

# **END THE OCCUPATION**

**US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION**

Annual Report

September 2012-August 2013

# Introduction

The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation is a nationwide coalition of organizations and individual members working to end U.S. support for Israel's illegal military occupation and U.S. complicity in Israel's apartheid policies toward Palestinians. We work for a U.S. policy toward Palestine/Israel that supports a just and lasting peace based on human rights, international law, and equality.

The US Campaign's strategy to achieve these goals is to educate, organize, and mobilize people in the United States. It provides both member groups and individuals with resources, a forum to share lessons learned, and an umbrella for nationwide mobilizations and projects to impact U.S. policy. Beginning with a handful of member groups in 2001, today the US Campaign consists of 406 member organizations in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

This annual report describes ways in which US Campaign programs and organizing have met challenges over the past year and ways we are making a difference in building a strong and effective movement to face the challenges ahead.

Hired in April as the Interim Director, it is an honor to work with the outstanding staff of the US Campaign. Each staff person brings stellar skills and in-depth experience to her/his position. The commitment of the staff is unassailable and the quality of their work superb.

The Steering Committee of the US Campaign is transitioning from a hands-on management body to a governance body and is well on its way to completing a five-year strategic plan. As with the staff, the US Campaign is fortunate to have an outstanding body of persons serving in leadership through the Steering Committee and Advisory Board.

With the U.S. government once again promoting processes for "peace" in Palestine/Israel that are based on neither law nor equality and certainly are not just, the work of the coalition remains vitally important. While progress has clearly been made in the past decade in changing the discourse here in the United States, on-the-ground realities in Palestine/Israel have stayed the same or worsened. The strategic plan will guide us into the next phase of our work. The strategic plan will address these realities and propose ways to meet the challenges ahead.

Activism on U.S. campuses is at an all-time high and the grassroots response to the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) is growing. As nations around the world respond to unjust policies and inhumane actions by the Israeli government by speaking out forcefully, taking action, and isolating Israel for the pariah state it is becoming, the U.S. government continues to give unconditional support.

The need is greater than ever before for the US Campaign to continue building the coalition, join hands with others working for justice, respond to and incorporate the voices of Palestinians as they shape their own future, and leverage the power we have as citizens of the United States to support them in enabling that future to unfold.



**Kathryn Johnson**  
Interim Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Johnson".

## A. Challenging U.S. Policy

***This program area is directed by  
Josh Ruebner, National Advocacy  
Director, and Mike Coogan,  
Legislative Coordinator.***

### **1. Organizing to End U.S. Military Aid to Israel.**

Through the determined and persistent efforts of the US Campaign and its members, we are continually adding to the base of educated lawmakers and policymakers who know that U.S. military aid to Israel is immoral, illegal, and ultimately not in the best interests of the United States.

Still unduly influenced by the AIPAC lobby, the majority of Congresspersons do not yet vote in a way that reflects this growing awareness. That day is coming, however, and when it does the majority will have been educated in no small part by our faithful activists.

To this end, the US Campaign staff sent packets to 285 organizers over the past year to educate and organize people in their communities to end U.S. military aid to Israel. These packets contain postcards, flyers, fact sheets, stickers, posters, and policy papers. Since the US Campaign began this organizing campaign in 2008, it has sent nearly 3,000 packets to organizers in all 50 states and 1,165 cities.

In February 2013, the US Campaign released a comprehensive survey about its printed and online resources related to its campaign to end U.S. military aid to Israel; the survey was completed by more than 800 people, providing valuable feedback for improving these resources, a process upon which the US Campaign has embarked.

The result of the first major improvement is a re-launch of [www.weaponstoisrael.org](http://www.weaponstoisrael.org) containing data that reflects countless hours of careful research. The website now contains nine databases and maps, complete with corporate details on thousands of contracts benefiting the Israeli military, worth billions of dollars, which resulted in millions of weapons being transferred to Israel at taxpayer expense.



**Josh Ruebner, National Advocacy Director**

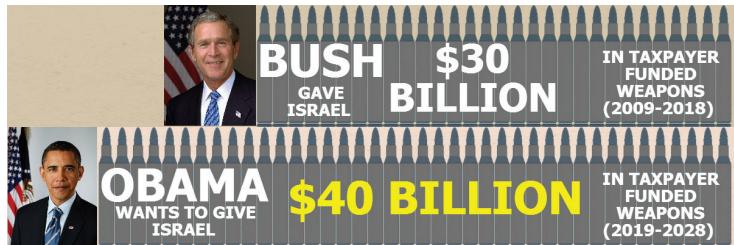
The website contains easy-to-use interactive features that allow users to determine the information they want to see. By including heretofore difficult-to-find information about which corporations are profiteering from Israel's oppression of Palestinians, the website is intended to empower boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaigns against corporate targets.

The US Campaign, often in conjunction with member groups and allies, also engaged in several visible initiatives to raise awareness about the moral and financial costs of arming Israel. In January 2013, the US Campaign organized dozens of volunteers to distribute thousands of flyers and postcards opposing military aid to Israel during President Obama's second inauguration/Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and placed a full page ad in *Congressional Quarterly* with member group Jewish Voice for Peace.



In March 2013, the US Campaign teamed up with Visualizing Palestine to create and place a series of ads opposing aid to Israel that ran in the Washington, D.C. metro and on mobile trucks during the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

In August 2012, the Salam-Shalom Committee of the Church of Reconciliation (PCUSA) in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, a member group of the US Campaign, launched ads through the



US Campaign's [www.twopeoplesonefuture.org](http://www.twopeoplesonefuture.org) initiative on all local buses in the area opposing military aid to Israel. The ad campaign, which lasted for an entire year, generated dozens of news stories,

and the Salam-Shalom Committee successfully beat back efforts by the opposition to censor the ads.

In addition the US Campaign provided support for two campaigns by member groups—Friends of Palestine-Wisconsin and the Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice—through its initiative [www.fundcommunityneeds.org](http://www.fundcommunityneeds.org) to get city councils in Milwaukee and Racine, Wisconsin to pass resolutions calling for an end to U.S. military

aid to Israel. Although neither resolution passed, the campaigns succeeded in raising awareness about this issue in these communities.

