

US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | YOUSEF MUNAYYER



US Campaign Staff and Steering Committee

Dear Supporters,

I am excited to share with you our annual report to give you a clear idea of what the US Campaign has been able to achieve this year.

When I joined the US Campaign this spring, I found a talented and experienced staff, a dedicated steering committee and a rock-solid foundation of coalition groups, members, and activists. I knew that despite the magnitude of the task before us, we were primed to make significant progress. The achievements of the past year underscore just that, and further indicate that in the year that follows we should expect to reach even greater heights.

Please take the time to read this report in detail and keep in mind that while it offers a strong summary of the year's work, no such report can truly capture the work that went into securing the achievements we highlight. There are a few areas I'd like to emphasize which I believe were key achievements this year.

The Skip the Speech Campaign:

When the Israeli prime minister spoke before Congress this year, we worked tirelessly to encourage Members of Congress to skip his speech. Some 60 members decided to boycott an affair that is usually nothing but a Pavlovian spectacle of members applauding the Israeli prime minister's every statement.

Last year, getting five members of Congress to skip a sitting Israeli prime minister's address would have been unimaginable. This year, the 60 that skipped sent a clear message; times have changed and the notion of boycotting Israel has made its way to the floor of Congress.



More than 60 Members of Congress boycott Israeli prime minister's address.



United Church of Christ votes to divest by a landslide!

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS):

On the BDS front, we witnessed significant victories both in the church arena and in our cultural boycott work. The resounding vote in favor of divestment and boycott at the United Church of Christ General Synod was a sign of the growing BDS wave. Over 75% supported the resolution. It was not even a contest. We were also successful in a campaign to persuade multi-Grammy-award-winning performance artist Lauryn Hill to cancel a scheduled concert in Israel. Hill, perhaps the most critically acclaimed artist to boycott Israel, is but the latest name joining a boycott list to which we'd like to add names in the coming year.



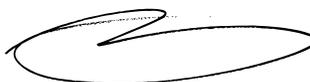
Media: The US Campaign has, more than at any other point in its history, made significant inroads into mainstream media coverage this year. In recent months, we have brought our uncompromising message about Palestinian rights to the pages of The New York Times and Washington Post and into the studios of CNN, MSNBC, and the Charlie Rose Show, among countless others. This is a sign of a continued opening in the discourse on Israel/Palestine which we must work to expand.

Fundraising: We have also had a successful year in fundraising and hope to hit record revenue by the fiscal year's end. A prime focus of mine since joining the US Campaign has been to increase our revenue so that we can expand our staff. While we have been able to do much -- and indeed far more than many might imagine with our limited staff -- there are many opportunities we are unable to capitalize on because of our limited staff capacity. We are at a unique moment in our movement and we must seize the opportunity to take full advantage. To do this, we need to add several new staff members, and that can only happen if we continue to reach new fundraising heights. We are on the right track and will continue to rely on the generous support of people like you to make sure our organization is as strong as it needs to be to maximally pursue full freedom, justice and equality for the Palestinian people.



More than 250 monthly donors help us sustain and grow our effective work.

In sum, it has been a very strong year but we also have lots of work to do. I'm writing this letter to you from occupied Palestine and what I see around me here are signs of hope, inspiration and sumood (perseverance), despite decades of military occupation. These are fitting reminders that as much **as we have achieved in the past year, we must work tirelessly to do more in the next.** We continue to count on you, our supporters and allies, to turn this hope into a reality.



Yousef Munayyer
Executive Director

CHALLENGING US POLICY

CLAIMING OUR POLITICAL VICTORIES

A quick look at our political victories over the past year shows that when we mobilize together as member groups and individuals we can have a significant impact on policy. Here are some of the major policy campaigns we've worked on -- and seen successes in -- over the past year:

- In December 2014, Congress finally passed the US-Israel Strategic Partnership Act after this key AIPAC initiative was **stalled for nearly two years** thanks in large measure to our effective opposition. The initial legislation called for Israel to be accepted into the Visa Waiver Program -- ensuring Israelis entry into the United States without a visa -- without Israel according reciprocal treatment to U.S. citizens.

By highlighting Israel's frequent denial of entry to Palestinian-Americans, we succeeded in getting the State Department to publicly admit that Israel does not meet the requirements for this program. The final version of the legislation recognized that **Israel would not be able to join** unless it ends its discriminatory treatment toward Palestinian-Americans.

- After Speaker of the House John Boehner invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address Congress in March 2015, we joined with member groups American Muslims for Palestine, Code Pink and Jewish Voice for Peace, along with our friends at Roots Action, to launch our #SkipTheSpeech campaign, which resulted in activists sending Members of Congress more than **100,000 letters** opposing the address. This huge grassroots mobilization gave **more than 60 Members of Congress** the political backing they needed to **boycott Netanyahu's speech**. Almost all those who backed our demand were Democrats, opening up a **major, unprecedented partisan breach** over Israel.



