

Alt-Hampshire Gazette

Read Globally, Act Locally

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| ANTI-ZIONIST NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2026 |

Friday, March 27, 2026

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 we hope you find interesting and helpful as you seek reliable news and opinion about the genocide and occupation, as well as local campaigns for Palestinian liberation and for all people fighting empire, colonization, white supremacy, and fascism at home and abroad.

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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 (Project Nimbus).

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 *Daily Collegian*, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, and *The Times of Israel*.

This is the third 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.

The Case Against UMass Amherst: Raytheon, UMass, and Palestine

This Tribunal answers the Palestinian people's call for solidarity. For decades Palestinians have asked us to resist empire by boycotting, divesting, and sanctioning Israel and the U.S. On behalf of students, faculty, and staff at UMass, I join all other organizations in saying no more to genocide and no more to our institutional complicity.

This Tribunal is another opportunity to be brave together, express our solidarity, and reject war profiteers. Just a few weeks ago, the student movement blocked the campus career fair because companies like Raytheon and L3Harris are our university's "special" guests. Since 2014 Raytheon has paid UMass close to 10 million dollars for defense contracts, labs, and special projects. In addition, UMass invests more than \$20 million of its endowment in war profiteers and weapons manufacturers.

Take a moment to imagine how else we could spend all that money. Consider what our beloved and beleaguered Social Thought and Political Economy Program (STPEC) could do with just a fraction of those funds.

Continued on page 2...

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EDITORIAL: ISRAELI/U.S. PERFIDY AGAINST IRAN, LEBANON, PALESTINE

On March 28, 2026, in the midst of supposed negotiations, the Israeli/U.S. two-headed empire launched surprise attacks on Iran for the second time in less than a year. This perfidious and illegal launch of a war on Iran had long been sought by Israel but denied by many U.S. regimes. Tel Aviv finally found a willing partner in Donald Trump, who spouted a seemingly endless list of reasons for war against Tehran while refusing to seek the required Congressional approval. Among the first victims were more than 160 Iranian schoolgirls ages 7-11 and their teachers when their school building in Minab was blown up by two U.S. Tomahawk missiles in a double-tap strike.

The actual motivations underlying these crimes? Tel Aviv's pursuit of Lebensraum and regional hegemony via its Greater (Eretz) Israel project, and its desire to wipe out governments and people in the region opposed to its genocide against the Palestinian people. On the U.S. side, reinforcement of Trump's comic-book vision of himself and geopolitics, a drive for shared regional hegemony with Israel, eventual global hegemony, more sources of climate-destroying oil and gas, and, for the many Christian Zionists throughout the U.S. government, a crusading desire to destroy Islam and a belief that the war is "God's plan."

The illegal war on Iran, followed quickly by Israel's displacement, slaughter, and terror in Lebanon against civilians and the resistance group Hezbollah, another friend of the Palestinian people, raise the imminent danger of the use of nuclear weapons by the United States, Israel, or both. There are no checks whatsoever on Tel Aviv's "secret" nuclear arsenal or doctrine, and the war could become existential for Israel. This would break the nuclear "taboo" that has lasted since the U.S. attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Israel is using its aggression against Iran and Lebanon to double down on its genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. In her latest official report (on "Torture and Genocide," 2/19/26), UN Special Rapporteur to Palestine Francesca Albanese demanded the world not look away from the horrors being perpetrated against Palestinian prisoners in Zionist prisons.

Albanese's report "documents how torture has become integral to the domination of and punishment inflicted on men, women and children, both through custodial abuse and through a relentless campaign of forced



A father mourns his two daughters, Rahaf and Rimas Abu Jamea, who were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a tent sheltering displaced people in the al-Mawasi area of the southern Gaza Strip, 2/4/26. Another child, 5-year-old Muhammad al-Qidra, was also killed in the attack. (Doaa AlbazActiveStills)

displacement, mass killings, deprivation and destruction of all means of life to inflict long-term collective pain and suffering. A continuous, territorially pervasive regime of psychological terror is being imposed, designed to break bodies, deprive a people of their dignity, and force them from their land. This is not incidental violence. It is the architecture of settler-colonialism, built on a foundation of dehumanization and maintained by a policy of cruelty and collective torture."

(Written by River Valley for Palestine member Jennifer Scarlott)

