

Alt-Daily Hampshire Gazette

Read Globally, Act Locally

Volume 1, Number 7

| ANTI-ZIONIST NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2026 |

Thursday, February 5, 2026

FREE PALESTINE • ABOLISH DHS/ICE/CBP OPEN BORDERS • END WHITE SUPREMACY EVERYWHERE

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 and occupation of Palestine 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 genocide and occupation, and local campaigns for Palestinian liberation and for all people fighting empire, colonization, white supremacy, and fascism at home and abroad.

River Valley for Palestine ~
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*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.

EDITORIAL Colonialism 2026: Trump's Gaza 'Board of Peace'

As a new year dawns, the world's peoples find themselves dragged ever further into deepening barbarism and impunity of the powerful. In the 70 years since the establishment of the post-WWII order, the "rule of law" has frequently been used by power-hungry nations to excuse their illegal acts of exploitation, militarism, colonialism, and oppression. It is now being dispensed with nearly entirely, giving way to more naked expressions of global criminality.

Backed up by a distinctly American history of genocide, enslavement, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing, as well the current proto-fascist duopoly that passes for the U.S. "polity," Donald Trump and various far-right masterminds pulling his strings are leading the fascist charge at home and abroad. Among these masterminds are 25 billionaire donors to Trump (listed by Forbes) who can safely be said to lay claim to the mantle of white supremacy. Among them: Timothy Mellon, Linda McMahon, Diane Hendricks, Miriam Adelson, Kely Warren, Timothy Dunn, and more.

We face what Aimé Césaire called "imperial boomerang." As writer Chris Hedges explains, "Empires, when they decay, employ the savage forms of control on those they subjugate abroad, and those demonized by the wider society in the name of law and order, in the homeland. But before we became the victims of state terror (e.g. nine or more ICE-perpetrated murders in 2026 thus far), we were accomplices... The machinery of terror, perfected on those we targeted and betrayed, including the Palestinians in Gaza, is ready for us."

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UMass SJP Condemns Admin Support for Genocide

The following testimony was presented by UMass Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) on October 25, 2025, at the Western Mass People's Tribunal (westernmasspeopletribunal.com).

During the Tribunal's proceedings, students from UMass-Amherst, Smith College, and Hampshire College documented ways in which their schools are supporting the genocide in Gaza. Coverage of the Tribunal can be found online at The Shoestring, the Amherst Indy, the Daily Collegian, the Daily Hampshire Gazette, and The Times of Israel.

This is the first tranche of testimony by UMass students, with further UMass testimony to appear in coming editions of the Alt-Gazette. The Alt-Gazette reprinted the Smith College Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) Tribunal testimony in editions #4 and #5. ~ Editors

Grounding: Testimony from Victims of the Genocide in Lebanon

My name is Rida. I am from the Southern Suburb of Beirut, a densely populated area that suffered heavy Israeli bombing in October and November 2024. Like most in our community, we were forced to flee for our lives in early October. I moved into my son's house in a safer neighborhood in Beirut, while my daughter and her husband—who also lived in the Southern Suburb—relocated to Maisarah, a mountainous area we believed would be safe.

On the night of October 10th, while they slept, an Israeli missile struck their home and reduced it to rubble. My daughter and her husband were killed, along with eight members of his family—including four children, his parents' grandchildren. The next day, we dug desperately



A man weeps after the Israeli military destroyed two homes in al-Walaja, near the West Bank city of Bethlehem, 2 December. The houses, which were owned by two brothers and housed 10 people, including eight children under 8 years of age, were razed under the pretext that they were built too close to Israel's "Separation Wall." (Mosab Shawar/ActiveStills)

through the wreckage. We found my daughter's and son-in-law's bodies. The others were unrecognizable. Rescue workers handed us bags of charred remains. We were told Israel had used unknown bombs that burn through flesh and bone. We had heard similar stories from others.

My daughter and her husband had been sleeping in a corner room, which took a less direct hit. Maisarah was far from any military zone—just a quiet village where civilians sought refuge. There was no reason to target that house, except that it was part of a cruel pattern: Israel deliberately attacked areas where civilians had fled to seek safety. It is a strategy we witnessed again and again throughout the war.

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ICE and the IDF - Beyond Outrage

By Michel Moushabeck, Founder/Publisher/Editor, Interlink Publishing, the only Palestinian-owned publishing house in the U.S.