## 2. Mobilizing the Grassroots to Influence Policy.

Since its last conference, the US Campaign has run numerous advocacy campaigns on a variety of topics relating to U.S. policy, often with member groups and other allies. Some of these have included:

- With the Center for Constitutional Rights, calling on the State Department to investigate Rachel Corrie's killing after a civil trial in Israel ended with a not guilty verdict
- With Jewish Voice for Peace, providing support to 15 church leaders who wrote to Members of Congress calling for holding Israel accountable to U.S. weapons laws
- Calling for the United States to work for a ceasefire and investigate Israel's war crimes with U.S. weapons during and after its November 2012 attack on Gaza
- With the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Muslims for Palestine, CODEPINK, and Jewish Voice for Peace, opposing on Tax Day the Obama administration's plan to negotiate \$40 billion of additional military aid to Israel through [www.demandarefund.org](http://www.demandarefund.org)
- With Amnesty International and Addameer, calling on Congress to adopt Palestinian prisoners of conscience and advocating on their behalf on Capitol Hill
- With the American-Arab Anti-

# Be on our side. We are the side of peace and justice.

Palestinian designer



End U.S. military aid to Israel.  
[www.TwoPeoplesOneFuture.org](http://www.TwoPeoplesOneFuture.org)

Advertisement paid for by Nor Cal Friends of Sabeel

Discrimination Committee, Center for Constitutional Rights and Roots Action, calling on the Obama administration to investigate Israel's killing of U.S. citizen Furkan Dogan on the third anniversary of Israel's attack on the flotilla

The US Campaign also created educational resources to empower grassroots efforts to influence policy, including a major renovation of its recent Congressional Report Cards to increase their ease-of-use and interactivity; an updated FAQ and conference call on the implications of the UN vote for Palestine becoming a "non-member state;" and a statement on the policy implications of President Obama's reelection.

### **3. Changing the Discourse about U.S. Policy.**



The discourse in the United States has changed dramatically over the past decade. It is becoming much more common to hear people from a variety of sectors articulating the need for U.S. policy to change to one that supports human rights, international law, and equality.

The role played by the US Campaign in writing op-eds on a variety of topics in publications such as *The Hill*, *Huffington Post* and *AlterNet*, and has given dozens of interviews for print media, television and radio stations across the country has played a significant role in this shift.

Speaking and writing continue to be major component of the US Campaign's efforts. Since its last conference, the US Campaign has given presentations at the following conferences and universities: Friends of Sabeel—North America, University of New Mexico, American Muslims for Palestine, Expose AIPAC, Florida Atlantic University, Clark University, Boston College, Florida State University, University of North Carolina, and War Resisters League.

*Shattered Hopes: Obama's Failure to Broker Israeli-Palestinian Peace*, US Campaign Advocacy Director Josh Ruebner's first book, is being published by Verso Books the week of this year's conference. An extensive fall 2013 book tour will enable Josh to promote this important book while speaking about topics of key relevance to the work of the US Campaign.

### **4. Legislative Advocacy.**

The past year has seen US Campaign supporters and member groups continue to pressure Members of Congress to hold Israel accountable for the misuse of U.S.-supplied weapons against Palestinian civilians, including a call for a credible and transparent investigation into the repeated misuse of U.S. supplied tear gas against Palestinians and other peaceful protestors. Although Members of Congress passed a law requiring the Secretary of State to certify that Israel has not misused tear gas against Palestinians, lawmakers have yet to enforce the provision.

**During Israel's attacks on Gaza last November, the US Campaign put an ad in *The New York Times* urging people to contact lawmakers and end U.S. funding for Israel's attacks on Palestinians.**

**The ads were seen by more than 290,000 people and helped mobilize public opposition to Israel's attacks against Palestinian civilians.**

The advertisement features a young girl holding a lit candle. The text reads: 'Why Are Our Taxes Funding Israel's Attacks on Palestinians?' with a small icon of a flame above the word 'Taxes'. Below the main title is the slogan 'END THE OCCUPATION'. Further down, it says 'Support Human Rights &amp; End Military Aid To Israel.' and a red button with the text 'SEE HOW ➤'. At the bottom, it says 'US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION'. A small caption on the right side of the ad area states: 'Ad placed in the New York Times by the US Campaign'.

**a.** Wadi Foquin: In March 2013, the US Campaign worked to support the member group-led campaign by the Friends of Wadi Foquin, to help a small Palestinian village being threatened by Israel's theft of land and other natural resources. Friends of Wadi Foquin has worked in partnership with the village since 2009 and supported a number of community and economic empowerment activities. The Israeli government has already confiscated 94% of the village's land and attacks by Israeli settlers are destroying what little remains. Residents of Wadi Foquin have asked the Friends of Wadi Foquin and other partners to raise awareness in the United States and press lawmakers to address the human rights violations being committed by Israel. In response the Friends of Wadi Foquin initiated a campaign calling on the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to hold a hearing to examine human rights violations by the Israeli government.

Following letters, calls, and in-person visits by the Friends of Wadi Foquin and supporters of the US Campaign, the co-chairs (Rep. Frank Wolf and Rep. Jim McGovern) of the Lantos Human Rights Commission sent an inquiry to Secretary of State John Kerry about Israeli human rights abuses in Wadi Foquin. The letter read in part:

"as co-chairmen of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (TLHRC), we have received several inquiries from commission members, constituents and concerned citizens.

Is the State Department aware of this situation and if so what, if anything, is being done?"

The Friends of Wadi Foquin continue to urge the Lantos Human Rights Commission to hold a briefing about this issue, and we will support their efforts in any way possible.

**b.** Visa Waiver Program: We have also been working with organizations across the country to oppose Israel's entry into the Visa Waiver Program under terms that would codify discrimination against U.S. citizens and embolden Israel to continue its racist policies. In May we delivered an open letter to 98 Senators urging them to oppose efforts by AIPAC to codify discrimination against U.S. citizens. The open letter was endorsed by nine national organizations, more than 40 local and regional organizations, and was accompanied by thousands of letters to Members of Congress from constituents. Work by a diverse range of organizations to oppose this legislation (United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013) has also helped generate significant media coverage.