Kristin Szremksi of member group American Muslims for Palestine delivers **#SkiptheSpeech** petitions to Congress.

Policy Director Josh Ruebner, Siam Nawarah, and Brad Parker of Defense for Children International Palestine lobby on Capitol Hill for **#Justice4Nadeem**, Siam's son killed by Israel during Nakba Day protests in 2014.

- This spring, **we exposed secretive, last-minute attempts** by Members of Congress to insert anti-BDS language into unrelated trade bills, and convened an international strategy call and coordinated efforts with members groups and other allies to challenge them. Not only are Israel and its supporters on Capitol Hill so worried about BDS that they're engaging in these top-down efforts to stifle it, but they're also unwilling to have an open debate on such legislation, which is why **Congress feared voting on these bills** on their own. Although legislation was signed into law in June 2015 with a provision stating that the United States should discourage countries from engaging in BDS, **our vocal opposition helped ensure** that a much more draconian version, which would have required the president to submit reports to Congress on BDS, did not pass.
- Following a months-long campaign -- **#NoWayToTreatAChild** -- led by member group Chicago Faith Coalition and supported by us, in June 2015, **19 Members of Congress sent Secretary of State John Kerry a letter deploring Israel's practice** of detaining Palestinian children and trying them in military court. These Members of Congress urged the State Department to elevate its concern for the rights of Palestinian children to a higher profile.
- In August 2015, we teamed up with Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP) to bring Siam Nawarah -- father of Nadeem, one of two Palestinian children killed by Israel during Nakba Day protests in 2014 -- to Washington, DC to meet with Congressional offices and the State Department. The meetings resulted in a **Member of Congress sending a powerful letter to the State Department** expressing concern about Nadeem's case.

OPENING UP POLITICAL DISCOURSE

Despite these significant victories, Capitol Hill remains on the whole an extremely hostile environment in which to advocate for Palestinian rights. Therefore, a large part of our policy work consists of mobilizing our member groups and supporters to challenge the existing, dominant discourse and to create the space that is needed on Capitol Hill to broaden the discourse by hearing from Palestinians and Palestinian human rights organizations either impacted by or which document Israel's oppression. Here are some of our accomplishments in this sphere over the past year:

- In November 2014, we organized a **Capitol Hill briefing** with member group Friends of Wadi Foquin. Wadi Foquin is a village near Bethlehem, the vast majority of whose land has been expropriated for nearby Israeli settlements. The briefing featured Ahmad Sokar, Mayor of Wadi Foquin, Ata Manasra, Community Development Coordinator, and Adel Horoub, Youth Coordinator. The briefing provided an **overflow Congressional audience with first-hand testimony** about the devastating impact of Israeli settlements on Palestinian communities.
 - In February 2015, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East held a **hearing on Palestine's accession to the International Criminal Court**. The witness list was comprised solely of people who opposed holding Israel accountable for its war crimes. We mobilized supporters to hold placards reading #ICC4Israel.
- Our presence predominated the hearing, **sending a clear signal to Congress** of the scope of grassroots support that exists for holding Israel accountable.
- In June 2015, we teamed up with member group Chicago Faith Coalition to host a **standing-room-only Capitol Hill briefing on Israel's policy of detaining Palestinian children** and trying them in military courts. The briefing included Tariq Abu Khdeir, the Palestinian-American teenager brutally beaten by Israeli police in 2014, along with his mother Suha. Speaking to the broader policy issues were Joe Stork of Human Rights Watch, Rabbi Brant Rosen of the American Friends Service Committee, and Brad Parker of DCIP.
 - In July 2015, Congress held its first-ever hearing on the Palestinian civil society-led BDS movement without a single Palestinian witness! In fact, most of the witnesses were staunchly opposed to BDS, including the CEO of SodaStream International, whose settlement company has been a primary corporate target of the BDS movement. We submitted a **statement proudly supporting BDS for the official record** of the hearing, worked with member group Code Pink to **demonstrate support for BDS** at the hearing, and organized a **petition signed by more than 10,000 people** demanding Congress hold a second, pro-BDS hearing.
- Coinciding with the **one-year commemoration of Israel's attack on the Gaza Strip**, we hosted **another packed Capitol Hill briefing** in July 2015 on Israel's failure to hold itself accountable for its actions and the need for the international community, including the United States, to do so. The hearing featured powerful testimony and photographs from Eman Mohammed, Gaza's first female photojournalist. The briefing also featured Nadia Ben-Youssef of Adalah and Brad Parker of DCIP who spoke to the domestic and international failings to hold Israel accountable.