I am beyond outraged by what ICE is doing in cities across the US and the erosion of our rights and civil liberties. My heart goes out to the family of Renee Nicole Good, the woman shot by ICE in Minneapolis on January 7th—especially the three children she left behind, the youngest of whom is six. My heart goes out to the family of VA ICU nurse Alex Pretti, murdered by ICE in Minneapolis on January 24. And my heart goes out to every person who has been kidnapped, persecuted, harassed and murdered by ICE. This insanity must END.

The *New York Times* reported that, "Six [senior level] federal prosecutors in Minnesota resigned on Tuesday over the Justice Department's push to investigate the widow of a woman killed by an ICE agent and the department's reluctance to investigate the shooter, according to people with knowledge of their decision."

What ICE did to Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti in Minnesota, the Israeli Occupation Forces do to Palestinians on a daily basis

Israel is still demolishing homes and killing Palestinians in the occupied territories. In Gaza, children are still dying from malnutrition, collapsing shelters, and freezing cold temperatures. Since the October 10 ceasefire agreement, Israel has killed at least 486 Palestinians in Gaza—more than 100 of them children—and wounded 1,341, while 710 bodies have been recovered from under the rubble, according to the Ministry of Health.

Speaking from Gaza, UNICEF representative James Elder said children are still being killed by airstrikes, drones, tank shelling, and live fire, while others are dying in tent shelters from exposure to winter storms.

Today, as the world watches, more than two million Gazans continue to live under siege, suffering inhumane conditions, and dying in unlivable tent camps. President Trump's so-called "peace plan" is helping Israel occupy 53% of Gaza, build new military outposts and illegal settlements, and drive any remaining Palestinians out of the Strip.

Israel's endgame is erasure and ethnic cleansing

"Israel is still demolishing Gaza, building by building," according to a report by the *New York Times* on Israel's continuing program of demolishing homes and structures still standing in Gaza, with more than 2,500 buildings having been destroyed since the start of the so-called "ceasefire."

According to the *Times of Israel*, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during a closed-door testimony before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel "is destroying more and more houses [in Gaza and Palestinians] have nowhere to return." And that "The only obvious result will be Gazans choosing to emigrate outside the Strip."

TAKE ACTION:



EDITORIAL Continued...

It must be made very clear that it is white America to which Hedges is referring when he says that “we” are now victims of the state terror “we” have been accomplices to. People of color in the United States have always been victims of its terror, and only with the rarest of exceptions, its co-perpetrators. (See MLK’s 1967 speech, “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence.”)

Hedges refers us to the Palestinians in Gaza, whom our overlords and corporate media say are enjoying the fruits of a “ceasefire” as they suffer and die under ongoing Israeli/U.S. campaigns of attack and deprivation. The genocide continues in Gaza and in the West Bank and Jerusalem as well.

The American cult of supremacist oppression was on full display during a shameful sideshow at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, January 19-23. Trump launched his so-called Gaza “Board of Peace,” and was joined by more than two dozen countries. The mad king and his toadies intend for the Board to govern the Gaza Strip, with all decisions to be made, both during and after his time in office, by none other than Trump himself. Israeli PM Netanyahu, destroyer of hundreds of thousands of lives in Gaza, has accepted Mr. Trump’s invitation to join the Board. Countries may “serve” on the Board for three years; if they choose “permanent” service, they must pay-to-play: \$1 billion to the United States. To its everlasting shame, on November 17, 2025, the UN Security Council suicidally approved Trump’s bogus ceasefire and Board of Peace plans for Gaza via UN Resolution 2803. Congress is silent on this horrific scam.

The Board’s charter makes clear that it has morphed into an entity serving Trump’s growing expansionist agenda – its mandate has broadened beyond Gaza and could be implemented, Trump hopes, wherever he dictates. In Davos, Trump suggested that the Board could replace the UN, essentially shaping the “world order” according to the whims of the foul criminal in the Oval Office and his hench-people.

