



# Alt-Daily Hampshire Gazette

Read Globally, Act Locally

Volume 1, Number 5

ANTI-ZIONIST NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2025

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Dear friend,

River Valley for Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace W.MA, and other community organizations have tried to persuade the Daily Hampshire Gazette to improve its coverage of the Israeli/U.S. genocide in Gaza but have not succeeded.

We are now publishing an (alt)ernative version of the paper containing material that we wish the Gazette WOULD include. We hope you find it interesting and helpful as you seek reliable news and opinion about the Gaza genocide, Israel's occupation of Palestine, and local campaigns for Palestinian liberation and for all people fighting empire, militarism, colonization, and exploitation.

River Valley for Palestine ~ [rivervalley4palestine@gmail.com](mailto:rivervalley4palestine@gmail.com)

\*Amazon, which owns Whole Foods, has a \$1.2 billion contract, along with Google, to provide cloud computing services that aid the Israeli military in conducting genocide against the Palestinian people. See Project Nimbus in Wiki.

## Smith College Policies on Palestine "A SLAP IN THE FACE"

The following testimony concerning free speech and other policies at Smith College relating to the struggle for Palestinian liberation was written by two members of Smith College Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and presented at the Western Mass People's Tribunal on October 25, 2025 ([westernmasspeopletribunal.com](http://westernmasspeopletribunal.com)). Tribunal testimony by Smith SJP focusing on Smith's failure to divest from Israel's genocide appeared in edition 4 of the Alt-Daily Hampshire Gazette. Testimony by UMass-Amherst SJP and Hampshire College SJP will appear in coming editions of the Alt-Gazette. ~ Editors

As student activism for Palestine spread throughout the Smith campus, the administration's fear has been palpable. During SJP's 13-day occupation of our administrative building, College Hall, Smith hired an external security company, Green Mountain Security, to surveil students 24/7. In President Sarah Willie-LeBreton's words from a March 29, 2024, email, this was to "[serve] and [ensure] the safety of the entire Smith community." Campus security and

facilities regularly walked through the building to scrutinize us — according to President Sarah, these were simply "daily wellness checks."

Smith also surveils its students in other ways — a symptom of its paternalistic attitude toward its student body, made up of young women and gender minorities. There are security cameras set up across prominent areas on campus that, until recently, linked to live feeds on Smith's website, creating a digital panopticon. Through the campus Wi-Fi, Smith can track students' every movement from building to building and see where they are at any time. This information is kept from students, but now that we are aware, we feel unsafe doing anything remotely organizing related on our phones or laptops, knowing that Smith can see it all.

Despite their suppression of student voices and discomfort at being called out or confronted, Smith's administration changes the narrative in their speeches to larger groups of people. At orientations for new first-years, our president has portrayed the administration's response and idea of on-campus protests in a positive light, claiming they are supportive of student activism in its many forms. This strategically excludes the fact that they want us to follow all of their rules when engaging in activism, including their "Policy Governing Time, Place, and Manner of Expressive Activity," which states that we must disband any sort of gathering or protest if they ask us to do so.

Here to speak to their dissatisfaction with Smith's hypocrisy are two Smith College students, Jenin and Dylan.

**Jenin:** I am extremely proud to stand before you today as one of the handful of Palestinian Five College students who anchor a fraction of the Palestinian struggle to our corner of the nation's academic and organizing landscape.

I will not speak to what I believe Smith College has personally stolen from me as a product of the Palestinian diaspora through their financial support of a brutal settler-colonial project. Nor will I speak to the infinitely greater theft that I believe Smith College has



Sarah Willie-LeBreton, President, Smith College



Susan Molineaux, Chair, Smith College Board of Trustees

committed against my parents — Palestinian immigrants who pay tens of thousands of dollars each year to this institution that falsely promises in their Statement of Purpose to be "the loud voices that inspire change" and "the quiet forces that instill it." I will not speak to the deep sense of both betrayal and guilt that I feel witnessing my parents' hard-earned money being siphoned into the airstriking of their family homes, the leveling of their childhood neighborhoods and their universities, and the displacement and murder of their siblings, relatives, and friends.