Panelists Josh Ruebner, Nadia Ben-Youssef of Adalah, Gaza photojournalist Eman Mohammed, and Brad Parker of Defense for Children International Palestine on Capitol Hill for briefing on accountability for Israel's attack on Gaza.



Part of the organizing team of the No Way to Treat a Child DC Advocacy Days. People in photo from left to right: Jennifer Bing, Nawal Musleh, Suha Abu Khdeir, Tariq Abu Khdeir, Rabbi Brant Rosen, Mike Coogan, Katie Huerter.



Activists hold **#ICC4Israel** signs at Congressional hearing at which witnesses opposed Palestine joining the ICC.



In addition to challenging the dominant political discourse, we served on the **Rasmaa Odeh Defense Committee** to protest government attacks on the Chicago-based 67-year-old Palestinian-American community leader.

Since October 2013, Rasmaa, a survivor of torture while she was unjustly imprisoned by Israel in 1969, has been fighting against trumped-up immigration charges -- **the latest U.S. government attempt to stifle Palestine organizing.** Following the lead of member group US Palestinian Community Network, we helped mobilize supporters to pack the courtroom in solidarity as her trial began in November 2014.

We promoted the National Week of Action to Free Rasmaa after she was found guilty and her bond revoked while she awaited sentencing.

Supporters organized local actions, sent letters to Rasmaa, and wrote to the judge, effectively convincing him to release her from prison so she could await sentencing at home. We supported a February 2015 Week of Action ahead of her sentencing, and in April 2015, we called on the Michigan-based Arab-American Civil Rights League (ACRL) to rescind an award to Rasmaa's prosecutor. We continue to **stand with Rasmaa** as she appeals her conviction on several grounds, including the fact that she was not allowed to testify about her torture at her trial.

BUILDING POLITICAL POWER FROM THE GROUND UP

Of course the Israel lobby doesn't limit its advocacy efforts to the federal level. Politicians at the state and even municipal levels are treated to all-expense-paid propaganda trips to Israel, and city and state politicians are pressured to support anti-Palestinian legislation. In light of this reality and as part of our theory of social change, which recognizes that political power is built from the ground up, we've spent significant time over the past year partnering with member groups and ad hoc **coalitions to challenge the Israel lobby at municipal and state levels as well.** Some of these initiatives have included:

- Working with member group **Minnesota Break the Bonds** to challenge the state's decision to reinvest in Israel Bonds, a security which directly funds Israel's colonization of Palestinian land.
- Partnering with member groups and other allies in New York City **to protest city councilors going on an Israel lobby junket**, and working with member group Carolina Peace Resource Center to oppose South Carolina state **lawmakers' visits to Israeli settlements.**
- Teaming up with member groups and coalitions in states such as New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and South Carolina to **oppose anti-BDS bills and resolutions in state legislatures.**

Even those campaigns that did not achieve their primary objectives were nonetheless valuable both in terms of **raising opposition to the Israel lobby's agenda** at state and municipal levels and in helping to **build the capacity and further grassroots campaigns** of local member groups. As the US Campaign continues to grow, we anticipate being able to devote more resources to helping support -- and win -- these types of campaigns in the future.

BOYCOTT AND DIVESTMENT CAMPAIGNS



Image submitted to our #iSupportBDS Tumblr countering top-down attacks on the nonviolent movement.

2015 marks **ten years since the Palestinian-led call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS)** targeting Israel and institutions complicit in its occupation and apartheid policies. The last year has ushered in **extraordinary victories and unprecedented political and economic power** for the BDS movement. The US Campaign has **played a critical role in mobilizing campaigns to build and leverage that power.**

BDS ACHIEVES UNPRECEDENTED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER

A quote popularly attributed to Mahatma Gandhi goes like this: *“First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, and then you win.”* Though the BDS movement was once dismissed and mocked as ineffective, it is clearer than ever from the highest political ranks that **BDS now represents perhaps**

the most serious strategic threat to Israel’s occupation and apartheid regime.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the recent moves by Members of Congress to quietly insert anti-BDS language into bills, or billionaire Sheldon Adelson’s secret gathering raising \$150 million to fight BDS on campuses,

or the promises by Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to “make countering BDS a priority.” Israel and its supporters are mobilizing top-down, draconian efforts to stifle this burgeoning, nonviolent, grassroots movement precisely because it has become so extraordinarily effective.



Visit endtheoccupation.org/bds100 for a comprehensive list of U.S. victories!