Aided by his son-in-law Jared Kushner, a private citizen with dollar signs for eyes, Trump repeated earlier plans to turn Gaza into a skyscraper-filled playground for the uber-rich. What of the people of Gaza who continue to survive and resist genocide? The plan is for them to live in designated “compounds” (think concentration camps within the larger concentration camp of the Gaza Strip), their movements tightly controlled via biometric and digital surveillance and checkpoints. The Kushner-Trump plan provides for Israel’s permanent military occupation along the perimeter of the Strip. There would be no Palestinian sovereignty – merely a board of carefully-chosen Palestinian “technocrat-consultants” (read, collaborators).

“And so now we have a crime without criminals, a genocide without génocidaires, a wretched population who, we are to believe, have been brought low by Hamas, and must be fed and watered while the world works out what to do with them. An entire history across Palestine of Israeli impunity and dominion, one of repetitive ethnic cleansing, military rule, expansion of settlements – and explicit rejection of Palestinian self-determination – is erased. Again.” (Nesrine Malik)

Many Palestinian civil society organizations have collectively issued a categorical condemnation of all of the above, as has the Resistance in Gaza. In the U.S. and other countries, people are taking to the streets to fight imperial boomerang. It is a time to find within ourselves Palestinians’ reserves of steadfastness (*sumud*) in the face of violent, racist fascism. The work continues to unfold. All good people are needed, at home and in solidarity with all those victimized by the United States abroad.

(Written by River Valley for Palestine editorial board member Jennifer Scarlott)



When God’s on Your Side

By the Rev. Dr. Peter Kakos

The story of the Christian faith begins with a Jewish peasant from a rugged hill town north of Jerusalem called Nazareth, two thousand years ago. This Jesus distilled the religion of his Jewish ancestors into a theology of unconditional love and care of ALL peoples, especially the most vulnerable. His actions and teachings of compassion were so popular that he soon became a threat to the brutal Roman occupiers of Palestine, who silenced him by crucifixion.

Today in the United States, no fewer than 30 million Christian Zionists adhere to the belief that Christ existed and will soon reappear in “The Second Coming.” But it is their belief that this can only happen once Judaism dominates Palestine in its entirety. This pure Zionist state will set the stage for God to return Christ to earth to convert every Jew, as well as all the world, to Christianity.

This Christian Zionist view explains, of course, the group’s tacit support for the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people as necessary to fulfill their prophecy. Their stamp of genocide approval gives cover to Congressional Zionists and colonialists and an equally scheming President to expedite the Zionist crusade by supplying weaponry to Israel to the tune of no less than \$21 billion since October 7, 2023.

The massive U.S. support for its colony Israel is also supported by Jewish Zionist

theology, born in the late 19th century, promoting the idea that God wants a Middle East “homeland” to be restored to total Jewish sovereignty. This “Greater Israel” (Eretz Israel) includes portions of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and the occupied Palestinian territories. (Middle East Political and Economic Institute)

Recently an Israeli woman settler in the West Bank joined a mob to club and chase Palestinian villagers from harvesting their olives. After their assault, a reporter asked her who gave her permission to attack these innocent neighbors. She stood calmly before him and said in a tone of certainty: “God!”

Kairos Palestine II, an ecumenical declaration in 2025 by the Palestinian Christian community, written to debunk the hideous Christian Zionist and Jewish Zionist ideologies, states: “Christian Zionism calls on a tribal, racist god of war and ethnic cleansing, teachings utterly alien to the core of Christian faith and ethics. The time has come to repudiate Zionist theology.”

We must realize that we are intensively propagandized to look away as slaughtered Palestinians – mothers and fathers, children,



grandparents, neighbors, relatives, doctors, journalists (over 250 in the last two years), in total amounting to hundreds of thousands – are quietly written off as simply being swept up in an inevitable, ancient, theological nightmare, however bogus the theologies involved may be.

As Bob Dylan sings: “You don’t count the dead / When God’s on your side.”

JUDGE RULES FOR L3HARRIS PROTESTERS

By Nick Mottern

On December 22, 2025, in an extraordinary and courageous decision, Northampton City Court Judge Mary Beth Ogulewicz ruled not guilty in the case of four protesters charged with trespass and disturbing the peace in their March 2025 occupation of the lobby of the Northampton plant of weapons maker L3Harris Technologies. The protesters used what is known as the ‘necessity defense’ to argue that they were not guilty of the charges.

