

**END THE OCCUPATION**

**US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION**

Annual Report

September 2013 - August 2014

## Introduction

# A Letter from the Steering Committee Co-Chairs

When the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation began planning for our 13th Annual National Organizers' Conference, The Mainstreaming of BDS & Continuing Struggle for Palestinian Rights, there was a feeling that we were at a turning point.

The global struggle for Palestinian rights was gaining so much ground as it seemed every few days a new boycott, divestment, or sanctions win was announced. We supported the American Studies Association adoption a resolution to endorse the academic boycott of Israel. We helped lead an international campaign that pressured Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson to resign as an Oxfam International Global Ambassador after she became a spokesperson for settlement manufacturer SodaStream.

We worked with a diverse coalition of organizations on a campaign to pressure the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to divest all \$184 million of its holdings in G4S, a British private security company that helps Israel run prisons where Palestinian political prisoners are detained and often tortured. In June, we supported a successful Presbyterian-led effort to divest from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard because of the companies' involvement in Israel's

military occupation.

The media coverage of these and so many other victories brought the issue of Palestinian rights into the mainstream, and it was clear that the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality was reaching a new level.

Then on July 7, Israel launched yet another assault on Gaza. During 50 days of attacks, Israel killed more than 2,100 Palestinians, including at least 500 children. Israel either completely destroyed or severely damaged 18,000 housing units, leaving approximately 108,000 of Gaza's 1.8 million Palestinians homeless. It will cost at least \$8 billion dollars to repair the damage. And yet again, to the dismay and horror of a growing number of Americans, Congress and the Obama administration gave Israel almost total support for this latest travesty.

Despite this watershed year for BDS, Israel's attack on Gaza made it clear how much more work we need to do to end all U.S. support for Israeli occupation, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing. The need is greater than ever for the US Campaign to strengthen its BDS work and efforts to change U.S. policy to ensure Israel is held accountable for its violations of international law and human rights.



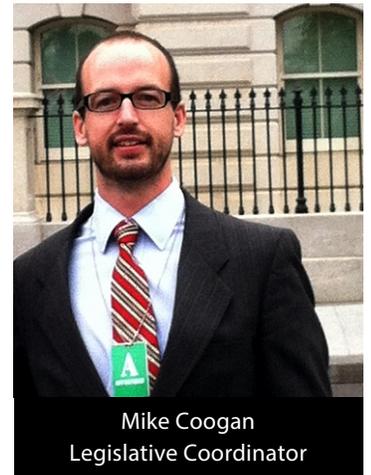
Peter Miller & Felicia Eaves

Co-Chairs

US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation

## A. Challenging U.S. Policy

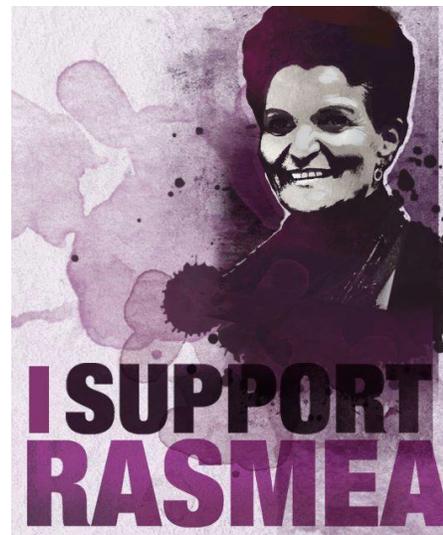
This program area is directed by Josh Ruebner, Policy Director, and Mike Coogan, Legislative Coordinator

