

Alt-Hampshire Gazette

Read Globally, Act Locally

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| ANTI-ZIONIST NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2026 |

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EDITORIAL

The Power of Ordinary People

As we see U.S. bombs and missiles terrorize and kill millions of Iranians, I, and most likely you, continuously ponder what we can do, individually and collectively, to stop Trump's rampage of death and intimidation.

Like the U.S./Israeli genocide against the Palestinian people, everything that Trump is ordering militarily is illegal under international and U.S. law. When Trump and his administration are brought before a war crimes court, they will be charged with exactly what Hitler's Nazi underlings were charged with at Nuremberg at the end of World War II: conspiracy to commit crimes — crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

U.S. and international war industrialists will be charged with war crimes for supplying weapons for the genocide and for the illegal war against Iran.

As we seek inspiration for ways to stop the U.S. killing machine, we may take heart in knowing of the German Resistance Memorial Center in Berlin, to which I was guided by a friend in 2003. As explained on the "Slow Travel Berlin" website,



On Saturday, February 28, 2026, in the midst of supposed negotiations between the U.S. and Iran, the United States and Israel launched illegal surprise attacks on Iran. The U.S. conducted a double-tap air strike on a girls' elementary school in the town of Minab in south Iran, killing over 150 schoolgirls aged 7-12 and more than 14 teachers. (Kashmir Observer)

the museum contains "over 5,000 photographs and documents presenting examples of the actions of individuals, groups, and organizations involved in the German resistance."

The museum is inspiring because we see how so very many conscience-driven people of so many ordinary occupations and backgrounds found ways to object to and thwart the Nazi goals of genocide and world domination. Some were imprisoned, some executed, some escaped. It seems all were working to preserve their souls in the process of saving others.

SMITH SJP TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES: "DISCLOSE, DIVEST, WE WILL NOT STOP, WE WILL NOT REST"

By Nick Mottern

At 4:30 pm on the cold, snowy afternoon of Friday, February 27, 2026, about 200 Smith College students gathered at the Campus Center, preparing to march to Alumnae House where the 30-member Board of Trustees planned to dine before attending a Smith basketball game.

"We don't want them to have a good dinner," declared one of the protest organizers kicking off the high-energy march organized by Smith Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). The students intended to pressure the trustees to divest the College's \$2.7 billion endowment fund from weapons makers, including those profiting from the genocide against the Palestinian people. Among the weapons makers Smith is invested in is L3Harris Technologies, which has a plant 5 minutes from the campus on Rt. 66 in Northampton.

As the students marched through the cold, chanting "Disclose, Divest, We Will Not Stop, We Will Not Rest," the gathering recalled the spirit and numbers of a similar march that led to a 13-day divestment occupation of Smith's College Hall administration building in March 2024.

This powerful student divestment organizing comes in the face of administration censorship undertaken in the fall semester of 2024 to restrict and enforce what the College considers acceptable protest. An example of this censorship, provided by a Smith student, was the administration directive to two student clubs to change their names so that the groups might not seem politically threatening to the Trump administration.



Smith College Students for Justice in Palestine march to the Alumnae House on Friday, February 27, 2026 to disrupt a Board of Trustees dinner and call for divestment from genocide. (Smith SJP)

Student anger at the administration's repression was articulated by an organizer who announced that two SJP members had gotten up at 5 am that morning to clear snow from the front lawn of Alumnae House in preparation for the rally, only to have campus police shovel the snow back over the lawn later in the morning. "You are allowed to be angry with your school," one of the speakers told the crowd as they assembled on the Alumnae House lawn, "you are allowed to push for a less corrupt future for this institution." The student rally was joined by a strongly supportive cohort from local communities.

Speakers built the intellectual and emotional framework of the protest with a collective indictment of the Smith Administration for continuing to invest in the war industry and for refusing to reach a fair labor settlement with the educators at the Smith College Center for Early Childhood Education at Fort Hill.

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The Case Against UMass Amherst: Global and Historical Context

The following testimony was presented by UMass students 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 Massachusetts Daily Collegian, the Daily Hampshire Gazette, and The Times of Israel.

