

# SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION FOR PALESTINE

STUDENTS • FACULTY • STAFF • ALUMNI

## KITE

FROM KIMBALL

A newsletter from the  
**SARAH LAWRENCE COALITION  
FOR PALESTINE • VOLUME 6  
SUMMER 2026**



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VOL. 6 NO. 1 : MONDAY JUNE 1, 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*

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*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 May 11** British jury fails to convict pro-Palestine activist Majid Freeman, accused of terrorism based on social media posts. [MiddleEastEye](#)

Four years since the Israeli army murder of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. [AlJazeera](#)

Microsoft Israel Chief Ousted, Branch Placed Under French Management After Investigation Into Defense Ministry Ties [DropSite](#)

Nicholas Kristof, "The Silence That Meets the Rape of Palestinians" [NYTSana Saeed](#) : "Kristof deserves no credit for this; this is how he and the NYT continue their clean-up job of manufacturing the case for genocide. Not only did he spend much of the past two years spreading pro-genocide propaganda—even urging us to consider why the Israelis would want to kill everyone—but he even slips in here the still unproven Israeli claim that women were raped on Oct 7."

- **Tuesday May 12** Israeli Knesset advances bill to weaponize West Bank archaeology for de facto annexation. [Cradle](#)

US media outlets were crucial in helping Israel sell the Gaza genocide to the American public. [Intercept](#)

Israeli forces kill two more paramedics in Nabatieh, Lebanon, as they attempted to rescue an injured man who also died. [Courtney Bonneau](#)

Theodor Adorno, *Minima Moralia*: "When the National Socialists began to torture, they not only terrorized the peoples inside and outside Germany, but were the more secure from exposure the more wildly the horror increased. The implausibility of their actions made it easy to disbelieve what nobody, for the sake of precious peace, wanted to believe, while at the same time capitulating to it. Trembling voices persuade themselves that, after all, there is much exaggeration: even after the outbreak of the war, details about the concentration camps were unwanted in the English press. Every horror necessarily becomes, in the enlightened world, a horrific fairy-tale." [Jake Romm](#)

More than 75 cities participate in Italian general strike for Palestine. [Susan Abulhawa](#)

• **Wednesday May 13** [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#) publishes a story on the fall 2025 decision of Sarah Lawrence student government to reject the application of J Street U to form a campus student group. "One senator said they were concerned about 'the whole Zionist language' of the group 'that's still furthering the same logic of Israeli sovereignty and self-determination, when there is no existence or security for Israel that's not contingent on Palestinian displacement, on apartheid, on genocide.'" Faculty member Matthew Ellis: "I was immediately alarmed. That just smacked of very obvious, blatant political discrimination."

"For the past few years, Ellis said, he had already been struggling to promote responsible campus dialogue about 'the complexities of Zionism.' Some students have been receptive, he said, but a hardline pro-Palestinian contingent 'has taken up all the space on campus.' 'And then the J Street thing happens,' he recalled. 'I just put my palm to my head: 'Jesus, what is going on?'" [Jerusalem Post](#) version posted later that day: "Sarah Lawrence student senate rejects J Street U chapter after fierce backlash": "Student senators compared recognizing the group to approving 'a white supremacist organization.'"

Salman Abu Sitta, "Right of Return": "On the same day, David Ben-Gurion spoke to other settlers in Tel Aviv and declared a state for them on the ruins of my home." [LRB](#)

Trump official Sebastian Gorka on the new National Counterterrorism Strategy: "I did a kind of press call when we released the strategy. Fifty articles were written that day about the press call. Only one of them, from those putzes at *Politico*, was even slightly negative. The rest was pretty accurate reporting. We are moving so fast they just can't keep up with us. It's delicious." [TheHomeland](#)

Israeli orchestra conductor [Ilan Volkov](#) in London: "I am experiencing great pain in my heart and can no longer remain silent...I will no longer perform on stage in Israel."

• **Thursday May 14** "Where Are All the Student Protesters Now? The new surveillance state violates the university's democratic mission." Rachel J Webster : "But the main reason—by far—that students are not protesting now is that colleges have effectively shut down dissent. They are ceding their historical role as the incubators and protectors of democracy. The suppression has worked. Here at Northwestern, more than 30 students who participated in the encampment had their registrations and financial aid [suspended](#) until they completed a controversial training in antisemitism. Faculty and staff who participated in the protest, meanwhile, were reprimanded, and in some cases, detained." [Chronicle](#)

Israeli Foreign Ministry threatens [lawsuit](#) against the *New York Times* for May 11 Nicholas Kristof opinion piece accusing Israeli forces of raping Palestinians. [Issa Amro](#): "Okay, I am in the story, let us go to court even in Israel. You will find hundreds of cases. I am ready to testify and bring many victims with me."

Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Adir Schwartz says UNRWA headquarters will be turned into an army recruitment center. [C14](#)

How Hasbara Speaks In Indonesia [VoxUmmah](#)

• **Friday May 15** Israeli historian Ilan Pappé on Nakba Day: "The same ideology that informed the ethnic cleansing of 1948 is the same ideology that informs the genocide of Gaza." [AlJazeera](#)

"Have you ever wondered how we've come to normalize the idea of people returning to their ancestral homeland after 3,000 years, while at the same time demonizing those who had been living there and were forced out from their homes and villages?" [Muhammad Shehada](#)

Judith Butler: "If co-existence requires working within the disavowed framework of colonial power, then colonial power becomes a pre-condition of co-existence. That means that there is only co-existence on the condition that colonial power stays in place, and out of sight. Even if such a condition is not in the forefront in the minds of those who insist on cultural exchange and reciprocal self-disclosure, it remains embedded in the structure of what they do. This is not a wrong way to go because it is pre-political, but because it reproduces an unjustifiable politics—basing an ostensible equality project on structural inequality." [شنشون](#)

Alumnus Present at Kotlikoff Car Incident Issued Persona Non Grata, 3-Year Ban From Campus at Cornell: "The persona non grata was issued in response to the [incident](#) on April 30 in which a group of students and alumni followed Kotlikoff from a [Cornell Political Union debate](#) centered around the Israel-Palestine conflict and surrounded his car to ask questions about free expression on campus. Video footage [obtained](#) by *The Sun* shows that Kotlikoff backed into a student and ran over the foot of a recent alumnus after the group blocked his car.

Taam attended the CPU debate with his wife, Barbara Taam '74. After finding out that Kotlikoff attended the event, the two handed him their [book](#), *Palestine—People, Land, and Solidarity—With Our Own Eyes*. After the CPU event, Barbara went to give a copy of their book to the featured speaker, Norman Finkelstein, while Milton went to Kotlikoff to "give him a face to associate with the book," he said. Milton then noticed a group of students asking him questions about free expression on campus and decided to act as a "citizen photojournalist" and record their interactions, he said.

Milton said that he noticed a difference in the way that Kotlikoff and former Cornell President James Perkins—who was president when Milton was a student—responded to student protestors. Perkins was president during the [Willard Straight Takeover](#) in 1969, in which Black students occupied Willard Straight Hall for 36 hours demanding racial justice and an improved judicial system on campus.

"I remember ... Perkins spent the whole night in Barton Hall talking with students," Milton said.

"Kotlikoff couldn't spend two minutes."

Milton walked with the students as they followed Kotlikoff to his car and filmed that exchange as well.

"I heard that one of the students [was] bumped or run over...so I knocked on Kotlikoff's window," Milton said, in order to tell Kotlikoff that "some students have been hit...but then [Kotlikoff] didn't seem to respond at all." Four days later, Milton received the persona non grata for trespassing that night. [Cornell Daily Sun](#)

- **Saturday May 16** New short documentary on Refaat Alareer. [QudsNews](#)

Nancy Fraser, "Gaza As World Event": "Here, I want to examine a different aspect of Israel's genocidal onslaught on Gaza: its significance as a 'world event', an epochal turning point that also serves to reveal, and so to signify, the nature of the times. I aim to do so in a register that will range between the political, the social, the philosophical and the personal. I argue that 'Gaza' signifies a crisis for the moral order that has held sway across much of the West for the past half century. Installed in the United States from the 1970s onward, and serving to justify its global hegemony along with Israeli expansionism, that order was centred on the Nazi Judeocide as the ultimate emblem of 'radical evil', delimiting the horizon within which wrong and its rectification could be thought. Today, however, Auschwitz itself is invoked as justification for a new genocide. The effect is to leave the Holocaust-centred Western moral order in tatters, no longer able to conceal or contain the glaring crimes committed by the Israeli state and its American backer." [NewLeftReview](#)

- **Sunday May 17** Gaza: Death toll climbs to 72,763 martyrs. [PalestinianInformationCenter](#)