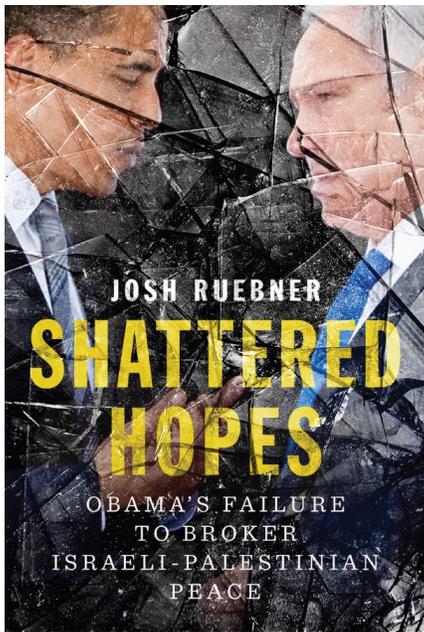


### 1. Achieving Policy Victories

Even though we are still a long way from achieving our overall policy goal of ending U.S. support for Israeli military occupation and apartheid policies toward the Palestinian people, we've had a significant number of smaller, yet nevertheless consequential, policy victories since our last conference. Through the coalitions we are building, the grassroots energy we are able to harness and mobilize, and the relationships we are creating with decision-makers in our nation's capital, we are laying the groundwork for the more fundamental policy changes we need. Here are a few of the successful policy campaigns we've worked on over the previous year.

- Working with member group the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), we succeeded in getting a number of Members of Congress to press for a hearing into the killing of Alex Odeh, an ADC staff person who was killed in a domestic terrorist attack.
- Working with our friends at the US Palestinian Community Network and as a key player within the national Rasmae Defense Coalition, we pressured a judge with extensive pro-Israel ties to recuse himself in the case of Rasmae Odeh, a Palestinian-American community organizer and survivor of Israeli torture, who is being prosecuted on spurious immigration-related charges.
- Working with our friends at Adalah: The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel and member group Jewish Voice for Peace, we educated decision makers about the Praver Plan, Israel's attempt to forcibly remove Palestinian Bedouin citizens of Israel from their ancestral lands. Just as we were preparing to escalate our campaign to bolster this educational effort, Israel shelved this controversial plan.





efforts to hold Israel accountable for its misuse of U.S. weapons to commit human rights abuses of Palestinians is starting to bear fruit. During Israel's massacres of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in "Operation Protective Edge," the Obama administration halted the delivery of Hellfire missiles to Israel and decided to scrutinize future weapons transfers at the highest level. This is the first time we know of since the Reagan administration that Israel has been sanctioned in this way and is a hugely important building block in our campaign to end aid to Israel.

with thousands of people at more than 100 events in 24 states in high schools, universities, public libraries, book stores and festivals, Rotary Clubs, and religious institutions about U.S. policy toward Israel and the need to change it to support freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people. Along the way, he's also given dozens of interviews to radio, television, and print media.

In addition, we've continued to expand our overall media presence on U.S. policy issues. We've written op-eds in publications such as The Hill, Electronic Intifada, and Mondoweiss. We've given interviews on Al Jazeera and even Fox News, and our Congressional briefing on Israel's use of force against Palestinians aired live on C-SPAN. Media turns to us regularly for commentary on policy issues and as a source of trusted information. In the past year, we've given interviews to or been cited in publications such as The New York Times, The Nation, Business Week, Jerusalem Post, New York Daily News, Middle East Monitor, Tom Dispatch, the Los Angeles Times, and Alternet to name just a few.

- After the American Studies Association passed a resolution supporting the academic boycott of Israeli educational institutions, we beat back Congressional legislation to penalize academics supporting the boycott and, working with ad hoc coalitions of civil liberties groups, helped stymie similar legislation at the state level in New York, Maryland, and Illinois.
- Having educated, organized and mobilized for more than ten years to end U.S. military aid to Israel, our

## 2. Changing the Conversation

Last fall, our Policy Director Josh Ruebner published his first book, *Shattered Hopes: Obama's Failure to Broker Israeli-Palestinian Peace*, to critical acclaim. The Journal of Palestine Studies called it "a devastating book," and Tikkun magazine dubbed it a "stinging indictment of the absurdity of the Obama administration's failed peace process." An updated paperback edition, covering Secretary of State John Kerry's recently failed round of negotiations, is due out this month.

Since the book's publication, Josh has barnstormed the country, speaking

## 3. Gaza Under Attack

In response to Israel's 50-day massacre of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip this summer, the US Campaign staff worked together to educate, organize and mobilize on numerous fronts to press for an immediate ceasefire, the lifting of Israel's illegal blockade, and accountability for Israel's war crimes.

Early on, the US Campaign created a devoted web section -- Gaza Under Attack -- to provide a central hub for real-world and online organizing to oppose Israel's attack, featuring resources and actions from member groups across the country. Also, working closely with the Palestinian BDS National Committee and a team of volunteers, the US Campaign helped create a Tumblr featuring more than 450 posts of pictures and videos



from protests in more than 50 cities in 20 countries across six continents.