Image by Joel Reinstein

To celebrate BDS's 10th birthday, the US Campaign compiled a list of the more than 100 U.S. BDS victories, including many extraordinary breakthroughs once unimaginable. The list continues to lengthen each week, showing our power growing by the day! Far beyond symbolic victories, **BDS is now forcing powerful corporations to change their behavior, illustrating the tangible, economic consequences of participating in Israel's occupation**, as seen in the examples of SodaStream, Veolia, and G4S:

Following years of worldwide pressure and countless coalition-led efforts coordinated by the US Campaign, the Israeli homemade seltzer company **SodaStream moved its main manufacturing facilities out of the occupied Palestinian West Bank** this summer, marking a tremendous BDS victory! SodaStream announced plans to move in October 2014, just weeks after **Macy's stopped carrying SodaStream nationwide** and billionaire investor George Soros divested his entire stock of the company.

The US Campaign organized a Boycott SodaStream "Apartheid Made Exciting?" Month of Action involving more than a dozen groups in cities nationwide during the 2014 holiday shopping season to ensure SodaStream's departure from the West Bank and to highlight its ongoing complicity by relocating onto land stolen from Palestinian Bedouins in the Negev desert. On Human Rights Day, we led a **national call-in** to headquarters of Target and Sur La Table, urging them to follow Macy's lead and stop selling SodaStream.



Shortly thereafter, for the first time in three years, SodaStream declined -- or could not afford -- to place an ad during the SuperBowl, where the company had once placed high hopes for generating U.S. popularity. This spring, we supported Oregon member groups **forcing SodaStream to re-label its products** from "Made in Israel" to "Made in the West Bank."

SodaStream's CEO Daniel Birnbaum has been so distressed by the impact of BDS that he testified about it to Congress this summer, presenting graphics and videos of U.S. BDS actions. In August, financial services company Motley Fool reported that **Wall Street had "given up on SodaStream," whose earnings are "down the drain again" after being hardest hit in America with a "44% plunge."** Birnbaum is fighting a losing battle since our campaigns will continue as long as SodaStream remains complicit in Israel's oppressive policies through continued leasing of settlement property and complicity in the displacement of Bedouin communities.



The US Campaign has played a leading role supporting coalition-led **campaigns from coast to coast to Dump Veolia**, a French multinational that until recently operated bus lines, a landfill, wastewater management, and other services as part of the Israeli occupation. This April, the pressure on Veolia -- which lost *billions* in contracts worldwide following BDS campaigns -- reached a tipping point and **the company sold off all but one contract with Israel!** Finally, just as this report went to press, Veolia sold its remaining stake in the Jerusalem Light Rail to **achieve complete withdrawal from the Israeli market -- an enormous, historic victory for the BDS movement!**



Last summer, another popular BDS target **G4S also announced plans to end contracts with Israel.** As long as G4S continues to operate Israeli detention centers where Palestinians are tortured and imprisoned, we must keep the pressure on. Redoubling our efforts, the US Campaign is playing a strong role in an international campaign to end United Nations contracts with G4S, while also supporting member groups from Portland to Florida in building effective municipal campaigns to dump G4S... with the goal of making sure that G4S follows Veolia's lead and **.dumps the occupation** once and for all!



An international coalition is calling on the UN to end contracts with G4S.

These corporate changes send a clear message to Israel, the U.S. government, and corporations that Israel's occupation is unsustainable and costly. And they send the message to activists worldwide that together we can affect real change, and now is a critical moment to augment our efforts.

LAURYN HILL & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ILLUSTRATE MAINSTREAMING OF BDS!

Nowhere is the mainstreaming of BDS clearer than when iconic cultural figures come out in support. The US Campaign worked with an international coalition to lead a creative, public and behind-the-scenes campaign calling on the **eight-time Grammy Award-winner Lauryn Hill** to respect the boycott and cancel a concert in Tel Aviv. We collected more than 11,000 petition signatures and organized social media actions with member group US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel to amplify the call. On May 4, **the R&B legend cancelled her concert**, thrilling fans and human rights supporters from North America to South Africa to Ramallah. We quickly mobilized support for her in the face of anticipated backlash, and contributed to dozens of stories on the victory, including in *People Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *BET*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *The New York Times*.

THANK YOU MS. LAURYN HILL FOR RESPECTING THE PALESTINIAN CALL TO BOYCOTT ISRAEL!