## SAVE WADI FOQUIN



**Over the last eight months there have been more than 27 articles published about the issue, including coverage by *The Guardian*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Boston Globe*, *The St. Louis Post Dispatch*, *The Hill*, *The Huffington Post*, *the Daily Beast*, and *National Public Radio*.**

## B. Boycott and Divestment Campaigns

*This program is coordinated by Anna Baltzer, National Organizer, with support from Ramah Kudaimi, Membership & Outreach Coordinator.*

### 1. Occupation Is Not Green: Boycott SodaStream: Flagship Interfaith Boycott Campaign & More!

The US Campaign helped organize and formalize the first-ever Interfaith Boycott Coalition, composed of members of our interdenominational network, Jewish Voice for Peace, and American Muslims for Palestine. The coalition chose as its first target the Israeli settlement product SodaStream, launching the [sodastreamboycott.org](http://sodastreamboycott.org) website and organizing a Black Friday Day of Action as the company amped up promotional efforts during holiday shopping. The Interfaith SodaStream Boycott Campaign formally launched in January 2013, receiving broad media attention, coinciding with a Super Bowl ad placed by the company.



When SodaStream announced its Super Bowl ad, the US Campaign called for spoof ads to highlight how the soda maker exploits Palestinian land, labor, and resources. Supporters voted for their favorite ad and the winner received nearly 20,000 hits on YouTube. The US Campaign also coordinated "Fizzless for Freedom" Super Bowl House Parties focused on social media activism exposing the truth about SodaStream.

This spring the US Campaign convened a non-sectarian network of more than 20 U.S. SodaStream boycott campaigns nationwide, forming a list serv, resource clearing house, and social media working group to enable cross-country coordination and collaboration. Through the network, the US Campaign helped develop a national campaign logo and name, Occupation Is Not Green: Boycott SodaStream. The network also enabled a rapid, collaborative press outreach response when SodaStream announced its sponsorship of the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival.

### 2. Mapping, Connecting, and Helping Coordinate Nationwide BDS Campaigns

Following popular demand, the US Campaign launched an interactive mapping of the impressive breadth of member group boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaigns and resources nationwide. The map continues to expand, helping connect organizations with each other and inspire and resource organizations just starting their BDS work.



"Expose AIPAC" action in solidarity with Palestinian hunger strikers

## The US Campaign is always seeking new ways to facilitate coordination, collaboration, and resource-sharing between member groups. Beyond SodaStream, the US Campaign helped create or manage networks and list servs focused on campus organizing, boycotting Sabra hummus, dumping Veolia (another company implicated in the occupation), and faith-based organizing.

The latter network was established last year when the US Campaign co-convened the second annual interdenominational summit with more than 25 leaders from more than a dozen denominational and ecumenical organizations working to end the occupation. The network was well-poised to jointly respond in support to a subsequent historic call by church leaders to end unconditional U.S. military aid to Israel, and will reconvene again this year.

The US Campaign also helped promote and mobilize for coordinated national and international days of action including Israeli Apartheid Week, March 30th Day of Action (Land Day), and the We Divest Day of Action during the TIAA-CREF annual shareholders meeting. Member groups in more than two dozen U.S. cities took part, organizing mock walls and checkpoints, flash mobs, rallies, cultural events, prisoner solidarity hunger strikes, teach-ins, concerts, BDS trainings, films, panel discussions, and more. The US Campaign also helped organize more than 600 letters of support from across the country to the editors at *The Boston Globe* following their watershed editorial defending BDS.

The US Campaign continues to serve on the National Coordinating Committee and various subcommittees of the We Divest Campaign -- aimed at compelling financial giant TIAA-CREF to divest from the occupation -- and helped put together its new website: [www.wedivest.org](http://www.wedivest.org)

### 3. Strategic Support, Trainings, Briefings, and New Resources to Advance BDS

Over the course of the year, the US Campaign provided online and in-person trainings, special guest briefings, one-on-one strategic support, and other mentorship to more than 50 organizations nationwide, including campus groups, faith-based organizations, and state- and city-wide coalitions. The US Campaign revamped its BDS web section ([endtheoccupation.org/bds](http://endtheoccupation.org/bds)) to make it more user-friendly and integrate new resources, like a new BDS flyer highlighting major U.S. BDS campaigns and educating readers about the BDS movement.



The global flagship BDS campaign, Dump Veolia, has gained unprecedented traction this year in the United States. The US Campaign has worked to support campaigns nationwide, mobilizing testimonies and media for city or municipal hearings on Veolia contracts, and helping publicize the first-ever U.S. Veolia victory in Yolo County, CA, where Veolia pulled out of the running following aggressive BDS campaigning. The US Campaign also launched a new Dump Veolia logo and original campaign resources by staff and member groups. US Campaign staff have worked on the ground with the St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee as an integral part of an ongoing campaign battle that has kept Veolia out of the city since December 2012 and reached the highest levels of political discourse as a main topic during the city's 2013 mayoral elections.

This spring the US Campaign joined with strategic partners Students for Justice in Palestine National and West Coast, Palestine Solidarity Legal Support, American Friends Service Committee, Jewish Voice for Peace, and media experts to form the U.S. Campus BDS Support Team. The team serves to streamline and enhance support for campus campaigns, providing divestment and company target research, legal support and resolution texts, press outreach, community mobilization and high profile support, sophisticated technology for online targeted actions, and connections with other campuses.

During the 2012-2013 academic calendar, the US Campaign provided strategic support, endorsements, community mobilization, targeted action technology, and/or company research to support successful divestment efforts at Oberlin College, the University of California at Berkeley, UC Riverside, and UC San Diego, as well as similar support to dozens of other campuses that are still working towards divestment.

The US Campaign has also worked in close, strategic partnership with Vermonters for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel on their creative campaign to compel ice cream icon Ben & Jerry's to end complicity in Israel's oppressive policies. The US Campaign helped gather almost 100 organizational endorsements for the campaign, and delivered a petition with approximately 4,000 signatures to Ben Cohen himself. The US Campaign also helped popularize and advance BDS campaigns including Stop Hewlett Packard, Boycott Ahava/Stolen Beauty, and the successful Milwaukee Palestine Solidarity Coalition effort to compel the local Riverwest Public House to endorse BDS.



With support from the US Campaign, Palestine Solidarity Committee members and allies line the halls outside the mayor's office, calling on St. Louis to Dump Veolia.