The US Campaign also stepped up the pressure on elected officials to end U.S. support for Israel's attacks by generating tens of thousands of letters to the White House and Congress, culminating in the Obama administration temporarily freezing delivery of Hellfire missiles to Israel and pledging to scrutinize future arms transfers. The US Campaign organized two standing-room only Hill briefings -- attended by at least 47 Congressional offices and televised live by C-SPAN -- providing expert testimony on Israel's use of force against civilians, including from Tariq Abu Khdeir, the Palestinian-American teenager viciously beaten by Israeli police in July. Then, as a ceasefire was announced, the US Campaign launched a major new campaign -- Hold Israel Accountable -- with American Muslims for Palestine, Code Pink and Roots Action which has,



as of this writing, resulted in more than 40,000 signatures to the president, representing a significant increase in online capabilities.

The US Campaign also played a significant role in trying to shape

media coverage and discourse on Israel's attack on Gaza. Letters we organized from tens of thousands of activists played a role in reinstating NBC correspondent Ayman Mohyeldin to Gaza, critiquing and getting better coverage from CBS's Face the Nation, and pressuring The New York Times and CNN to stop privileging Israeli narratives over Palestinian ones. The US Campaign also activated a do-it-yourself online tool that enabled activists to send letters-to-the-editor of their local papers.

Recognizing the need to intensify tactics to escalate opposition to Israel's attack on Gaza, the US Campaign facilitated a conference call with member groups to share lessons learned from previous direct actions. The US Campaign also provided behind-the-scenes support for direct actions, including the sit-in at the offices of California Senators Boxer and Feinstein.

The US Campaign's various activities to protest Israel's attack on Gaza resulted in a large increase in our supporter base as more people both awakened to the appalling barbarity of Israel's policies toward Palestinians and gravitated to the coalition as a vehicle for taking action. Since Israel's attack, the US Campaign's email list has grown by more than one-third to nearly 100,000 people, our Twitter followers nearly doubled to 17,000, and our Facebook "likes" roughly tripled to more than 95,000.

For a more complete archive of the US Campaign's work to end Israel's attacks on Gaza, please see [www.endtheoccupation.org/gazaunderattack](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/gazaunderattack).

#### 4. Legislative Advocacy.

Throughout the past year, we've worked with a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals to advance Palestinian human rights on Capitol Hill.

Throughout the past year we challenged and successfully thwarted passage of AIPAC's top priority legislation, The United States- Israel Strategic Partnership Act. The legislation has been held up for more than 18 months and a newly introduced version of the bill includes amendment language we have been lobbying in favor of, which effectively bars Israel from entering the Visa Waiver Program so long as it continues to discriminate against U.S. citizens.



Representative Keith Ellison sits on the floor with other audience members during packed Congressional briefing.

We also helped organize four Congressional briefings, which have been attended or viewed by more than 100 Congressional offices.

**We've successfully pressured lawmakers to change and thwart AIPAC's top priority legislation, helped organize four Congressional briefings, and organized dozens of meetings with lawmakers.**

a. Wadi Foquin Congressional briefing.

We supported an effort led by Friends of Wadi Foquin to organize a Congressional briefing entitled "Wadi Foquin: A Microcosm of the Urgency for Israeli-Palestinian Peace." The briefing was attended by more than 100 individuals, including more than 50 Congressional staff.

b. On May 21, 2013, the US Campaign helped organize a briefing entitled "Israel's Entry into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program: Examining Israel's Discrimination against U.S. Citizens."

Throughout the past 18 months, we've been working with dozens of organizations and thousands

of individuals to challenge Israel's discriminatory treatment of U.S. citizens. This Congressional briefing examined Israel's pattern of discrimination and its violation of treaty obligations, U.S. laws, and the civil rights of American citizens.

c. "This morning I learned my tax dollars killed eight of my family members." That is how author Laila El-Haddad began her testimony to a room full of journalists and Congressional staff at Congressional briefing hosted on August 1, 2014. The briefing, which is available to watch online, was attended or viewed by more than 100 Congressional offices and thousands of people across the country.

In addition to organizing the briefing, we brought Tariq and Suha Abu Khdeir, as well as their attorney Hassan Shibly, to Washington DC to tell their story to lawmakers. Not only did Tariq tell his story to a rapt Capitol Hill audience; we also brought him to the White House, State Department, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Lantos Human Rights Commission, and numerous other lawmakers.

