyah, in Lebanon's Sidon district in the south, where an Israeli strike killed 9 members of the same family yesterday. Four different generations of family members erased. Intense attacks continued across southern Lebanon over the weekend. 51 people were killed on Saturday, the Health Ministry said, and Israel "directly targeted two points of the Health Authority in Qalawiya and Tibnin, Bint Jbeil district, in two raids," killing two paramedics on Sunday. PM Nawaf Salam said Bint Jbeil, the town in southern Lebanon which Israeli forces have laid siege to, "has become a version of Gaza," according to Lebanon's National News Agency. [DropSite](#)

Asked if he'd vote to approve future arms sales to Israel, Senator Cory Booker replies: "We have a long-standing commitment to Israel having a qualitative military edge. I will continue to support that." [MeetThePress](#)

---

---

- [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.

- [March 17, 2026 House Committee](#) releases [report](#), with [Appendix](#) including the names of Sarah Lawrence staff and FSJP faculty in partially redacted emails turned over to the Committee by the College, without a subpoena.



---

• FROM THE FACULTY & STAFF •

“Some rules around how we talk”

Today it's four years since an Israeli sniper shot Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and killed her as she reported from Jenin. Last week her close colleague, Palestinian journalist [Ali al-Samoudi](#), wounded that same day, was released after a year in Israel's prisons, where he lost half his body weight, in what he called "a graveyard of the living." In late April 2025, he was arrested from his home in Jenin, beaten by Israeli soldiers, and held in administrative detention without charge or trial. In 2022 he told [AlJazeera](#), "The first bullet hit me and the second bullet hit Shireen. They killed her in cold blood." No one has been held responsible. Jerusalem police insisted that the funeral be conducted without Palestinian flags. Israeli soldiers attacked the mourners carrying her coffin, forcing them to transport her by hearse, with the Palestinian flag removed from it. Israeli settlers occupied the homes of some of the Palestinian mourners.

Recently [Barack Obama](#) was asked in public whether he calls what Israel has done in Gaza a genocide. His response sounded all too familiar to anyone on a college campus in the United States, where the main topic of official conversation is not the breathtaking violences committed with complete impunity

by the state of Israel, enabled by our own government, but the danger of offending those with emotional ties to the perpetrators. "Eh, ah, uh, but, here's the uh, I, I'm happy to talk about this if the, it's part of the question," Obama said, "but, again, some rules around how we talk [Applause]. Yes, there are disasters and catastrophes everywhere [More applause]." Let's focus on civility, he said. When it comes to the violence of what is actually happening, let's be quiet and look away.

Last Friday, for the first time in the College's 100-year history, Sarah Lawrence banned a student from commencement for participating in a political protest. At 5pm on Commencement Day, the College sent letters suspending three other merit scholarship students for the same reason. Given that College rules say that suspension mandates the removal of merit scholarships that cannot be reinstated, this amounts to expulsions, based on the authority of "some rules around how we talk."

Under the surface of platitudes about respecting all the members of our community, Sarah Lawrence is joining the many US institutions that have caved to pressure from pro-Israel groups to come down hard on students who protest Israeli genocide. Under a blithe phrase like "some rules around how we talk" are the censorships and silencings and attempts at narrative control that Sarah Lawrence might once have helped our students learn to recognize, understand, and devote themselves to dismantling. Instead the College is deploying them against our students: these four for now, and maybe more to come.

The three suspended students have until 5pm Friday May 15 to submit appeals to reverse these draconian decisions. The consulting firm to which the College outsourced this sham process, Grand River Solutions, has also been hired by institutions like Columbia to punish pro-Palestine student protest. They are currently being [sued](#) by pro-Palestine activists at the University of Michigan for improper procedures and discrimination: "Defendant Grand River Solutions is retained by the University of Michigan to bring disciplinary proceedings against students involved with campus protest activities with viewpoints such as those advocated by the Plaintiffs." Grand River says in one of its own [training slide presentations](#) that "Cross-examination must be permitted and must be conducted by an advisor of choice or provided by the institution." While an advisor was permitted at these 20 recent Sarah Lawrence Zoom hearings, the students' pro bono lawyer, he was banned from speaking. The College presented no Complainants except the incident reports of Campus Safety. The only witnesses offering testimony were Campus Safety surveillance cameras. Student appeals based on "Material procedural error"—no witnesses and no cross-examination—and "Inappropriate sanction"—chant to protest a speaker and you're expelled from the College—more than merit the reversal of these decisions.

"How we talk," without the "rules" of approved narratives, is what journalists like Amal Khalil and Shireen Abu Akleh and dozens of other Palestinian journalists have been murdered for trying to protect. These "rules" to force compliance with civility narratives in a time of genocide—narratives

looking away from Israeli impunity—betray the memories of these journalists and any values of this College worthy of the name.

The College refuses to engage in dialogue with protesting students, demanding only compliance, and defends its prerogatives. The students refuse to engage in dialogue with a speaker they see as a soft-power genocide enabler and are met with some of the harshest possible sanctions. You do not have to agree with our students' politics to recognize that they are being treated unfairly, and that the ramifications for Sarah Lawrence reach far beyond this moment. We of Sarah Lawrence FSJP hope that we as a community will find ways to speak up for our students and stand with them, before it's too late.



Former Sarah Lawrence student Alice Walker on South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's speech to the Global Progressive Mobilisation Plenary, Barcelona, April 21, 2026

"Thank you, South Africa, for remembering how it has felt to face a people's devastation seemingly all alone. To have learned valiant soul by valiant soul that you were not unaccompanied in your struggle. That if you rose, others would rise with you. Like Gaza you

bled for so long, it seemed to be your fate. What a cost for you, so many deaths and humiliations, to awaken a world in unified courage. But you have done so. You are a miracle, really, a magical beacon of hope. That the peoples of the world, like those gathered in Spain, can fashion a new way of relating to each other and to the earth. A way that honors those who died, or were broken, and those who live, perhaps not only to live, but to look into each others' eyes as equals. Perhaps to dance."

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

---

• FROM THE ALUMNI •

---