#### **4. Watershed Cultural Boycott Victory and Other Ground-Breaking Academic, Cultural, and Sports Boycott Initiatives**

In October 2012, the US Campaign provided one-on-one strategic support to the Minnesota Break the Bonds sports boycott campaign calling on the Minnesota Timberwolves basketball team to cancel a planned game with Israel's official Haifa-Maccabi team.

The MN Break the Bond's staff expressed their gratitude to the US Campaign staff for offering tools for global networking and media coverage. They wrote: "Within 24 hours, (the US Campaign's) support enabled us to send a boycott letter to the MN Timberwolves with 112 organizational endorsements. In addition, their publicity increased our visibility by over 700%. Thank you US Campaign! You strengthen our work and continue to connect us with the larger Palestine solidarity movement in empowering ways."



Member of MN Break the Bonds speaks in a workshop

Similarly the US Campaign has helped support the Stop Cornell/Technion Campaign, the first academic boycott campaign of its kind in the U.S., through social media and mobilization for monthly protests outside of Google offices providing classroom space as well as the July 2013 "Leaflet your 'hood!" actions to educate people about why they should oppose the partnership.

In April 2013, the US Campaign helped coordinate an international campaign to compel actor Morgan Freeman to decline an award from the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, an institution complicit in Israeli apartheid. The US Campaign orchestrated behind-the-scenes outreach to celebrities, charities, and officials connected to Freeman; helped coordinate and publicize letters from Palestinian students at Hebrew University, the Dorothy Cotton Institute Civil Rights Delegation, South Africans, Israelis, and others; launched a letter-writing action to Freeman's publicist and agent, generating thousands of emails; and organized social media campaigns to reach Jian Ghomeshi, emcee of the event. Freeman chose to accept the award, in spite of questions raised by anti-Apartheid leaders Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Ahmed Kathrada. The latter had spent 26 years in prison alongside Nelson Mandela, whose role Freeman played in the movie Invictus.

In May 2013, the US Campaign and many member groups urged singer/songwriter Alicia Keys to cancel an upcoming concert in Tel Aviv. The US Campaign sent a letter, endorsed by more than 50 organizations, to Keys' publicist, and US Campaign Steering Committee member Andrew Kadi delivered a petition with more than 16,000 signatures to Keys' charity Keep a Child Alive in New York. The US Campaign helped organize Twitter campaigns and culture jamming to bring attention to why Keys should honor the BDS call. With support from the US Campaign, a group of African American academics, artists, clergy, and activists signed onto a letter affirming the Jim Crow analogy in Palestine/Israel after author Alice Walker was attacked for using the analogy in her own calls to Keys to boycott. Although Keys performed in the end, the campaign garnered spectacular media attention and helped usher BDS into the mainstream.

**Last but not least, this past November 2012, the US Campaign, along with the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel and partners on the ground in Los Angeles, helped lead an international campaign to compel musical legend Stevie Wonder to cancel a planned performance at an L.A. fundraiser for the Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces.**

**The US Campaign researched and outreached behind the scenes to Wonder and his manager; launched a petition; organized social media blitzes, helped organize and publicize letters from Israelis, Palestinians, African Americans, Cindy and Craig Corrie, and others; and coordinated closely with Palestinian and South African allies. Wonder withdrew from the event, marking perhaps the biggest U.S. cultural boycott victory to date.**

### **5. Breaking Into the Mainstream Media & Discourse**

The historic Stevie Wonder victory catapulted the BDS movement into mainstream headlines, with unprecedented coverage in national broadcast companies *FOX*, *ABC*, *NBC*, *CBS*, *MSNBC*, and *MSN News*; U.S. press including *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *Entertainment!*, *The Washington Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Yahoo News*; international coverage in *Reuters*, *Associated Press*, *BBC*, *The Guardian*, *Australian ABC News*, *South African Guardian*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Haaretz*, *YNet*, and *Israel National News*; and more. The Don't Be Fallin' for Apartheid Alicia Keys Campaign enjoyed coverage by *HuffPost Live*, *The New York Times*, *MSNBC's The Grio*, *BET*, and *USA Today*.



Anna Baltzer, National Organizer

US Campaign interviews on the SodaStream Boycott campaigns have likewise garnered BDS coverage in media including the *Associated Press*, *AOL*, *National Public Radio*, *Business Week*, *The Herald Tribune*, and *The Sacramento Bee*. As this report went to print, *Harper's Magazine* published a centerfold article on the SodaStream boycott quoting US Campaign staff. The US Campaign also helped bring BDS coverage to *Global Water Intelligence*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Al Jazeera*, *C-SPAN*, and *Book TV*, to name a few others.

In just the past year, we have witnessed this unprecedented level of media coverage, illustrating that BDS and the aims of groups like the US Campaign and its member groups are mainstreaming slowly but surely. One final example: In January 2013, the US Campaign National Organizer was invited to present at the Oxford Union, the world's most famous debating society, which has hosted the likes of Presidents Reagan, Nixon, and Carter; the Dalai Lama; Malcolm X; Yasser Arafat; Mother Theresa; Benazir Bhutto; and Senator John McCain, among many others. The US Campaign carried the voices of the U.S. grassroots Palestine solidarity movement to the halls of Oxford and challenged the traditional gatekeepers of Israel's occupation and apartheid policies in a stirring and standing-room-only debate -- and won.

## C. Membership and Outreach

**This program area  
is directed by  
Ramah Kudaimi,  
Membership and  
Outreach Coordinator.**

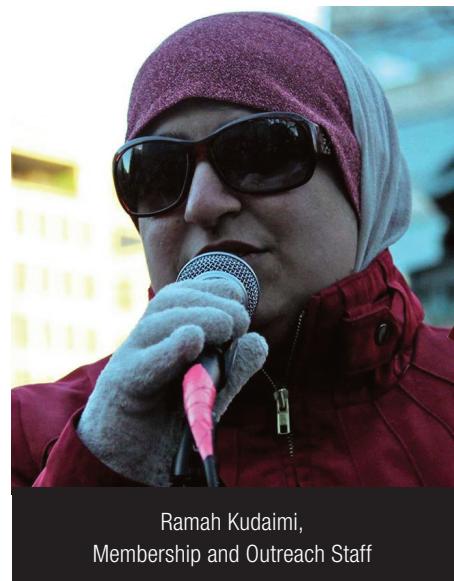
### 1. Growing Our Coalition.