Voices in support of Palestinian human rights are being heard more than ever on Capitol Hill.

**RACHEL CORRIE**  
23-years-old  
Killed by a Caterpillar bulldozer, Rafah, Gaza Strip. March 16, 2003

**FURKAN DOĞAN**  
19-years-old  
Executed by Israeli naval commandos on Gaza Freedom Flotilla. May 31, 2010

**BRIAN AVERY**  
24-years-old  
Shot in the face with machine gun, Jenin, West Bank. April 5, 2003

**TRISTAN ANDERSON**  
37-years-old  
Suffered brain damage from tear gas canister, Ni'lin, West Bank. March 13, 2009

**EMILY HENCHOWICZ**  
21-years-old  
Blinded by tear gas canister, Qalandiya checkpoint, West Bank. May 31, 2010

**TAREK ABU KHDEIR**  
15-years-old  
Brutally beaten, primarily in his face and head, and arrested without any charges or accusations. July 3, 2014

"We will do whatever it takes to see justice is done when people harm Americans."  
June 17, 2014

**DOES THAT INCLUDE US CITIZENS INJURED OR KILLED BY ISRAEL?**

## B. Boycott and Divestment Campaigns

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

The past year brought unprecedented victories for the global movement of boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) targeting Israel and institutions complicit in its occupation and apartheid policies. The US Campaign played a critical role in mobilizing and coordinating support for many U.S. breakthroughs.

### 1. From ScarJo to Earth Day to George Soros and Beyond, SodaStream Fizzles!

The US Campaign began the winter holiday season coordinating Boycott SodaStream International Days of Action -- an extraordinary success with 61 actions unfolding in 51 cities spanning 17 states, six countries, and three continents! From flash mobs to boycott jingles to culture jamming, activists worldwide created a wave of momentum to boycott the settlement profiteer that continues to ripple today.

2014 began with a bang. When SodaStream announced Hollywood actor and Oxfam Global Ambassador Scarlett Johansson as SodaStream's brand ambassador, the US Campaign mobilized member organizations and



Our campaign challenging Scarlett Johansson's marketing contract with SodaStream generated a media firestorm and led to her resignation from her position with Oxfam.

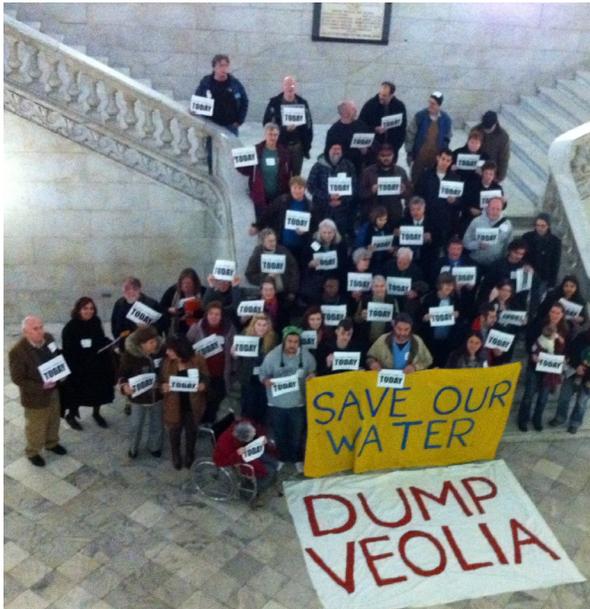
partners worldwide to urge Johansson to end her relationship with the settlement company. We also pressed Oxfam to use its leverage with her, pointing out the contradiction that one cannot champion human rights and occupation at the same time. Following a petition, actions, countless letters, and a Thunderclap reaching millions, Johansson stepped down from her role at Oxfam -- a ground-breaking BDS victory that spawned unprecedented media attention and embarrassment for the company.

A few months later, when Earth Day Network -- which mobilizes the environmental movement in 192 countries -- partnered with SodaStream, the US Campaign worked with member groups such as CodePink to expose SodaStream's greenwashing attempt, culminating in victory when the network cut ties with the company. The US Campaign also mobilized responses with letters and culture jamming to countless other propaganda efforts by SodaStream, countering cameo

promotions by Ellen DeGeneres, Whoopi Goldberg, Wired Magazine, and Rachel Ray.