The US Campaign worked on countless cultural boycott campaigns year-round, appealing to Taylor Swift, Ben Frost, and even the South by Southwest festival with a “No Hipster Apartheid” campaign demanding cancellation of “Brand Israel” propaganda events. We worked with a broad coalition of Palestinian and U.S. groups to oppose NBC’s production of *Dig*, an Israeli-sponsored series based in the occupied Palestinian East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan. Following extensive media work, creative online actions, and creation of resources to highlight the plight of Palestinian Jerusalemites and the show’s complicity in whitewashing Israel’s war crimes, **we celebrated as *Dig* was cancelled after just one season.**



Our coalition particularly flexed its muscles during one historic week this summer when **three U.S. churches considered resolutions for divestment** from companies involved in the Israeli occupation. The concurrent votes put to rest any illusion that the 2014 Presbyterian victory was anomalous. On the contrary, **mainline Christian churches are one by one ending their complicity** with Israel's occupation; it is only a question of which will come next.

The unforgettable vote by the United Church of Christ (UCC) General Synod yielding 508 for and 124 against (with 38 abstentions) took our breath away. The bold resolution called for boycott of settlement products; divestment from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, Hewlett Packard, Veolia, G4S, and other occupation profiteers; and an end to unconditional U.S. aid to Israel. The US Campaign provided **comprehensive, intensive strategic support** to member group UCC Palestine Israel Network (PIN) for six months leading up to the vote and on the ground at General Synod. Among many other things, we provided **one-on-one consultations, campaign infrastructure, and organized grassroots support** to strengthen PIN and the campaign. We also built relationships with voting delegates to support them in following their conscience, unafraid.



National Organizer Anna Baltzer reacts to the historic on the UCC General Synod floor.

The US Campaign also provided **strategic support to member groups** of the Mennonite and Episcopal churches voting on their own resolutions the same week. Though neither passed divestment, we know from experience with the Presbyterians and UCC that such efforts often take years to blossom, but blossom they do!



This summer's campaigns brought unprecedented levels of cross-denominational Palestine activism, building on the US Campaign's work over the last four years to organize an **interdenominational network and annual summits bringing together organizers to strengthen relationships and deepen collaboration across denominations and faiths**. Last September's gathering included more than 30 organizers from 17 faith-based organizations, and we are planning a fifth gathering this fall in Denver, Colorado in partnership with member organizations Kairos-USA and Friends of Sabeel-North America.

Also in the faith-based realm, the US Campaign wrote and gathered hundreds of individual and organizational signatures for **"Say No to Faithwashing"** open letter calling on Muslim Americans to eschew any participation in or legitimization of the Muslim Leadership Initiative of the Shalom Hartman Institute -- a transparent propaganda effort to recruit Muslim Americans to defend Israel and Zionism.

**STRATEGIC SUPPORT,
TRAININGS, AND MORE
TO STRENGTHEN
MEMBER GROUPS
AND BDS**

Over the year, the US Campaign provided **online and in-person trainings, workshops, one-on-one strategic support, and other mentorship to more than 100 organizations nationwide**, including campus groups, faith-based organizations, and broad coalitions. We continue to look for ways to **facilitate overall coordination, collaboration, and resource-sharing** between member groups, managing and broadening campaign-based, campus-based, and faith-based networks.



Map of member group BDS campaigns nationwide

The US Campaign supported dozens of member group-led campaigns including **Block the Boat**, Minnesota Break the Bonds, **Boycott Re/Max, coop de-shelving** campaigns from Austin to Ithaca, Goodbye **Moto**, Boycott **Sabra** Hummus,

the call for **Oprah** to stop wearing diamonds from Israeli settlement mogul Lev Leviev, and the campaign urging **Ben & Jerry's** to stop selling ice cream in illegal settlements. We served on the Coordinating Committee of **Stop the Jewish National Fund**, a campaign led by member organization International

Jewish Anti-Zionist Network and others. We supported the **"People's Shareholder Meeting"** coinciding with **occupation profiteer Hewlett Packard's** 2015 meeting, and mobilized a corporate headquarters call-in and Twitter storm educating consumers on why they should boycott HP.



The US Campaign has worked with more than 100 organizations on creative, exciting campaigns.

Credits: Block the Boat -- Image by Cindy Newman | Re/Max -- Image by Rob Shetterly



University of Toledo
SJP delivers 122-page
petition demanding a fair
hearing for divestment.

The US Campaign organized an online training introducing investors and activists to member group American Friends Service Committee's **ground-breaking new research and investment tool**. And we hosted a **popular BDS@10 webinar** -- with cutting-edge presenters from the BDS National Committee, Association of Human Rights in Syria, U.S. labor unions, and beyond -- looking forward to the role of BDS in the years ahead in the struggle for Palestinian rights.

The US Campaign also provided **one-on-one support** of various kinds -- hearing recruitment, resources, letters, networking, action technology, financial support, and more -- **to students leading powerful boycott and divestment campaigns on more than 25 campuses**. In spite of growing backlash, the past year brought more than one dozen campus victories -- at least twice any year before it -- including from top academic institutions, statewide student associations, and labor unions.