SLOW BURN GENOCIDE: The Erosion of Palestinian Life in the Occupied West Bank

By Jennifer Scarlott

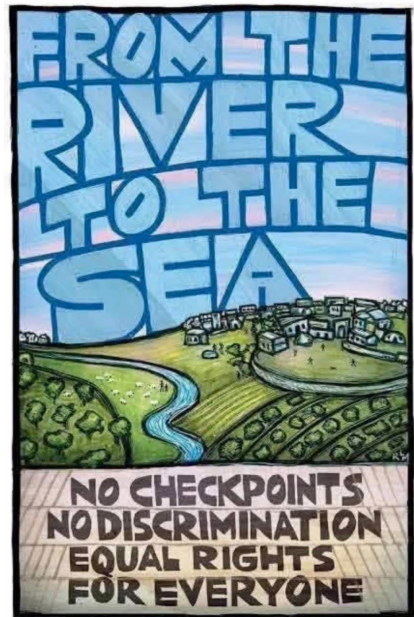
One sees the headlines from the West Bank: violent settlers slaughter Palestinian sheep; Israeli soldiers shoot Palestinian family; Ben-Gvir visits Al-Aqsa Mosque; 40,000 Palestinians displaced from Jenin and Tulkarem; Palestinian travel in the West Bank restricted by endless checkpoints. Behind those headlines lies a three-part project – state-backed settler pogroms, annexation, and financial warfare – designed to compress Palestinian life down to eventual non-existence. This is a different project from the spectacular, all-out annihilation of Palestinian life in Gaza. This is methodical, durable, and even more difficult to interrupt, either from within, or by the outside world. It is

slow burn genocide, rather than conflagration genocide.

Settler violence dominates life in Area C, the 60 percent of the West Bank under complete Israeli control. Rampaging settlers, backed actively or passively by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), create facts on the ground of Israeli ownership that are consolidated by administrative and legal measures. The terrorizing and killing of Palestinians and the destruction of their farms, livestock, olive trees, and water sources are designed to make life unlivable and eventually, to achieve the removal of Palestinians from their land. While it has been a feature of Israel's occupation since the Nakba of 1948, settler violence is carried



Israeli forces demolish the home of Tariq al-Masalmeh in the village of Beit Awa, near the southern West Bank city of Hebron, 2/11/26. The home was destroyed under the pretext that it was built without a permit. Meanwhile, Israeli authorities have allowed settlers to expand in the area. (Mosab Shawer/ActiveStills)



out increasingly brazenly and with full support from Israeli ministers.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government has been seeking to absorb ever more West Bank territory through a series of **annexation** measures designed to create irreversible facts on the ground. In January, the Knesset passed legislation that legalizes dozens of settlements built on Palestinian land, retroactively granting them official status. The government has also eased restrictions on settlement expansion, damaging what remains of Palestinian administrative authority. While Western governments occasionally issue feeble objections to these measures, "each regulatory adjustment, each planning approval, each land registration incrementally transforms the status quo into something international law no longer has the vocabulary to challenge." (Mondoweiss, A. Omar, 2/13/26)

Continued on page 2...

The Case Against UMass Amherst Continued...

My own graduate program in Humanities and Fine Arts is always in financial crisis, and many of my union colleagues struggle to feed their families. But instead, UMass further cements its relationship with RTX, offering scholarships, tuition discounts, and career pipelines. The UMass-Raytheon special partnership goes back decades because an R1 university like ours, instead of providing life-affirming knowledge, has become a hub for the war machine's research and recruitment.

But our movements for solidarity also go back decades. UMass and Hampshire College were some of the first institutions to divest from Apartheid South Africa. Not because administrators had a moment of moral clarity but because students, staff, and faculty organized and disrupted business as usual. Likewise with fossil fuel divestment, today UMass is proud to have been one of the first to divest, and brags about being environmentally responsible. But it was community members like us who pushed the university towards taking an ethical position.

“What is unfolding across West Asia is a colonial project that, if allowed to continue, will ultimately pave the way for a Greater Israel and end any prospects for Palestinian freedom.”

– Michel Moushabeck, Interlink Publishing

Why the struggle to divest today? Because the Palestine Exception is real. We have voted for divestment in our unions and student organizations. We have marched and rallied on campus. We have occupied buildings, set up solidarity encampments, held votes of no confidence, and built a broad coalition throughout the Valley.

We have exhausted all institutional avenues and gone through every official channel and received the same answer:

UMass denies our requests for divestment and chooses genocide, war, and profit. Administrators have also gone a step further by violently suppressing the student movement for a free Palestine. Hundreds have been arrested, beaten, and bullied. Community members have been banned from campus, students have been doxxed by reactionaries, and professors are forced to censor their lesson plans. Meanwhile, Raytheon gets preferential treatment and direct access to labs, classrooms, and career fairs.

We have been given no choice but to call for this Tribunal and charge the University of Massachusetts with complicity in the genocide of Palestine through its direct and longstanding relationship with Raytheon and the devastation Raytheon's weapons rain upon Gaza. We once again call on UMass to boycott and divest from the Israeli and U.S. war machine. But more importantly, today I ask you all, our jury of comrades, to sanction UMass by finding them guilty of complicity in genocide.

Before I yield the floor to our expert witness on institutional corruption, I want to ask that, as we charge UMass, we do not fall into their logic of punishment, retribution, and carcerality. Our movement is grounded in solidarity, dignity, and respect for all life. And because we are in this sacred sanctuary, we do not speak the language of punishment. Today we speak the language of redemption. Today we take one more step, collectively, towards building a better world.