I will, however, speak to the utter spinelessness, hypocrisy, and apathy that the Smith College administration has exhibited over the past two years — in their severely insubstantial and out-of-touch statements to the campus community at the start of the genocide, in their current silence on all political matters since the conclusion of the College Hall occupation (spring 2024), in their deceitful revision of the campus protest policy to prohibit behavior vaguely considered disruptive or harassing, and in their two-faced treatment of the student organizers on campus who have to fight tooth and nail against the administration for just an ounce of accountability. I, alongside several of my fellow students, have been demeaned and patronized to our faces by President Sarah, the Board of Trustees, and other divisions of the administration in demonstrations and in meetings, and then have had to sit through their speeches to the rest of the student body and their families, praising Smith's spirit of student activism and changemaking on our campus and the administration's generous embrace of free speech.

This never fails to feel like a slap in the face. We are often told that anger is an unproductive and immature response in a conflict, but the truth is that I am extraordinarily angry. I am disappointed in myself for expecting substantial institutional leadership from President Sarah as a fellow sociologist and woman of color. I am appalled by her active refusal to address the

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## EDITORIAL

### As Genocide Continues, the UN Ratifies Israeli/U.S. Colonial Dominion over Gaza

The United Nations is dead, killed by the billionaires who control most of the world's governments. Dead, too, is the notion that international law was ever anything but an instrument of the powerful.

On November 17, 2025, the 15-member UN Security Council unanimously (with abstentions by Russia and China) adopted Resolution 2803, the U.S.-backed "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict." The Resolution established a "Board of Peace" (until the end of 2027) led by President Trump and authorized the Board and Member States to work with the Security Council to establish a temporary "International Stabilization Force" in Gaza.

Thus, more than two years into an internationally recognized genocide in Palestine, rather than enforce international law, protect the victims of the genocide, and hold the perpetrators accountable, the UN Security Council has adopted a resolution that openly flouts international law, disempowers and further punishes the victims, and rewards and empowers the perpetrators. The General Assembly has failed to take action to counter the Security Council.

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## BUY YOUR TICKETS! FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR SUMUD SCHOOL IN GAZA DECEMBER 7

By Ruth Moushabeck

Over the last two years, a precious connection has been made between two communities very far from each other: people of western MA have reached out and supported an impossible school in Gaza City. I say impossible because the founder, an English teacher called Enaam Al-Wahidi, has achieved the impossible over and over again, through unimaginable suffering and loss. The school was started in a tent in the south, then moved with the people back to Gaza City where it is now — providing an excellent education for 500 children against overwhelming odds.

To celebrate and honor the children, their families, and the wonderful teachers, Friends of Sumud School, the Moushabeck family, and River Valley for Palestine will host a dinner at Christ United Methodist Church on Rocky Hill Road in Northampton on Sunday, December 7th. Delicious Palestinian food will be prepared by Liberty Restaurant, Springfield and Amanouz Café, Northampton, as well as local Palestinian cooks. Musicians are encouraged to bring an instrument for a jam session after dinner.



### PALESTINIAN DINNER

A gathering to support and honor the children of Gaza.

**Sunday December 7th**  
3:30PM

**Christ United Methodist Church**  
275 Rocky Hill Rd  
Florence, MA 01062

**Tickets:**  
\$50 per adult  
\$5.00 per child under 12 years

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofsumudschool/1921235>



ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE SUMUD SCHOOL, GAZA CITY.

**Endorsed by:**  
First Churches of Northampton Peace and Justice Team, Valley Families for Palestine, River Valley for Palestine, Friends of Sumud School



Jum'a and Fadi Abu Assi, brothers ages 11 and 8, were murdered by shots to the head by an Israel Defense Forces drone during the supposed "ceasefire" on 11/29/25. The IDF stated: "Two suspects were identified by troops crossing the Yellow Line near Khan Younis, Gaza, carrying out suspicious activity on the ground, and approaching the forces in a way that posed an immediate threat." The boys were collecting firewood for their wheelchair-bound father.

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A Palestinian woman pulls a stroller with children in Gaza City, November 2025. Reuters

## EDITORIAL Continued...

Let us put that succinctly: **on November 17, the United Nations rewarded and further empowered the perpetrators of genocide.**

The Resolution grants Palestinians no sovereignty – no participation in decisions on their own rights, governance, and lives.

Bear in mind that despite the supposed implementation of a “ceasefire” in Gaza on October 10, 2025, Israel has continued the genocide through air strikes, shootings, and deprivation of life-sustaining aid. Thus, as genocide is being actively carried out, the UN Security Council has empowered its perpetrators.