At the University of Toledo (UT), students were barred from attending a meeting to debate a divestment resolution, and at the meeting, the student government was barred from voting on it! The US Campaign consulted closely with UT Students for Justice in Palestine and gathered more than 5,000 signatures calling for free speech, transparency, and the right to a fair hearing. UT student government came back to vote 21:4 in favor of divestment!

The US Campaign continues to serve with student leaders and national organizers 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.

JOINT STRUGGLE FROM FERGUSON TO PALESTINE AND BEYOND



Graffiti on the Israeli Apartheid Wall in Bethlehem

The killing of unarmed Black teenager Mike Brown in August 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked a national conversation about racial profiling, police militarization, and our broken system of justice. The epidemic of police brutality targeting Black communities is part of a broader U.S. history of violence against people of color; first across North America through genocide of the indigenous population and the enslavement of Africans, followed by countless attacks and occupations abroad -- including the ongoing U.S.-sponsored Israeli occupation and colonization of Palestine.

The uprisings in Ferguson and nationwide have been a **movement moment to unite against racism** and fight for justice for all, lifting up the central message that Black Lives Matter in the enduring struggle against white supremacy and structural oppression. US Campaign staff and Steering Committee members who live near Ferguson have been on the ground along with member group St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee (STL-PSC) **working to support the struggle since the beginning**, as part of countless direct actions, organizing meetings, trainings, and more. In the wake of the murder of Mike Brown

and the subsequent announcement that his killer, Officer Darren Wilson, would not be indicted, staff served on the core organizing team offering facilitation, campaign infrastructure, and staffing of safe spaces for protesters. US Campaign staff also served from 2013-2015 on the Steering Committee of the St. Louis Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression, leading a historic effort to establish a Civilian Oversight Board in a city known for police violence.

The rootedness of St. Louis Palestine activists in broader anti-racism commitments and principles is one of many factors this past year in Ferguson and nationwide further **solidifying powerful, cross-struggle solidarity between the struggles for Black and Palestinian liberation.**

In October 2014, the US Campaign, STL-PSC, the US Palestinian Community Network, and others **organized a Palestine Contingent to the Ferguson October Weekend of Resistance.** Local groups including the Organization for Black Struggle invited those who support Palestinian liberation to stand together in solidarity. Shortly before the weekend, the US Campaign hosted a national briefing for our constituents and member groups to hear from Ferguson youth leaders about the struggle. At the march's culmination, two Palestinian-Americans spoke eloquently to a cheering crowd about the importance of **joint struggle and collective liberation.**



Image by Suhad Khatib

Palestinian poet Remi Kanazi performed alongside Ferguson rappers, while Palestinians living under occupation sent messages from across the globe to show their solidarity with Ferguson. But even more moving than the presence of the Palestine contingent was the breathtaking outpouring of solidarity shown to the contingent by the people of St. Louis, Ferguson, and the broader Black Lives Matter movement.