TAKE ACTION FOR PALESTINE:



Opinion: Israel Seeks to Cancel Easter

By the Rev. Dr. Peter Kakos

In the timeless story of Easter Sunday, Jesus appears to his anxious followers three days after his crucifixion. The first word he speaks is “Peace.” So powerful was his wish that for well over two thousand years, it has been used as the first word of greeting for Jews and Muslims alike: Shalom and Salaam, respectively. Our earliest account of the word derives from the written language of the day, ancient Greek. Pronounced “Irene-ay,” it’s meant to convey a form of peace established after doing the hard work of reconciliation, with South Africa’s formal process of post-apartheid reconciliation being a courageous, poignant example.

Instead, what we find is the mindless belief among “Christian Zionists” that peace will come in the form of an all-out 21st century warring crusade: at the outset led by Israeli Zionists, intent on cleansing Palestine of all Muslims, Christians, (indeed, of all Palestinians), via genocide or expulsion, then conquering the entirety of West Asia in Armageddon-like fashion. Their savior? A baseball-capped American who has been “anointed by Jesus.” (Z. Aleem: MSNOW, 3/20/26)

In stark contrast, Jesus believed the entirety of humankind deserves dignity and support, that all nations should adhere to the overarching Golden Rule: “Do to others, what you would have them do to you.”

Precisely for this irenic reason, he “rose up.” His egalitarianism is divine and, therefore, eternally present, standing strong today to do all that is humanly possible to end the affliction of Zionism’s genocidal assault upon each and every Palestinian, Lebanese, and Iranian soul.

On February 28, 2026, as the U.S. and Israel began to bombard Iran with blitzkrieg-like fury, the Israeli government immediately ordered

NEWS BRIEF: Cuba and Allies Resist Trump

Having survived 66 years of U.S.-led embargoes, Cuba is in serious jeopardy due to the first effective blockade of the island since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Imposed by President Trump on January 9, 2026, the administration appears to be trying, for no clearly stated reason, to destroy Cuba’s economy and force regime change. He has not ruled out a military takeover, saying, “I can do anything I want with Cuba.”

On March 18, the “Nuestra América Convoy” began arriving on the island by sea and air with over 20 tons of desperately needed supplies. The transnational organization Progressive International, which organized the convoy, has already delivered several tons of medical supplies to hospitals around Havana. Two Russian tankers are attempting to reach Cuba containing 920,000 barrels of crude oil, but the U.S. has said it will not allow delivery of the oil despite widespread suffering and blackouts. Swedish activist Greta Thunberg is one of a number of prominent people joining the convoy. She said, “International solidarity and collective uprising are the only forces powerful enough to push back against imperialism like this. We call upon everyone to raise their voices and take action against this brutality.”

In related international news, kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores are in solitary confinement in New York City. And efforts are underway to launch a new aid flotilla

SLOW BURN GENOCIDE CONTINUED...

Along with settler violence and annexation, Israel tightens its grip in the West Bank by restricting, blocking, and closing the **circulation of currency**. This slow squeeze on Palestinian economic life forces traders, merchants, businesses, and workers into a struggle for survival.

The aim of the project of compression of Palestinian life on the West Bank through settler violence, annexation, and financial blockage is not to call attention through spectacular violence, as in Gaza, but to bleed slowly, until life is no longer tenable.

“The aim here is not to eliminate the Palestinian population yet – such a project would invite international condemnation and organized resistance – but to manage it at the threshold of viability... What is being constructed is not a temporary crisis but a durable condition... The question is not whether these processes will intensify – they already are

“We’re in the midst of a global revolution, sparked and maintained by the inimitable Palestinian revolution, brought to fruition by Iran and Hezbollah. Support for Zionism in the U.S. has collapsed, Zionist control of the narrative has collapsed. There’s no going back. It’s a stain on humanity that it took so much slaughter and devastation, but what Yeats called ‘a terrible beauty’ is finally born: global intifada. It’s decolonisation or fascism. Pick a side.”

– Tadhg Hickey, Irish actor, activist, Freedom Flotilla crew member



“Resisting Israeli Settlements”, Sliman Mansour, oil on canvas, 1978, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art International Exhibition for Palestine.

the sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque on Jerusalem’s Holy Mount to be closed. It also shut down the entrance to the nearby ancient Church of the Holy Sepulchre, sacred to all historic churches: Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Coptic, to name a few. For 1,700, years, Christians worldwide have come to receive enlightenment where Jesus is said to have risen from the stone tomb within.

The Israeli regime may seek to close these venerable Muslim and Christian sites but will never extinguish the spirit of Irene-ay. The spirit of peace is ever bright for the betterment of children, equally esteemed, equally chosen.

to Gaza, to break the Israeli siege. The Gaza flotilla efforts were the inspiration for the Nuestra América Convoy to Cuba.



An activist with the Nuestra América Convoy stands next to a Mexican flag on a boat nicknamed Grandma 2, before it sets sail for Cuba, in Puerto Progreso, Mexico, on March 20, 2026. © Yuri Cortez/AFP

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» 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!