It cannot be denied, therefore, that **the UN Security Council is – a mechanism of U.S. colonial, genocidal oppression; an instrument for the continued unlawful occupation of Palestine; and a complicit actor in Israel’s genocide.**

Rima Najjar, Palestinian activist, researcher, and retired professor of English literature, Al-Quds University, Occupied West Bank, explains the situation succinctly and in so doing, points to the future:

“If the last century has shown anything, it is that *arguments* – even correct ones – do not liberate the oppressed. Rights do not enforce themselves, and law does not constrain those shielded by superior force. A rights-based approach failed not because Palestinians lacked legal clarity, but because the international system withheld the only thing that ever makes rights real: power. Every anti-colonial movement that succeeded did so by shifting the balance of forces – through mass mobilization, international realignment, economic pressure, and the erosion of the oppressor’s capacity to maintain domination. In each case, law followed power, not the reverse.

The same dynamic governs Palestine today. Palestinians possess important sources of latent power: mass civil society, global solidarity unprecedented in scope, demographic centrality within the land, and a moral legitimacy reinforced – not weakened – by decades of systematic denial. The Palestinian people, despite dispossession, siege, fragmentation, and abandonment, have never ceased to constitute themselves as a political people – never ceased to resist, to organize, to remember, and to imagine freedom. To expect them to abandon that now is not only unrealistic. It is ahistorical. Power – not law – will bring that horizon into being.”

Echoing Najjar, mass civil society everywhere, including in western Massachusetts, must help build the power of the Palestinian people, and our own, by mobilizing tirelessly. We must bring economic pressure to bear through boycott of Israeli products and institutions, and U.S. institutions and corporations that are complicit with them. We must continue to demand sanctions on and demilitarization of the Israeli state. The struggle for the liberation of the Palestinian people, and ourselves, is entering a new chapter, as billions awaken to the evils of Zionism, colonialism, and genocidal violence.

(Written by RVP editorial board member Jennifer Scarlott)



Gaza children illegally deprived of shelter by Israel during the so-called “ceasefire,” November 2025.

## Opinion - Women in the Trees

By Sharon Horton

In “A Beast Touch the Mountain”, a movie chronicling the fight against the Mountain Valley (gas) Pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia, shown on November 19, 2025 at Northampton’s Academy of Music, women were shown camping in trees 30 feet in the air, to prevent the take-over of their land for the pipeline.

Authorities threatened to arrest anyone who brought them food. In the end, the pipeline was built.

But as I sat watching the film, my heart progressed toward the change that we need to see regarding the City of Northampton’s own personal arms manufacturing plant, L3Harris.

Seeing women occupying the trees inspired this woman to increase her visits to that hilltop where L3 sits as a blight against the neighborhood and against all humanity. Thank you, pipeline activists and “A Beast Touch the Mountain,” for helping me to strengthen my resolve to protest L3Harris until we run them out of town. Even if we lose the fight, I’ll be able to answer the question unashamedly, “What did you do for Palestine?”

(“A Beast Touch the Mountain,” (2025), directed by James Mottern, can be viewed on multiple entertainment channels.)

## At A Grave Called Gaza\*

Spared sudden death from missiles screaming like Furies hell-bent,  
 She pulled herself together, off the kitchen’s floor of sand,  
 Only to see that the soul-lives of her husband and two sons had gone out.  
 Nor did her young daughter, Ghina, answer her frantic cries.  
 Pleading for any help her God could summon,  
 She felt, “**There’s fire inside me!**”  
 Rousing her to plead to friends to help dig,  
 Barehanded, they strained, clearing shattered rubble-walls.  
 Then, on the third day, with hope no more than a fading ember,  
 Out of a shallow crevice, her love’s faint angelic voice quickened their ears!  
 Spirits lifted, they rescued her coated in powder and ash.  
 Beside herself with joy, her mother’s arms shook  
 As she rushed to envelop her with warming embraces, bathing her with tears.  
 May her flame soar to the heavens,  
 Bursting in air, every rocket, every drone  
 Passing over a grave called Gaza.  
 So be it.