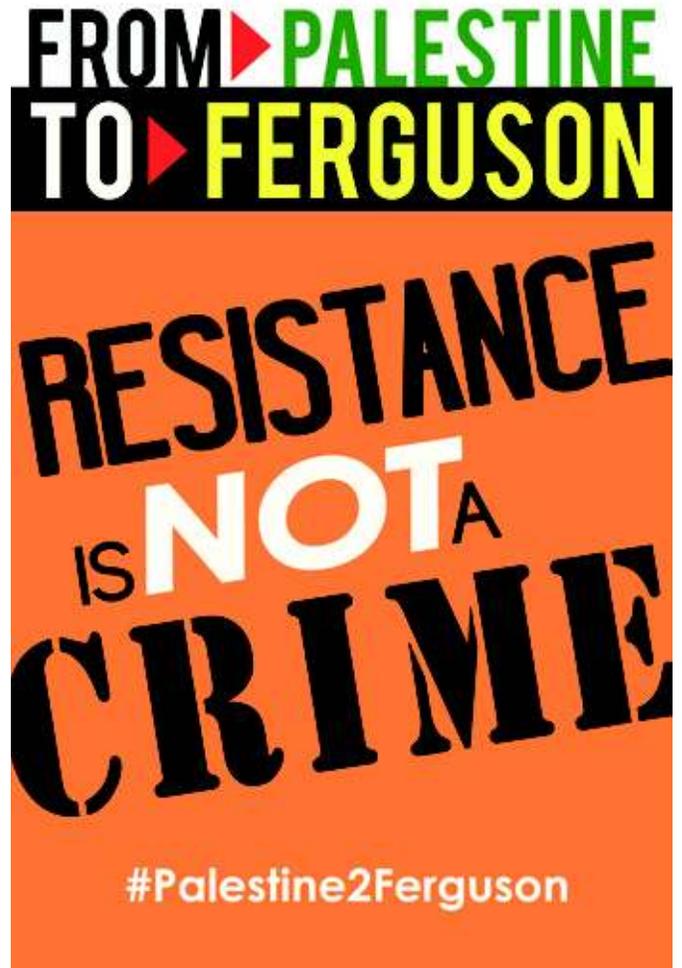


Image by Yumna Ali

The US Campaign created a **#Palestine2Ferguson web section** with information and resources -- including on the Ferguson-Palestine connection -- as part of a broader Joint Struggle web space to collect resources about connecting our work for Palestinian rights with other struggles for justice. We also supported the **Mexican Caravana** touring the United States to spread awareness about the mass kidnapping and disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa, highlighting another instance of U.S. foreign aid used to oppress and kill innocent civilians.



Palestine Contingent to Ferguson October

The weekend was a phenomenal success with contingent members joining more than a dozen acts of civil disobedience, as well as hundreds joining a national march carrying signs saying **“From Palestine to Ferguson: Resistance Is Not a Crime”** and similar messages.

Our staff mobilized a **direct action and online campaign** targeting the Missouri History Museum when it shut down an event, “From Ferguson to Ayotzinapa to Palestine,” insisting that organizers remove Palestinian-American and US Campaign Steering

Committee member Sandra Tamari from the panel. Staff in St. Louis has worked to confront numerous cases of Zionists trying to jump on the Black Lives Matter bandwagon, calling out PEPs (Progressives Except on Palestine), and **exposing the local**

Anti-Defamation League’s honoring of the St. Louis police, which continues to gas and shoot unarmed civilians. **We know that challenging militarization and injustice abroad is incomplete without also confronting**

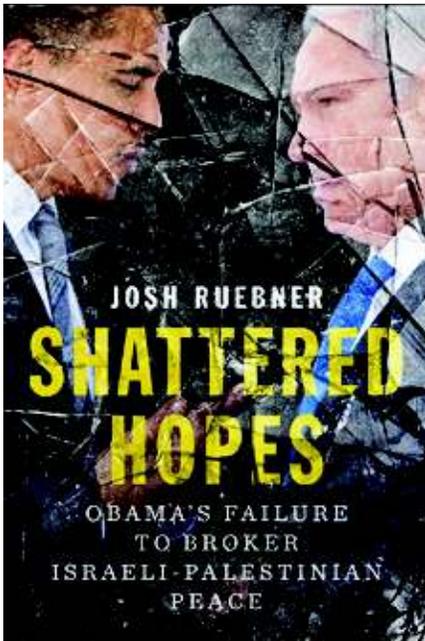
and dismantling those systems at home in the United States, as part of a commitment to standing against all forms of racism and oppression. In the words of the October Palestine contingent organizers: “We recognize that none of us is free until all of us are free.”



Palestinians show solidarity as Ferguson youth speak.

Image by Chris Hazou

MAINSTREAM MEDIA AND REACHING KEY NEW CONSTITUENCIES



In September 2014, Policy Director Josh Ruebner published an updated paperback version of his book *Shattered Hopes: Obama's Failure to Broker Israeli-Palestinian Peace* and completed more than 55 talks in 15 states (in addition to more than 100 events the year before), reaching thousands of people with our message underscoring the need to end U.S. support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians.

US Campaign staff also presented at more than a dozen conferences and gatherings including Shut Down AIPAC,

Open Engagement, New Orleans International Human Rights Film Festival, and an International United Nations Conference of Local Governments and Civil Society Organizations in Spain organized by the UN Division for Palestinian Rights and Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Over the last year, the US Campaign gave more than **100 TV, radio, and print interviews and published more than two dozen op-eds on various policy issues**, including nine in *The Hill*, one of the most read publications on Capitol Hill.





Los Angeles Times

theguardian



The New York Times

The Lauryn Hill victory alone generated articles in *People Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, BET, *Entertainment Weekly*, *LA Times*, *The New York Times*, NBC, *Associated Press*, MSNBC, *Christian Science Monitor*, Jezebel, *USA Today*, and many other major outlets. When leading Israel apologist Alan Dershowitz was featured repeatedly by CNN as a supposed expert on ISIS and used airtime to defend Israel, we mobilized letters to CNN staff, ending the pattern altogether.

During the period just before and after the Israeli elections which brought forth yet another extremist government, there was a rare opening in U.S. media coverage on Israel/Palestine and we were

a big part of the public discussion, putting forward our narrative and shaping opinions at a key moment. We placed a widely circulated op-ed -in the *New York Times* explaining why there has never been a more important time to bring pressure on Israel through various pathways including BDS. We were represented in various mainstream forums discussing the topic including The Charlie Rose Show, MSNBC, CNN, *The Washington Post*, and others.