**Since its last annual conference, the US Campaign has welcomed 32 new organizations to the coalition. The number of member groups has increased from 387 to 406.**

- African Americans for Justice in the Middle East & North Africa: Washington, DC
- Boston College Students for Justice in Palestine: Boston, MA
- Cape Codders for Peace and Justice: Cotuit, MA
- Chicago Divests: Chicago, IL
- Chico Palestine Action Group: Chico, CA
- Colorado BDS Campaign: Denver, CO
- Jewish Voice for Peace-LA: Los Angeles, CA
- Jewish Voice for Peace- Tacoma Chapter: Tacoma, WA
- International Women's Peace Service: Spring Hill, FL
- Northeastern University Students for Justice in Palestine: Boston, MA
- NYU Students for Justice in Palestine: New York, NY
- Palestine Street Action: New York, NY
- Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore: Washington, DC
- Princeton Committee on Palestine: Princeton, NJ
- Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights: Sacramento, CA
- Salaam-Shalom: Chapel Hill, NC
- San Fernando Valley Greens (Green Party): West Hills, CA
- St. Michael's Task Force on Palestine & Israel: New York, NY
- Students for Justice in Palestine at Brooklyn College: New York, NY
- Students for Justice in Palestine at Hunter College: New York, NY
- Students for Justice in Palestine at John Jay College: New York, NY
- Students for Justice in Palestine at College of Staten Island: Staten Island, NY
- Students for Justice at UCLA: Los Angeles, CA
- Students for Justice in Palestine-Southern Illinois University: Edwardsville, IL
- Students for Justice in Palestine at UCLA: Los Angeles, CA
- Students United for Palestinian Equal Rights-UW: Seattle, WA

- Tufts Jewish Voice for Peace: Medford, MA
- University of Denver Students for Justice in Palestine: Denver, CO
- Vancouver for Peace: Camas, WA
- Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club: Oakland, CA
- Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Santa Cruz: Santa Cruz, CA

*(13 organizations no longer in existence were removed from the list).*



As we continue to grow our coalition, we have also been improving our engagement with our member groups by setting up more opportunities for groups to connect with the US Campaign staff, Steering Committee, and one another via list servs, conference calls, and briefings.



D.C. member groups at Boycott SodaStream Demonstration

## 2. Supporting Our Member Groups.

The US Campaign serves as a resource for its more than 400 member groups, helping strengthen their work for Palestinian rights. Throughout the year we supported groups across the country through promoting their actions, campaigns, and events both locally and nationally to our nearly 70,000 email supporters, as well as via our social media followers (more than 14,500 on Facebook and 6,500 on Twitter). We provided online trainings and conference calls for activists about BDS, using social media, and other topics including a briefing with Stop the Wall's Jamal Juma'a on the World Social Forum- Free Palestine and PACBI's Omar Barghouti on academic and cultural boycott.

We mobilized our supporters to participate in several protests, events, and Days of Action around Israel's attacks on Gaza in November 2012; honoring the 10 year anniversary of Rachel Corrie's stand in Gaza; commemorating 65 years of the Nakba; the Boulder-Nablus Sister City Project; New Yorkers' Against the Cornell-Technion Partnership Leaflet Your 'Hood July education campaign; and the National Action to Realize the Dream March in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Groups collaborate with one another in their work on campaigns as well as search groups by the resources they offer by using the BDS map launched by the US Campaign as part of a BDS mapping project. The US Campaign Tumblr ([usceio.tumblr.com](http://usceio.tumblr.com)) helps groups easily share videos, pictures, and links about their work that we can then promote. As our coalition grows, we will continue providing opportunities for groups to network with one another and share best practices in order to help BDS flourish and our work for Palestinian rights succeed.

## 3. Incorporating Anti-Racism and Anti-Bigotry Principles into our Palestine Activism.

In recent months the staff and Steering Committee have been working on the US Campaign priority to challenge all forms of racism, bigotry, and discrimination. As we and our member groups act to transform oppressive structures that sustain injustice in Palestine/Israel, we must make sure that our own actions within the coalition do not serve to support or perpetuate other racist or bigoted behaviors, practices, and structures as stated in our anti-racism principles.

In order to make sure that our work is based on these principles, it is important that we openly address issues of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, privileging of non-Palestinian voices, and any other forms of bigotry that come up in Palestine activism in the United States.

To do this, the US Campaign has been addressing these specific topics and issues via monthly conference calls. In April we held a briefing to discuss truly embracing an anti-racism/anti-bigotry framework for our work for Palestinian rights. In June we facilitated a briefing on "Tackling Islamophobia and anti-Semitism."



Sandra Tamari, Steering Committee Member & Chair of the US Campaign Change Team

Both of these issues are used by our opponents to silence those opposing U.S. policy toward Palestine/Israel and to maintain the status quo of Israeli occupation and apartheid. But they are also issues that have manifested within our coalition in ways that harm our collective efforts for justice and equality.

We have also recently developed and adopted procedures to use in holding one another accountable if and when member groups engage in public acts of racism, discrimination, and/or bigotry that reflect negatively on the US Campaign coalition. These procedures will ensure violations of the US Campaign's commitment to fighting all forms of racism and bigotry are addressed in a clear and transparent manner.

We will continue to address how we can make sure our coalition's commitment to combating all forms of racism and bigotry is part of our programs for it will only strengthen our work for Palestinian rights.

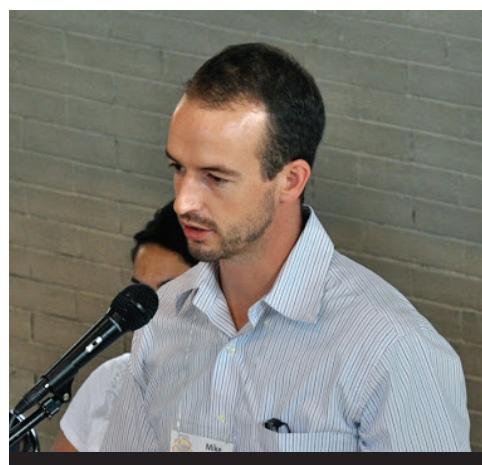
#### **4. Outreach and Networking.**

The US Campaign has attended, participated in workshops, tabled, and spoken at conferences and events across the country in an effort to spread our message and bring in new supporters to our coalition. These include the New York session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, the National Students for Justice in Palestine Conference, the American Muslims for Palestine Conference, the Progressive Democrats of America Peoples' Inauguration, and the Islamic Society of North America Convention.