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

~ River Valley for Palestine

I'm here representing UMass Students for Justice in Palestine. I'd like to begin our case against UMass by letting them speak for themselves. These quotes are from a 2021 UMass report titled "Next: Frontiers in Aerospace, Defense, Undersea Technologies and Remote Sensing." The report openly and proudly discusses UMass's myriad ties to the Department of Defense, through the development of remote sensor technology, exoskeletons for troops, AI-driven cybersecurity programs, drones, and satellites, among others. But the smoking gun here is the line, "we will contribute to the DOD's goal of multi-domain operational dominance." If we cut through the jargon (which is no small feat) we need to ask ourselves - what does "multi-domain operational dominance" entail? What does it look like, in the context of the American military?

As the recent name change to the Department of War would indicate, the aim



A child mourns over the body of his brother, Ahmad Naim, at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, after he was killed by Israeli forces despite the supposed "ceasefire," 1/2/26. (Doaa AlbazActiveStills)

of the American security state is not defense of our own country, but projection of power onto the rest of the world. If you take a closer look at this map of overseas American military installations, you see the truly global reach

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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.

Therefore, River Valley for Palestine publishes an (alt)ernative paper containing material that we wish the Gazette would include. (We are now the Alt-Hampshire Gazette – we

removed "Daily" from our name since we publish periodically.) We hope you find this paper 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 ~ rivervalley4palestine@gmail.com | althampshiregazette.com

TAKE ACTION
FOR PALESTINE:



* 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 (Project Nimbus).

The Case Against UMass Amherst continued...

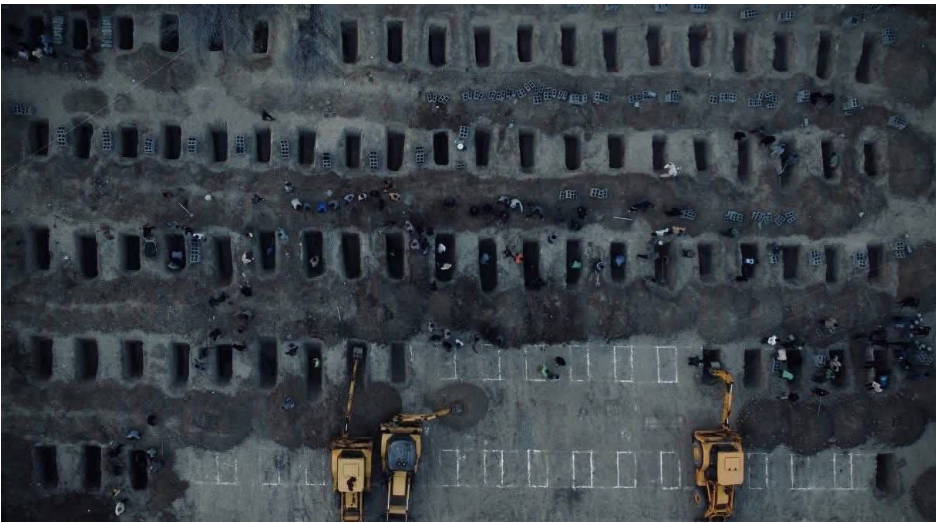
of American imperialism. Every one of those dots indicates an American base on foreign soil. There are around 800 of these bases in total, housing around 200,000 troops. That is a permanent military occupation enveloping much of Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific. And while the long and brutal legacy of American empire deserves far more time than I'm able to dedicate to it in this single slide, if we zoom out to take a look at the bigger picture, the overall track record is staggering. 2 million killed in the Korean War. 3 million in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. 1 million killed in the ongoing War on Terror in the Middle East, and let me tell you, that is a very conservative estimate. And an endless list of smaller scale "dirty wars," overthrows of democratically elected governments, and installations of autocrats and dictators whose police forces and armies are backed to the hilt by American dollars. This is the context through which we understand the American-backed genocide in Gaza, and it is the context in which we must understand UMass's ties to the defense industry. They are bought into a legacy of endless war and devastation.

Let's turn now to our other main defendant - RTX, formerly known as Raytheon Technologies. Just like UMass, they are very up front about where they stand. Take it from their former CEO, Greg Hayes, who says, "Look, peace is not going to break out in the Middle East anytime soon. I think it remains an area where we will see continued growth." What do they think about the climate crisis? Well, it's

great, it's gonna cause demand for our products and services to rise. The Russian invasion of Ukraine? What a fantastic opportunity for international sales. To be honest, on some level, you really have to respect their honesty, but it does feel like they're rubbing it in our faces a little. But what we should take away from this is that Raytheon and its contemporaries in the defense industry are not mere suppliers of weaponry. They are immensely wealthy power brokers with a vested interest in the maintenance of a war economy. And a war economy requires wars.