Dutch activists block rail lines to Rotterdam port to stop the shipping of military supplies to Israel. [Wyatt Reed](#) "This is critical work not only because it blocks the arteries of genocide, but also because it reveals the extent to which Zionism is underwritten by imperialism. Zionism would not survive without the North-Atlantic axis. Every NATO state is in some way complicit." [Pawel Wargan](#)

- **Monday May 18** Mass strike in Italy over rearmament and in solidarity with Gaza. [MiddleEastMonitor](#)

[Francesca Albanese](#): "For 4 yrs I have urged the ICC to investigate and prosecute Israeli officials for int'l crimes in Palestine. My latest report explicitly names Bezael Smotrich. If ICC Pre-Trial Chamber issues an arrest warrant, he could be the first official charged with the crime of Apartheid."

"Destroy, Depopulate, Desolate: Israel's Doctrine in South Lebanon," Layla Makdisi [InstituteForPalestineStudies](#)

The release of Global Sumud Flotilla activists must deepen pressure for Palestinian prisoners. [MiddleEastEye](#)

"Zionism was built as a bulwark against socialism": "Long before today's attacks on leftist politicians and Palestine solidarity movements, Zionist leaders sold their movement as a defence against socialism and communism." [Joseph Massad](#)

"The Gazafication of Lebanon," Ayoub Khan: "Since Israel renewed its assault on Lebanon on 2 March, more than 1.2 million people have been displaced and over 2,500 killed. Entire communities have been driven from their homes. Villages have been flattened. Families have been left with nothing to return to. Along the so-called 'yellow line'—the militarised zone carved through southern Lebanon—residents describe being abandoned, trapped between continued bombardment and the absence of any meaningful protection. And the perpetrators are documenting it for the world to see." [Tribune](#)

• **Tuesday May 19** The Biden administration declined to stop the UAE from perpetuating a genocide in Sudan because it needed the UAE as an ally in Israel's genocide in Palestine. [Zachary Foster](#)

Backed by North American dollars, a yeshiva could push Palestinians out of Sheikh Jarrah. [JewishCurrents](#)

• **Wednesday May 20** "Inside Israel's High-Tech Campaign to Kill or Capture Every Oct. 7 Attacker," [WSJ](#)

"In first, Israel convicts Palestinian citizens for chanting slogans." [+972](#)

Nasser Abu Srour: "In breaking our bodies, the prison authorities also broke our spirits. Through the new regime of continuous violence and arbitrary punishment, they instilled in us an overwhelming and stupefying fear. Entirely focused on our own survival, we became isolated from each other, a tattered group of individuals who were only biologically alive. They also cut us off entirely from the outside world: no television or newspapers. It was as though we were living on a remote island. Time did not move forward, but accumulated, piled up, until it was transformed into a heavy mass that crushed our bodies under its weight.

"Though we fitfully followed the news on a few hidden radios, we could not grasp the magnitude and horror of the genocide. We only began to understand one morning, six months into the war, when prison officers in each block hung up a large banner, perhaps 18 feet long, with a picture of the Gaza

Strip, burned and demolished. The words 'The New Gaza' were printed above the image." 'Why Don't You Just Die?' [Equator](#)

• *Thursday May 21* The Secret Israeli Unit Spying on Teachers Who Criticize the Government [Ha'aretz](#)

• *Friday May 22* Over 30 activists block the entrance to the Port Newark-Elizabeth to prevent a shipment of ammunition and weapons components from being loaded on the Israel-bound vessel ZIM Asia. Actionists demanded that [@PANYNJ](#) evict ZIM and Maersk from the port. [WAWOG](#)

Since March 2, more than 124 first responders have been killed by Israeli forces in Lebanon. [Roqayah Chamseddine](#)

Israeli forces kill a father and his daughter in Lebanon, then bomb the medical team that arrives in an ambulance. [LitaniNews](#)

"The Occupation's Conditions": Trump's Board of Peace Demands that Hamas Surrender to Netanyahu's Gaza Agenda [DropSite](#)

"Today, I met by chance the wife of the martyred Dr. Adnan Al-Bursh, who died under torture in Israeli occupation prisons. She told me about an opportunity she had to leave Gaza, but she absolutely refuses to do so. When I asked her for the reason, surprised, she replied: 'It is impossible for me to leave before I see the doctor, bid him farewell, and bury him. I cannot leave until I give him peace and find my own peace.'" [Ghassan Abu Sitta](#)

Appeals from three Sarah Lawrence students suspended to participation in January protest denied. From AAUP statement: "Our letter, signed by 61 individuals who teach at SLC, was one of several submitted in the hopes of averting this outcome, including a letter signed by 861 current and former SLC students."