**By May 2014, SodaStream's CEO announced that profits were plummeting, having dropped by nearly 85% due in large part to a "challenging holiday season" in the U.S.**

SodaStream BDS victories, large and small, continue to unfold, the latest being billionaire investor George Soros divesting his entire stake from the company, citing EU guidelines on de-normalizing with settlement companies.



Alongside St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee, environmental activists, and workers, we worked to challenge occupation profiteer Veolia.

campaign bringing together Palestinian activists, water workers, environmental groups, and other concerned St. Louis residents to stop a proposed city water contract with Veolia -- renowned also for privatization, environmental destruction, and anti-labor practices -- the US Campaign celebrated a hard-earned victory alongside member group St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee and others as the multinational announced its withdrawal from consideration in response to pressure.

Gates Foundation in support of a Palestinian-led campaign calling on the foundation to divest from private security company G4S, which helps run Israeli prisons as well as privatized U.S. juvenile detention facilities. Weeks later, the foundation divested all \$184 million of its shares in the company. Soon thereafter, G4S announced that it intends to pull out of Israeli prisons completely.

**Following pressure from the US Campaign, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation divested \$184 million from occupation profiteer G4S.**

## 2. Investors, Workers, and Activists Dump Veolia - So Veolia Dumps Occupation! G4S Too!

Supporting Veolia BDS campaigns nationwide with resources, testimony at hearings, media, briefings, on-the-ground support, a national network, and more, the US Campaign worked to establish and broaden the flagship global BDS campaign against multinational corporation Veolia -- which runs segregated bus lines, operates a settlement landfill and waste water system, and is involved in the Jerusalem light rail -- in the U.S. Last September, having lost more than \$16 billion in contracts worldwide following BDS campaigns, Veolia sold off all bus services in Israel/Palestine. We celebrated and redoubled efforts to pressure Veolia to end all corporate complicity with the occupation.

The next month, following an 11-month

## Having lost \$16 billion in contracts from worldwide BDS campaigns, Veolia sold off all bus services in Israel/Palestine.

Weeks later, after years of advocacy by the We Divest Campaign, co-led by the US Campaign and five partner organizations, TIAA-CREF -- the largest retirement fund of its kind -- divested its Social Choice Fund of \$1.2 million in Veolia investments. The move was celebrated by Palestine solidarity groups, labor, and environmental activists alike -- a testament to the power of cross-struggle coalition work. And, sure enough, Veolia recently announced plans to sell off all water and waste service contracts with Israel!

This spring, the US Campaign helped gather more than 11,500 signatures and delivered them to the Bill & Melinda

We welcome Veolia's and G4S's announcements, still keeping the pressure on until sales are final. Far beyond symbolic victories, these breakthroughs illustrate that BDS campaigns are now exerting tangible, economic consequences on Israel and complicit institutions, showing that participation in the occupation is unsustainable and comes at a dear cost.



**We will never forget the moment when the final vote flashed on the screen -- 310 to 303 -- in favor of divestment!**

### **3. Faith-Based Activism Reaches New Heights: Presbyterians Divest! And more...**

The US Campaign played a critical role in coordinating grassroots support before, during, and after the General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as it considered divestment from U.S. companies involved in the Israeli occupation. We helped recruit, vet, orient, and mobilize hundreds of volunteers nationwide to support Presbyterians in following their conscience both from afar and on the ground in Detroit. From Gaza to the Midwest, from Turkey to Australia, we helped include anyone who wanted to contribute to this historic campaign, making it not just a true win for Presbyterians --who of course led and championed the effort -- but more largely for all those who care about peace and justice.

The US Campaign worked especially to lift up Palestinian voices to Presbyterian decision-makers, both in committee testimonies and by creating and distributing resources featuring Palestinian perspectives -- from business people, Christians, students, and others -- to counter divestment opponents' arguments. We also organized letters of support for divestment from Israelis, South Africans, and other critical voices. On social media, the US Campaign helped lead a team promoting national discussion online and rapid response to divestment opponents' online tactics.

The US Campaign provided strong, on-the-ground, overall strategic and organizing support for member group Israel Palestine Mission Network (IPMN), a leader in Presbyterian divestment efforts for over a decade. The US Campaign worked with other Presbyterian partners to strengthen intersectionality with other progressive legislation, drawing natural, strategic connections. We also served as an official General Assembly Middle East resource for the second GA in a row.