We worked with member groups Jewish Voice for Peace- DC Metro, Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace, and American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee to put together a "No Blank Check for Israel" rally and march Inauguration weekend to demand U.S. aid to Israel be based on U.S. and international laws. In March we organized with member groups Interfaith Peace-Builders and CODEPINK: Women for Peace to confront the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) policy conference through a counter conference, Expose AIPAC, and creative protests.



## **D. Finances**



Mike Coogan,  
Manager of Finance & Administration

*This area of work is coordinated  
by Mike Coogan, Manager of  
Finance and Administration.*

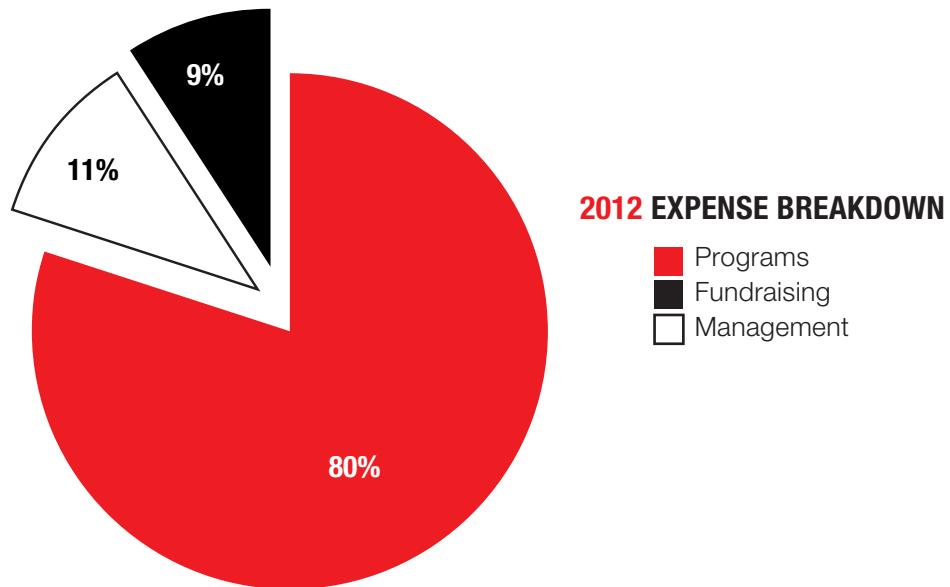
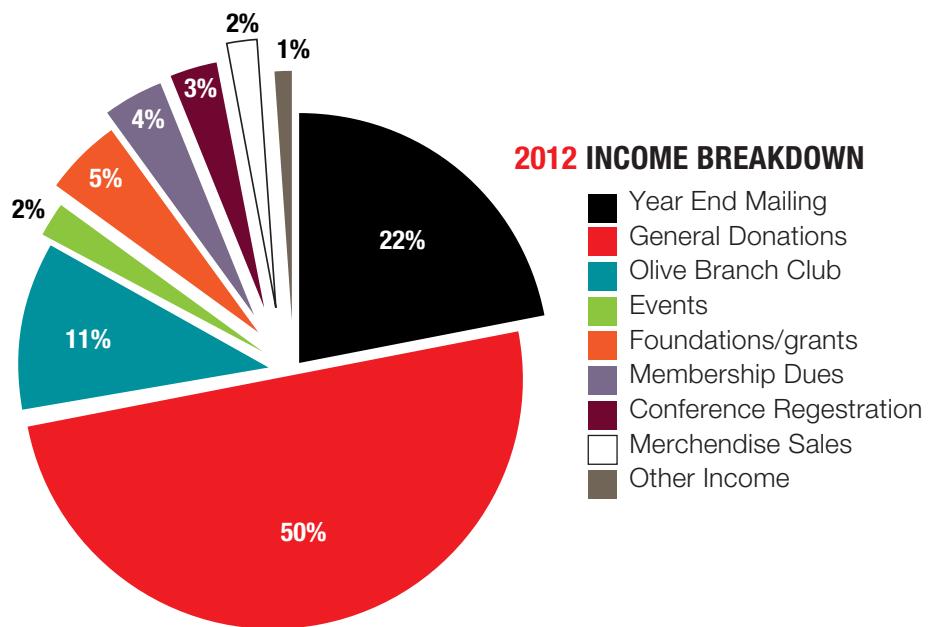
In addition to dealing with all aspects of US Campaign finances, Mike is also responsible for filing the annual tax return, managing aspects of donor engagement and fundraising, and managing the office.

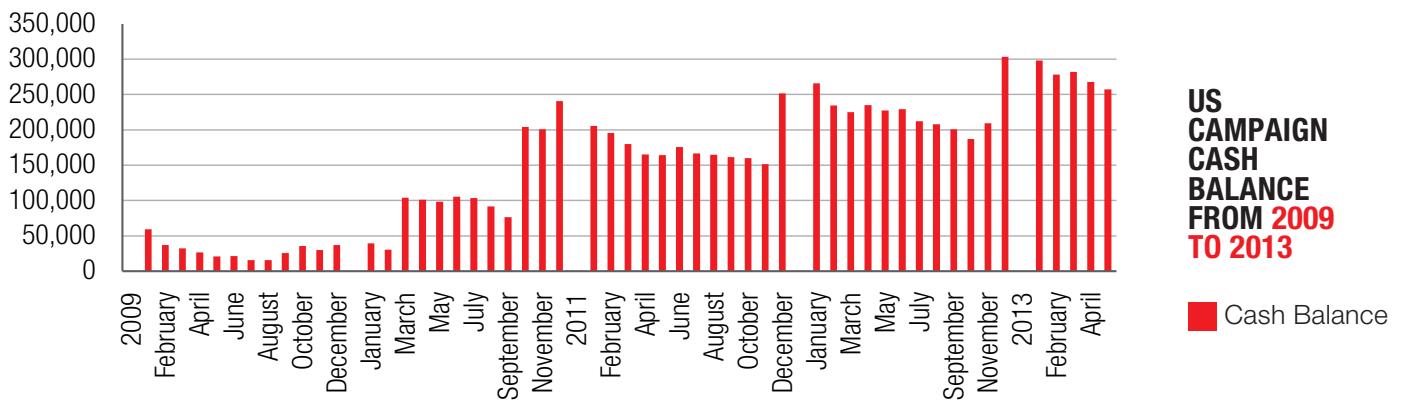
Since the US Campaign's fiscal year is a calendar year, the information below reflects the latest data submitted to the Internal Revenue Service in the US Campaign's most recent tax return. Complete versions of previous tax returns are filed under the organization's legal name, Education for Just Peace in the Middle East, which is registered to do business as the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.