Peter Kakos, Northampton, November 4, 2025

\*Nuseirat refugee camp. 10/29/2025

## Smith College Policies Continued...

reality of the international historical context and imperial processes that we are witnessing unfold and that the institution she leads is complicit in. And quite frankly, I pity her for her quickness to admit her own lack of agency and power under the Board; her total submission to institutional power hierarchies, the sociological nature of which she and I have both intensely studied, for the mere price of a \$700,000 salary and a private chef, is something I find indescribably pathetic.

My frustration, shame, and disappointment truly permeate every aspect of my experience at Smith. Sometimes, the sheer burden of these emotions is the sole thing that motivates my organizing. And oftentimes, the perspectives and experiences that produce these emotions are what unite me with my fellow student activists. So, in that spirit, I’m going to hand it over to Dylan, who is giving our next testimonial.

**Dylan:** I am a junior at Smith College. Moving to Smith from my hometown of Dallas two years ago, I had lofty expectations of living and learning in a kind of leftist utopia, a place worlds away from the political environment I had grown up in. Safe to say, my time here has left me severely disappointed. In my two years here, I have seen so many of the same political issues as back home, but now they’re disguised by Smith’s image as a queer, progressive college. Looking at Smith’s website, they state that, “As a college, we implement strategic and thoughtful initiatives aimed at making our world a better place...” I wonder if this is how they think of their investment in the genocide of Palestine.

As a student, I have watched time and time again as Smith continues to shove their good deeds in our face while trying to distract us from the genocide they have refused to divest from, stating that the amount of the investment is “negligible and entirely indirect.” If Smith were truly interested in “making the world a better place,” even a cent invested in genocide would be too much. But they are not interested in creating real change, only in maintaining their liberal facade. Smith continually creates new, expensive policies and projects, while refusing to divest. They show off their history of student activism while punishing current students for protesting, going as far as crafting a new protest policy targeted at preventing meaningful demonstrations. The policy states that “Expressive activity must not impede the normal functioning of the college.” Do they

realize that the systematic destruction of an entire people impedes normal functioning? Smith’s actions serve only to bolster their image, valuing the way the college appears over the well-being of students and the impact of the college’s refusal to act.

Reading the hypocrisy that Smith spouts, I am angry. I am angry that the money my family has pooled together funds an institution that dares to act like this. I am angry at President Sarah and the Board of Trustees for refusing to divest, or even simply acknowledge that a genocide is occurring. I am angry at the College’s refusal to listen to students’ and alumnae’s repeated requests to divest from genocide. I am angry at the cowards in College Hall who are selling their souls for a paycheck, instead of using their power to do some good for once in their lives.

Yes, we are angry. But let our anger propel us into action. In reparation for these damages, we call on Smith to embrace and protect student protesters’ freedom of speech. Smith must vow not to waste its copious resources on surveilling and stifling dissent from its own students. We demand that Smith adopt AJP (Alumnae for Justice in Palestine)’s ethical investment policy, a modified and expanded version of SJP’s numerous iterations of divestment proposals. If Smith truly values progress and equality, they will adopt this policy. Refusing to do so only reveals the hypocrisy plaguing this institution. Divestment and a commitment to ethically responsible investment are morally imperative. In an age of genocide, there is no choice but to act. A mere policy is not the end of this fight, though it is something material to remedy some of the harm Smith has done. Above all, we want to see the war machine grind to a halt, freedom for Palestine, and an end to occupation.

Traditional justice systems do not allow us to practice this type of collective airing of grievances and proposal of radical solutions. So we must create our own. The People’s Tribunal shows us a vision of a more just institution where our complaints are heard and things actually change. So a sincere thank you to everyone who gathered here today and listened to us, and to the organizers of this Tribunal for creating a space where we, as activists and people in Western Massachusetts, can gather and share our collective grief and anger. May we see divestment and a free Palestine in our near future. Thank you.

## CONNECTING WITH PALESTINE IN WESTERN MA

- » See the W MA Coalition for Palestine calendar for local standouts & events: <https://tinyurl.com/4zxjetvc>
- » To sign up to receive weekly newsletters detailing action for Palestine, email to: W MA SURJ: [westernmasssurj@gmail.com](mailto:westernmasssurj@gmail.com) & JVP W MA: [westernmass@jewishvoiceforpeace.com](mailto:westernmass@jewishvoiceforpeace.com)
- » Recommended reading & viewing: The Electronic Intifada, Mondoweiss, Drop Site News, Democracy Now!