We will never forget the moment when the final vote flashed on the screen -- 310 to 303 -- in favor of divestment! The US Campaign quickly organized a Thank You Presby Tumblr for people worldwide to send photos and notes of thanks to congratulate the church and counter backlash. We also worked with Jewish Voice for Peace to organize a lessons learned call with other faith-based groups to help the Presbyterian achievement boost other denominational divestment efforts.

Presbyterian divestment came on the heels of two other significant faith-based victories: with strong support from the US Campaign -- through resources, advice on strategy and messaging, and



Young activists at the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly supporting resolutions calling for divestment from companies that profit from Israel's occupation and encouraging the church to take a clear stand in support of Palestinian human rights.

recruitment of testimonies -- the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ voted to support divestment from companies involved in the occupation and a boycott of settlement products as acts of solidarity with the Palestinian people. Not long after, the United Methodist Church divested from G4S following advocacy citing its involvement in Israeli prisons. It is no exaggeration to say that faith-based boycott and divestment campaigns have entered the mainstream, sending a clear message to Israel and complicit institutions that there can be no business as usual with occupation.

**The US Campaign helped promote and mobilize for coordinated national days of action; and worked with students across the country who are organizing creative and effective boycott and divestment campaigns.**

Last September, the US Campaign brought together the third annual Interdenominational Summit with 30 representatives from 18 denominational and ecumenical organizations spanning more than a dozen mainstream faith communities in an effort to strengthen relationships and deepen cross-denomination collaboration on advocacy and campaigns. The network was well-poised to respond jointly to Israel's summer massacre in Gaza with a broad-based call for a military embargo on Israel led by IPMN and signed by more than 50 faith-based organizations. The US Campaign will be hosting a similar meeting this year with even more

organizations represented, including Muslim and Jewish partners to make it interfaith as well.

#### **4. Strategic Support, Trainings, Resources, Days of Action, and More to Advance BDS Nationally and Internationally**

Over the course of the year, the US Campaign provided online and in-person trainings, workshops, and one-on-one strategic support and other mentorship to more than 60 organizations nationwide, including campus groups, faith-based organizations, and broad coalitions. We supported dozens of campaigns, including Stop Dig, in which the US Campaign worked with a broad coalition of Palestinian and U.S. groups to oppose production by NBC of an Israeli-sponsored series based in the Silwan neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem. The US Campaign also provided strategic campaign support to Avaaz in its corporate engagement campaign, which generated more than \$1.6 million signatures -- the largest BDS petition in history.

The US Campaign continues to seek ways to facilitate overall coordination, collaboration, and resource sharing between member groups, managing and broadening campaign-based, campus-based, and faith-based networks. The US Campaign conducted special guest briefings to highlight strategic campaign targets such as Veolia, Israeli Bonds, and the Jewish National Fund. We also brought lessons learned around building and sustaining effective campaigns to the first ever Divestment Conference in Scotland -- which looked to the U.S. as a leader in the realm of divestment -- enhancing cross-Atlantic collaboration and placing our U.S. work in the broader



Anna Baltzer, National Organizer

international BDS context.

The US Campaign also helped promote and mobilize for coordinated national days of action including Israeli Apartheid Week; International Week against Mekorot (between World Water Day and Land Day); July Month of Action against the Apartheid Wall; We Divest BDS Day of Action; Boycott SodaStream Days of Action; and Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day -- the latter as part of an effort to urge the ice cream makers to end commercial complicity with the Israeli occupation.

In the academic realm, when the American Studies Association (ASA) voted overwhelmingly to endorse the academic boycott of Israel and faced a tremendous backlash, the US Campaign quickly mobilized a statement signed by more than 150 organizations and thousands of individuals to strengthen the ASA's resolve and illustrate the broad-based support behind it.

The US Campaign also provided one-on-one support of various kinds -- hearing recruitment, talking points, letters, networking, action technology, and more -- to students leading divestment campaigns at Oberlin College,

Loyola University Chicago, University of South Florida, University of Washington, San Diego State University, and several University of California campuses, among others.