In the latter half of the 2010s, Raytheon came under fire for its sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia, which at that point was engaged in a devastating air campaign in Yemen. There were several documented instances of the use of Raytheon-made bombs in massacres of civilians, many of whom were children. Despite their obvious complicity in these war crimes, Raytheon not only continued to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia, but they also lobbied hard against any attempts by the government to block these sales. Their \$15 million lobbying campaign, which included over \$4.5 million in donations to sitting American senators, successfully preserved the flow of blood money into their pockets.

As one of the most prolific providers of weaponry and technology to the IDF, there are few corporate entities that bear more responsibility for the destruction of Gaza than Raytheon. Raytheon produces several different types of bombs and missiles used by the IDF, including the 5,000-pound GBU-28 bunker buster bomb, which has the capacity to level entire city blocks. It also supplies an array of



An aerial view of graves being dug for the 167 Iranian civilians, most of them children, murdered in a U.S. surprise, double-tap airstrike on 2/28/26. (News24)

necessary parts for Israel's fleet of F-16 fighter jets, designed the Phalanx system that enforces the naval blockade of Gaza and shoots Gazan fishermen, and helps to supply and maintain Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system. All of this death and destruction has been remarkably lucrative. In 2024, Raytheon made \$80 billion in sales, which amounted to an increase of over 17% from the year before, and their stock price has more than doubled since October 7, 2023. These staggering figures should force us to confront the undeniable truth - a world where profiteering off of genocide is acceptable is a world that makes genocide inevitable.

We also must confront Raytheon's role in constructing the domestic security state. Highlighted as one of 14 giants in the "border security business," Raytheon is a major contractor for US Customs and Border

Patrol and ICE, with contracts for tracking & monitoring devices, satellites, ground sensors and surveillance and radar systems for maritime drones, among other technologies. It also managed Project Athena, an integrated surveillance system that led to the detention and killings of thousands of migrants at the US-Mexico border. As for its ties to the Prison-Industrial Complex, there is the incredibly disturbing example of the "assault intervention device" that Raytheon designed provided to a Los Angeles prison. Designed as a nonlethal stun weapon, the device "blasts millimeter beams that simulate intense heat," and can be used to "zap" inmates. Beyond Raytheon, UMass is invested elsewhere in the prison industry, most notably in the private prison company GEO Group and Palantir, the infamous surveillance & tech firm.

SMITH SJP TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES continued...

Jenin, a Palestinian student and one of the march organizers, told of her father's and her struggle to survive emotionally while living in the U.S. as many of her family and other Palestinians suffer under U.S./Israeli genocide: "...can you even fathom bearing witness to the one who raised you, the people who play in your memories when you get homesick, who shaped you into the person you are today, wasting away in the face of systematic extermination from halfway around the world, with absolutely no way for you to intervene?"

"The Trump administration is succeeding," Jenin said, "in weaponizing insecurity and fear to instill silence and complacency; the Smith administration has submitted to their tactics with little resistance. But we, the people, will not kneel so easily."

Dylan, speaking on behalf of "the anti-Zionist Jewish student group Tzedek Tirdof, meaning 'justice, justice you shall pursue,'" said: "I want the cowards in the Alumnae House to hear this: We will not let this go on in our name. Condemning violent systems of domination and supporting the voice of the people is vital to our belief in a Judaism that fights for collective liberation. Our reading of Jewish histories, texts, and values urges us to do everything we can to make sure our institution divests from war and invests in fair labor practices."