"the zone of interest is a film about the idyllic, everyday life of an Auschwitz commandant and his wife, who raise their children in a home located directly adjacent to the concentration camp. below is an unrelated photo showing Gaza from an Israeli settlement." [suhibe](#)

[Bernie Sanders](#) when asked by a Palestinian interviewer about “a one-state solution, with equal rights for Israelis and Palestinians, alike in equal citizenship”: “I mean I think if that happens then that would be the end of the state of Israel. And I support Israel, for it to exist.”

“I’ve been doing this for 30 years. Nothing prepares you for Gaza.” [UN](#)

- **Saturday May 23** Susan Abulhawa on new website documenting Israeli crimes with geolocation, dates, categories of crimes, and footage of the incidents themselves: “to whomever made this: thank you from the wells of history and farthest echoes of indigenous screams for justice for this labor of love and justice. their terror will not be whitewashed.” [SuppressedNews](#)

[CUNY Law School](#) students interrupt their graduation with a mic check: “The more you try to silence us/The louder we will be”

Israelis kill 6 Lebanese paramedics in 24 hours. [Sana Saeed](#)

- **Sunday May 24** Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir el-Balah receives the bodies of a couple and their infant after an Israeli strike hits a residential apartment in the Al-Nuseirat camp before dawn. [Hindu](#)

- **Monday May 25** Planned speech by Dr. Mansoor Malik censored at the annual American Psychiatric Association meeting because of his views on Israel. [Dave](#)

Israeli commander Yitzhak Wasserlauf quotes Bible verse telling his soldiers to “seize babies” in Gaza and “dash them against the rocks.” [Susan Abulhawa](#)

“The Trump administration would like to see the Al-Aqsa Mosque stripped of its Muslim identity, with the site turned into a landmark tourist attraction that hosts all three Abrahamic religions.” [MiddleEastEye](#)

“Today, as a Ukrainian-Jewish and a scholar of the Holocaust, I feel deeply ashamed. I never could have imagined that in my country—the country where the Nazis murdered 1.5 million Jews, the country of Babyn Yar, the very symbol of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, a country that claims to be fighting for “freedom and democracy —a Nazi collaborator and OUN leader like Andriy Melnyk

would be buried with full state honors. Men under Melnyk's leadership served in the Auxiliary police under Nazi. They hunted Jews hiding in attics, basements, forests, and barns, desperate to survive the Holocaust. They guarded ghettos and camps. They marched Jews to execution sites. And they took part in the shootings alongside the Germans. By the spring of 1943, the Holocaust in Ukraine was nearly complete. The Jewish neighbors were gone—murdered before the eyes, and often with the assistance, of Melnyk's followers. And it was precisely then that Melnyk supported the creation of the Waffen-SS Galicia Division, whose members swore an oath to Adolf Hitler. And today, the president of my country—a man whose own relatives were murdered by the Nazis—kneels before the coffin of this Nazi collaborator. One could hardly imagine a greater humiliation for Jews. It is a humiliation for everyone who once believed that 'Never Again' meant something in contemporary Ukraine—a country where militant ethnic nationalism increasingly dictates the politics of memory, and national identity." [Marta Havryshko](#)

Israelis bomb densely populated refugee camp in Tyre. [Courtney Bonneau](#)

- **Tuesday May 26** "The footage out of Gaza the last few days has been horrifying, but the footage tonight is reminiscent of what we witnessed day in and day out through 2023 and 2024. One friend in Nuseirat camp said that tonight was the worst night they'd experienced. It is the day before Eid al Adha and Israel, the ethno-supremacist Jewish nation it is, is slaughtering Palestinians as it always does before Islamic holidays." [Sana Saeed](#)

US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee: "Everyone in Lebanon should be thanking Israel for making their lives easier by inventing cherry tomatoes." [Chris Menahan](#)

NY officials Brad Lander and Dan Goldman urge members of the Park Slope Food Co-Op in Brooklyn to vote against BDS resolution. They approve it by a margin of 67 to 31%, after activist organizing for 17 years. [Alyssa Katz](#)

- **Wednesday May 27** Israel seizing land near Jenin refugee camp for army base, in the name of "security."