#### **Six key facts about the US Campaign's finances in 2012.**

1. In 2012 the US Campaign received \$393,305 in income and spent \$365,697, a net income of \$27,607.
2. At the end of 2012, the US Campaign had a cash balance of \$303,157, the highest year-end reserves in the organization's history.
3. The US Campaign's 2012 income came from over 2,800 different contributors and the average donation was about \$90. The US Campaign receives the vast majority of its funding from relatively small individual donors throughout the country. Generous support from a large base of diverse supporters ensures that the US Campaign can remain principled, independent, and not reliant on a small group of foundations, grantors, or government grants. The diversity of income sources for the US Campaign's work is a good indicator of the organization's overall financial health and the depth of grassroots support.

4. Of the amount spent in 2012, 80% was on program expenditures; 11% was spent on management; and 9% was spent on fundraising (also see 2012 Expenses graph).
5. In terms of fundraising, some of the most significant growth in 2012 occurred in two categories. Donations from the US Campaign's annual mailing increased by a 191%, from \$38,912 to \$74,388 and recurring (monthly or quarterly) donations increased by 167% from \$25,841 in 2011 to \$43,157 in 2012.
6. In 2012 donations from US Campaign supporters as part of the Trees for Life campaign paid for the planting of 1,806 olive trees for Palestinian fair trade farmers. This program is conducted in partnership with the Palestine Fair Trade Association.

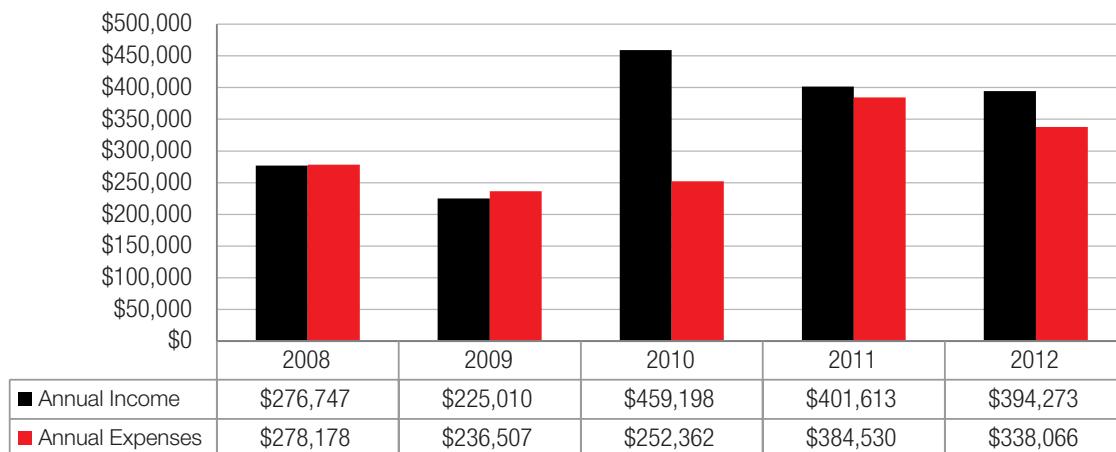




The graph below shows the US Campaign's liquid financial reserves, beginning in 2009 and ending in April 2013. As the graph indicates, the US Campaign's reserves have grown significantly in recent years. In 2009 the US Campaign started

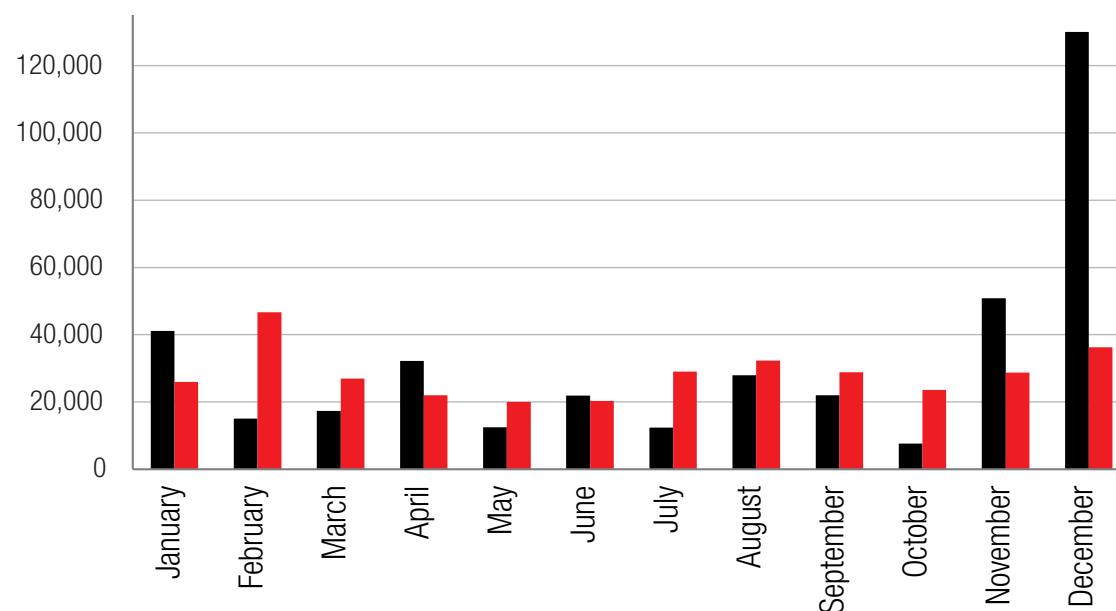
the year with \$59,200 and in 2013 that number had risen to \$297,000. The reserves at the end of 2012 represented enough money to pay expenses for approximately 6.5 months. This has allowed the US Campaign to act responsibly

to set aside an emergency reserve fund of 3 months-worth of operating expenses and to move forward, in April of 2013 to hire an Interim Director to lead us through to a conclusion of a Strategic Planning process and to explore ways to expand.