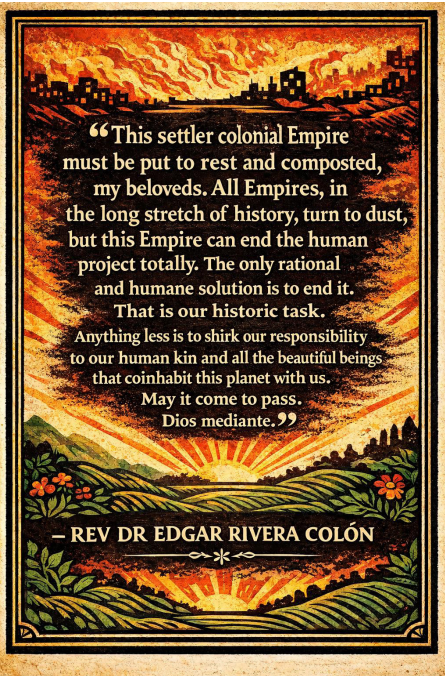
Jo, of Smith Alumnae for Justice in

Palestine (AJP), said, "The College relies on donations from its alumnae community - we want to contribute to a place we can feel proud of, one that is responsibly stewarding our gifts, including through more ethical investments. Hundreds have pledged to withhold donations until this is possible."

The emotional muscle of the protest was the relentless barrage of chants launched against the besieged trustees inside Alumnae House. Most of them appeared to have entered through the back door of the building to avoid the protesters, showing a determined unwillingness to interact in any way with the students whose education they are responsible for overseeing.

Although the protest had decreased to around 100 people by 6 pm, the climax of the action came when about 60 of the protesters walked to the rear of Alumnae House, lining the driveway that led to the basement level of the building. There, campus vans waited to take the trustees to the basketball game.

The protesters chanted tirelessly for over 30 minutes: "Show me what hypocrisy looks like? This is what hypocrisy looks like" and "BOT (Board of Trustees), Full of Greed." Finally, what appeared to be most of the trustees emerged, quickly climbed into the idling vans, and departed up the driveway lined with chanting students and community supporters.



Protesters at the front of the building chanted at a few trustees who came out the front door. As with their colleagues who emerged from the rear of the building, these trustees hurried away without engaging with the students.

As of March 10, 2026, the Board of Trustees has continued to respond to the student divestment proposal of November 2025 with silence.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ALT-GAZETTE!

MAKE A CHECK TO 'NICK MOTTERN' & MAIL TO:

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NORTHAMPTON, MA 01061

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 & JVP W MA: westernmass@jewishvoiceforpeace.com

» Recommended reading & viewing: The Electronic Intifada, Mondoweiss, Drop Site News, Democracy Now!

Legal Victories for UK Direct Action Group Palestine Action

• Palestine Action defendants freed

On February 4, 2026, after 18 months in prison, Fatema Rajwani, 21, was set free by a UK jury, along with five other Palestine Action members who were charged with violent disorder in an August 2024 raid to disrupt production at a plant owned by Israeli weapons maker Elbit Systems in the town of Filton, also home to other major weapons makers.

Upon her release, Rajwani said: "Aggravated burglary is a charge based on the intention to commit harm to another and when we entered that factory, it was to do all that we could to

stop extreme harm and violence continuing at the hands of the Israeli regime and their British accomplices... it was clear to the jurors that our only intention was to dismantle weapons being used in a genocide."

Twelve other Palestine Action members charged in connection with the Elbit action were acquitted on February 20, 2026, after the prosecution dropped burglary charges against them. Four of those freed were on hunger strikes varying in length from 61 to 77 days. The hunger strikers demanded an end to the government ban on the organization Palestine Action and release on bail. Both demands were achieved.

All the above defendants face further court action and are free on bail.

• Palestine Action proscription as "terrorist organization" by UK government ruled illegal

The above prison releases coincided with the hugely favorable, liberating decision by the UK's Royal Courts of Justice that the government had no authority to ban Palestine Action as a terrorist organization.

On July 5, 2025, the British government made it a criminal offense to give even verbal support to Palestine Action after members of the group applied paint to two aircraft at the U.K.'s largest air base the preceding month. Since the ban, over 2,700 non-violent Palestine Action supporters have been arrested.

The Guardian quoted U.N. special rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, Ben Saul, saying that if the government accepts the ruling, this "will enable the relevant authorities to take no further action against those who legitimately expressed their beliefs about Israel and Palestine since 5 July 2025 and were caught up in the policing of the unlawful ban; and also, to apologize to those affected for stigmatizing them as terrorists."

Huda Ammori, co-founder of Palestine Action, told The Guardian: "Banning Palestine Action was always about appeasing pro-Israel lobby groups and weapons manufacturers, and had nothing to do with terrorism ... Today's landmark ruling is a victory for freedom for all..."