The US Campaign continues to serve with National Students for Justice in Palestine and other groups on the Campus BDS Support Team, streamlining and enhancing support for campus campaigns, providing divestment and company target research, legal support, media support, community mobilization, campus connections, and sophisticated technology for online targeted actions.

## C. Membership and Outreach

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

### 1. Growing Our Coalition.

Since our last annual conference, the US Campaign has welcomed 21 new organizations to the coalition. There are now more than 400 member groups in 224 cities across the country.

- Ads Against Apartheid: Cambridge, MA
- American Islamic Community of Woman & Child: Staten Island, NY
- Binghamton University BDS/SJP: Vestal, NY
- Bryn Mawr Pace Coalition: Bryn Mawr, PA
- CUNY Law Students for Justice in Palestine: Queens, NY
- Evergreen State College SJP: Olympia, WA
- Historians Against War: New York, NY
- Kairos USA: Portland, OR
- Librarians and Archivists with Palestine: Brooklyn, NY
- Massachusetts Peace Action: Cambridge, MA
- Mennonite Palestine Israel Network: Mount Pleasant, IA
- Milwaukee Palestine Solidarity Coalition: Milwaukee, WI
- Occupy Savannah: Savannah, GA
- Palestine Solidarity Legal Support: Chicago, IL



Ramah Kudaimi  
Membership & Outreach Coordinator

- Students for Justice in Palestine, Marquette University: Milwaukee, WI
- Students for Justice in Palestine - Loyola University: Chicago, IL
- Students for Justice in Palestine at UCF: Orlando, FL
- Sonomans for Justice and Peace in Palestine: Sonoma, CA
- University of Delaware Students for Justice in Palestine: Newark, DE
- Veterans for Peace Chapter 69: San Francisco, CA
- Whatcom Peace & Justice Center: Bellingham, WA
- 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 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

## 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 helped groups across the country by promoting their actions, campaigns, and events both locally and nationally to our nearly 100,000 email supporters, as well as via our social media followers (more than 95,000 on facebook and 17,000 on Twitter). We provided online trainings and conference calls for activists about various BDS campaigns, direct action, and opportunities to connect with other groups in the region.

We supported member group BDS campaigns and other projects throughout the year. We helped Friends

of Sabeel - North America on its open letter campaign to Pope Francis before his visit to the Holy Land in May to speak out against Israel's mistreatment of Palestinian children, a campaign which generated thousands of signatures.

We worked with the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel to set up an action alert demanding the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign reinstate Dr. Steven Salaita, a Palestinian-American and world-renowned scholar who was fired from his new position there because of his public criticism of Israel's assault on Gaza. *Our work helped generate nearly 5,000 emails to the chancellor, citing the blatant violation of academic freedom and calling on her to reinstate him.*

We also worked with the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network and Palestine Solidarity Legal Support to highlight the case of another Palestinian professor, Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi, who was the target of a smear campaign by the right-wing, pro-Israel group AMCHA Initiative. After thousands of supporters contacted San Francisco State University, it issued a statement clearing Professor Abdulhadi of any wrongdoing.

In March, activists from member groups Northeastern University Students for Justice in Palestine were informed by the school's Center for Student Involvement that their chapter had been suspended for at least a year for organizing a mock eviction action to protest Israel's policy of demolishing Palestinian homes. The US Campaign set up an email action alert calling on people to contact the university to protest its repression of free speech. More than 2,500 people took action and in April, the SJP announced that the university had backed off and was reinstating the group.

As our coalition grows, we will continue providing support and resources to strengthen member group

campaigns and set up opportunities for groups to network with one another and share best practices in order to help all our work for Palestine rights flourish.

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

In recent months, the staff and Steering Committee have been working to advance the US Campaign's priority of challenging 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 our coalition.

We will continue to ensure our coalition's commitment to combating all forms of racism and bigotry to strengthen our work for Palestinian rights.