### INCOME AND EXPENSES BY YEAR FROM 2008 TO 2012

This graph gives a broad overview of the US Campaign's annual income and expenses from 2008 to 2012.



This graph shows the income and expense trends per month for the US Campaign. As is typical for non-profits, the US Campaign receives the majority of its donations during November and December.

## **E. Staff, Steering Committee, Advisory Board, 2012-2013**

Staff members manage the day-to-day business of the US Campaign and are responsible for developing strategic action plans that provide them with a framework in which to work between semi-annual in-person meetings of the Steering Committee. Since the last conference, the following people, who are listed alphabetically, have worked for the US Campaign.

- **Anna Baltzer**, National Organizer
- **Mike Coogan**, Manager of Finance and Administration and Legislative Coordinator
- **Kathryn Johnson**, Interim Executive Director
- **Ramah Kudaimi**, Membership and Outreach Coordinator
- **Josh Ruebner**, National Advocacy Director

### **Interns & Volunteers**

The US Campaign would not be able to function without the dedication of our unpaid corps of interns and volunteers. The US Campaign would like to extend its deepest appreciation to: Katherine Andrews, Joumana El-Alaoui, Leila Nashashibi and Christo Tarazi.

### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee meets monthly by phone and twice a year in person to provide strategic guidance to the work of the US Campaign and staff oversight. Many Steering Committee members also serve on subcommittees dedicated to fundraising, communications, and membership and outreach. Some Steering Committee members also represent the US Campaign in public and in the media. Steering Committee members are elected at annual national conferences for three year terms.

Accredited delegates of member groups in good standing elect four new Steering Committee members at each conference for staggered terms. Below is current list of Steering Committee members. Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only; Steering Committee members serve in their individual capacities. A Steering Committee member's term ends in the year indicated in parentheses.

- **Felicia Eaves** (2015) - US Campaign Co-Chair
- **Peter Miller** (2014) - US Campaign Co-Chair, Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights
- **Nasser Barghouti** (2013) – San Diego BDS, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
- **Shirien Damra** (2015) – American Friends Service Committee; Chicago Movement for Palestinian Rights; Students for Justice in Palestine
- **Abraham Greenhouse** (2013) - The Palestinian Freedom Project
- **Andrew Kadi** (2013) - human rights activist, commentator
- **Sydney Levy** (2014) - Jewish Voice for Peace
- **Mike Merryman**-Lotze (2014) - American Friends Service Committee
- **Kristin Szremski** (2014) - American Muslims for Palestine
- **Sandra Tamari** (2015) – St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee
- **Andrea Whitmore** (2015) Citizens for Justice in the Middle East; United Methodist Kairos Response; Friends of Sabeel- North America 20
- **Yazeed Ibrahim** (2013) - Students for Justice in Palestine at UC Irvine

**The US Campaign would like to extend its deepest appreciation to all Steering Committee members who volunteer their time and financial resources to guiding the work of the US Campaign.**



US Campaign Steering Committee and Staff

Their collective knowledge of social justice movements, rich historical organizing experiences, and sharp political analysis shape the work of the US Campaign in profound ways. The US Campaign staff and steering would like to acknowledge our outgoing steering committee members Judith LeBlanc, Khalilah Sabra, and Shakeel Syed. Currently, Judith is a field director for Peace Action, Khalilah is Executive Director of the Muslim American Society Immigrant Justice Center, and Shakeel is Executive Director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California. Collectively they represent many, many years of activism for justice and work with the Campaign and their work continues! We wish them all the best.

## Advisory Board

Advisory Board members serve in their individual capacities; organizational affiliations are listed for identification purposes only. Advisory Board members perform a variety of functions. The US Campaign draws on its Advisory Board to help in fundraising campaigns, to share their political and organizing insights, and to represent the US Campaign at public appearances.

The US Campaign is deeply grateful to all its Advisory Board members who advance its mission in innumerable ways. Current members are:

- **Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel**, Presbyterian minister, Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Moderator of the 214 General Assembly PCUSA- 2002-2003
- **Susan Abulhawa**, author of *The Scar of David* and founder of Playgrounds for Palestine
- **Huwaida Arraf**, International Solidarity Movement
- **Dr. Naseer Aruri**, Chancellor Professor (Emeritus) of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
- **Dr. Joel Beinin**, Professor of Middle East History, Stanford University; Middle East Research and Information Project, Jewish Voice for Peace
- **Kathy Bergen**, Program Coordinator, Friends International Center in Ramallah
- **Kathy Engel**, Poet, Creative and Communications Consultant, social justice, peace & human rights organizations; Kick Ass Artists
- **Nadia Hijab**, writer and human rights advocate
- **Hany Khalil**, former Grassroots Organizer at United for Peace and Justice national headquarters
- **Dr. Rashid Khalidi**, Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies, Middle East Institute, Columbia University
- **Dr. Mark Lance**, Georgetown University Professor of Philosophy
- **Kevin Martin**, Executive Director, Peace Action and Peace Action Education Fund
- **Nabil Mohamad**, Organizing Director, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
- **Dr. Nancy Murray**, Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights
- **Dr. Barbara Ransby**, Associate Professor of History and African-American Studies
- **Mariam Said**

## **US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation**

**Annual Report September 2012-August 2013**

Presented by the Steering Committee and Staff to the US Campaign's 12th Annual National Organizers' Conference, George Mason University, Arlington, VA, September 20-22, 2013.

**A nationwide coalition of more than  
400 organizations working to end U.S.  
support for Israel's illegal military  
occupation and U.S. complicity in  
Israel's apartheid policies toward  
Palestinians. We support freedom,  
justice and equality for all.**

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