Explaining the significance of the decision, Noam Perry, Strategic Research Coordinator of the American Friends Service Committee’s Action Center for Corporate Accountability, said in a January 22, 2026 Fellowship of Reconciliation webinar* that because the judge’s decision was based on the necessity defense her finding of “not responsible,” or innocent, means that:

“L3Harris’ actions are so egregious, and by proxy, the U.S. government’s actions and Israeli government’s actions are so egregious that they make it necessary for people to break the law in the United States. That’s a really significant statement from a U.S. judge, and it never happened before. I’m not a legal expert, I’m not a lawyer, but I don’t think it has happened before with regard to Israel and Palestine.”

BREAKING: 2/4/26 – UK jury clears six Palestine Action activists of burglary charges over break-in at Israeli weapons maker Elbit Systems, near Bristol, UK. (The Guardian)

UMass Students Continued...

On November 27th, after the ceasefire, I returned to our apartment in the Southern Suburb of Beirut. We were among the lucky ones, since our building was still standing, even though many nearby buildings had been destroyed. We spent a few days clearing out the dust, broken glass, and rubble. Slowly, we made it livable again. After more than seven weeks of being displaced, we finally settled in. The first thing I did was hang a photo on the living room wall—a picture of my daughter and son-in-law, taken on their wedding day.

1. The Case Against UMass-Amherst: Campus, Domestic, and International Law

Thank you, Comrade, for grounding us in this moment. I will now read the international and domestic laws to which we hold UMass, and all complicit institutions in Western Massachusetts, accountable. First and foremost, we cite international laws and institutions established to prevent crimes against humanity, and above all, the crime of genocide. We charge the Defense with the Genocide Convention of 1948, that states in part, “genocide... is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.” This includes “complicity in genocide; intentionally providing financial, military, technical, or other forms of material assistance.” We charge the Defense with the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which makes violence against civilians a war crime. We also cite the decision of Bosnia v. Serbia in 2007, where the Court rules it illegal to transfer weapons when there is a serious risk of genocide.

Complicity in genocide also violates federal law in the United States. We charge the Defense with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which prohibits providing weapons to any country that engages in a “consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.” We charge the Defense with the Arms Export Control Act of 1976. We charge the Defense with the Leahy Laws of 1997-8. Under these laws, it is illegal to sell weapons if there is, “credible information that a military unit has committed a gross violation of human rights.”

Finally, we charge the Defense with the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 and the War Crimes Act of 1996, which reaffirm the obligation to prevent and punish genocide, categorizing it as a federal crime.

We’ve also included UMass law here, the Code of Student Conduct. It is not technically a part of our case proving genocide, as the Code says in 2.4.c, “The rules of evidence used in federal and/or state criminal and/or civil proceedings do not apply to Code proceedings.” But since UMass has used these conduct code convictions to repress our peaceful acts of protest, without a single piece of evidence, we believe they are relevant: 4.1.3b: “Disturbing Behavior: Engaging with others in, or inciting others to engage in harmful or destructive behavior, in the context of a group of persons disturbing the peace.” 4.1.5b: “Unauthorized Access/Presence/Use of Property: Unauthorized access, presence in, or use of facilities or property.” These are the laws of the dominant institutions, but today we read them to inform the judgement of the People. We will now hear the evidence to support the case against UMass.

According to the website Justia, the necessity defense argues for a finding of innocence “when an individual commits a criminal act during an emergency situation in order to prevent a greater harm from happening. In such circumstances, our legal system typically excuses the individual’s criminal act because it was justified or finds that no criminal act has occurred.”

The four defendants – Trish Gallagher, Priscilla Lynch, Nick Mottern, and Paki Wieland – presented Judge Ogulewicz with affidavits and other documents to prove that: L3Harris is providing weapons to Israel that are enabling genocide against Palestinian civilians; that the defendants took a variety of steps over three years to stop these shipments; and that they were reasonable in expecting that their protest would be part of cumulative efforts that would stop L3Harris’ shipment of weapons to Israel.

Necessity defense victories in protest cases are extremely rare and have been won largely by protesters fighting environmental destruction. An exception, in addition to the above mentioned L3Harris case, is the 1987 acquittal, by a Northampton jury, of Abby Hoffman, Amy Carter (daughter of former President Jimmy Carter), and 13 others who were charged with trespass and disorderly conduct in connection with their protest at UMass-Amherst against CIA actions in Central America.

*For a link to the webinar, contact: nickmottern@gmail.com

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