## D. Finance & Administration

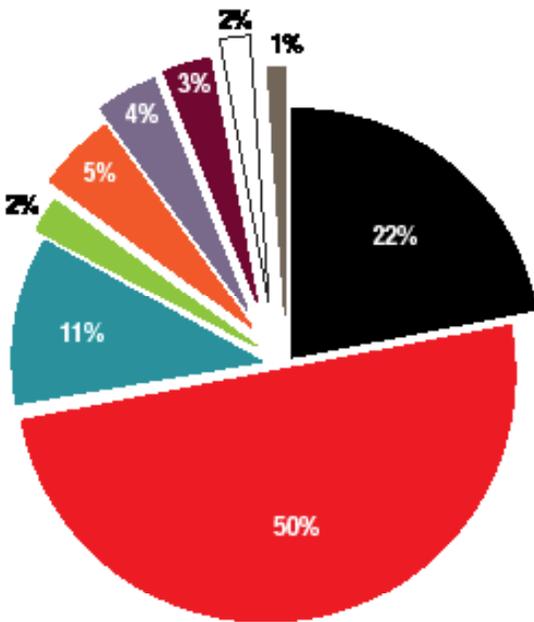
This area of work is coordinated by Mike Coogan, Director of Development

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

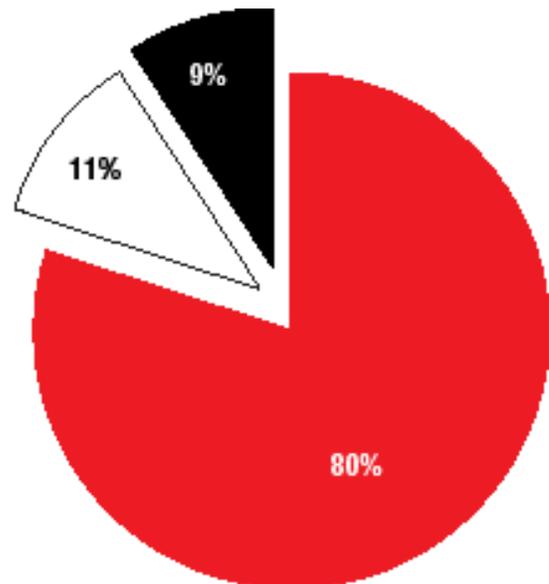
Since the US Campaign's fiscal year is a calendar year, the information below reflects the latest data submitted to the Internal Revenue Service in the US Campaign's most recent tax return. Complete versions of previous tax returns are filed under the organization's legal name, Education for Just Peace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

Three key facts about the US Campaigns finances in 2013:

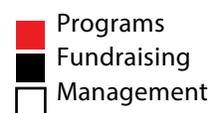
1. In 2013, the US Campaign received \$423,625 in income and spent \$477,657, for a net loss of \$53,982.
2. At the end of 2013, the US Campaign had a cash balance of \$249,093.
3. The US Campaign's 2013 income came from over 2,900 different contributors and the average donation was about \$90. The US Campaign receives the vast majority of its funding from relatively small individual donations 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.



2013 INCOME BREAKDOWN



2013 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



## E. Staff, Steering Committee, Advisory Board, 2013-2014

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
- Sarah Mink, Office Manager
- Josh Ruebner, Policy Director

### Interns & Volunteers

The US Campaign would not be able to function without the dedication of our unpaid corps of interns and volunteers. Specifically, we would like to thank interns Will Alexakos and Ntebo Mokuena.

### 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 various aspects of our work. Some Steering Committees 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 a 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
- Hatem Abudayyeh (2015) - US Palestinian Community Network
- Nasser Barghouti (2016) – 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 (2016) - The Palestine Freedom Project
- Andrew Kadi (2016) - 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

**The US Campaign would like to extend its deepest appreciation to all Steering Committee members who volunteer their time and financial resources to guide 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 Committee would like to acknowledge our outgoing Steering Committee member and Co-Chair, Peter Miller. Peter has served the US Campaign for more than six years, and has been instrumental in strengthening and growing the organization and providing leadership to both the Steering Committee and Staff. We wish him 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 our Advisory Board members who advance our mission in innumerable ways. Current members are:

- Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, Presbyterian minister, Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Moderator of the 214th General Assembly PCUSA- 2002-2003
- Susan Abulhawa, author of *Mornings in Jenin* 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, Co-Founder of Friends of Sabeel North America
- Kathy Engel, poet and communications strategist.
- 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, Vice President, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
- Dr. Nancy Murray, Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights
- Dr. Barbara Ransby, University of Chicago, Associate Professor of History and African-American Studies
- Mariam Said, Vice President of Barenboim-Said Foundation

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

Annual Report September 2013-August 2014

Presented by the Steering Committee and staff to the US Campaign's 13th Annual National Organizers' Conference in San Diego, CA, September 19-21, 2014.

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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