The US Campaign's effective campaigning and broad media reach have earned us a social media presence of **more than 120,000 Facebook Likes and 22,000 Twitter followers, along with close to 100,000 email subscribers.**

During our Skip the Speech campaign, we created a short video juxtaposing Netanyahu's advice to Congress in 2002 to invade Iraq with his claims about Iran today, showing just how dangerous it would be to listen to him again. Our video went viral, accumulating **over one million hits** and encouraging many new people to support the Skip the Speech campaign.

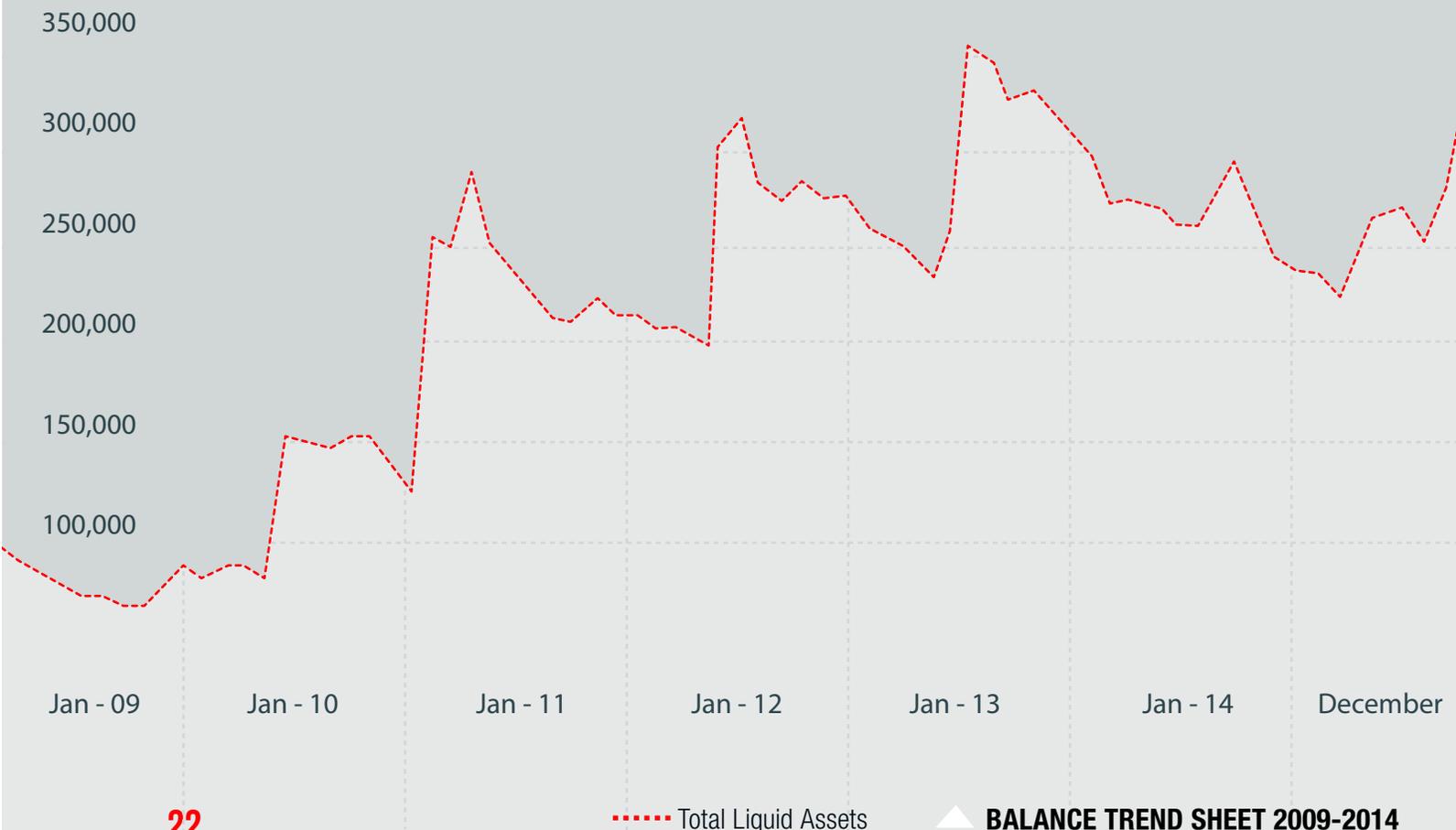
Continued outreach through mainstream media, social media, and other outlets is a key component in our advocacy work and we anticipate that our voice in the U.S. discussion on Israel/Palestine will only grow louder in years to come.

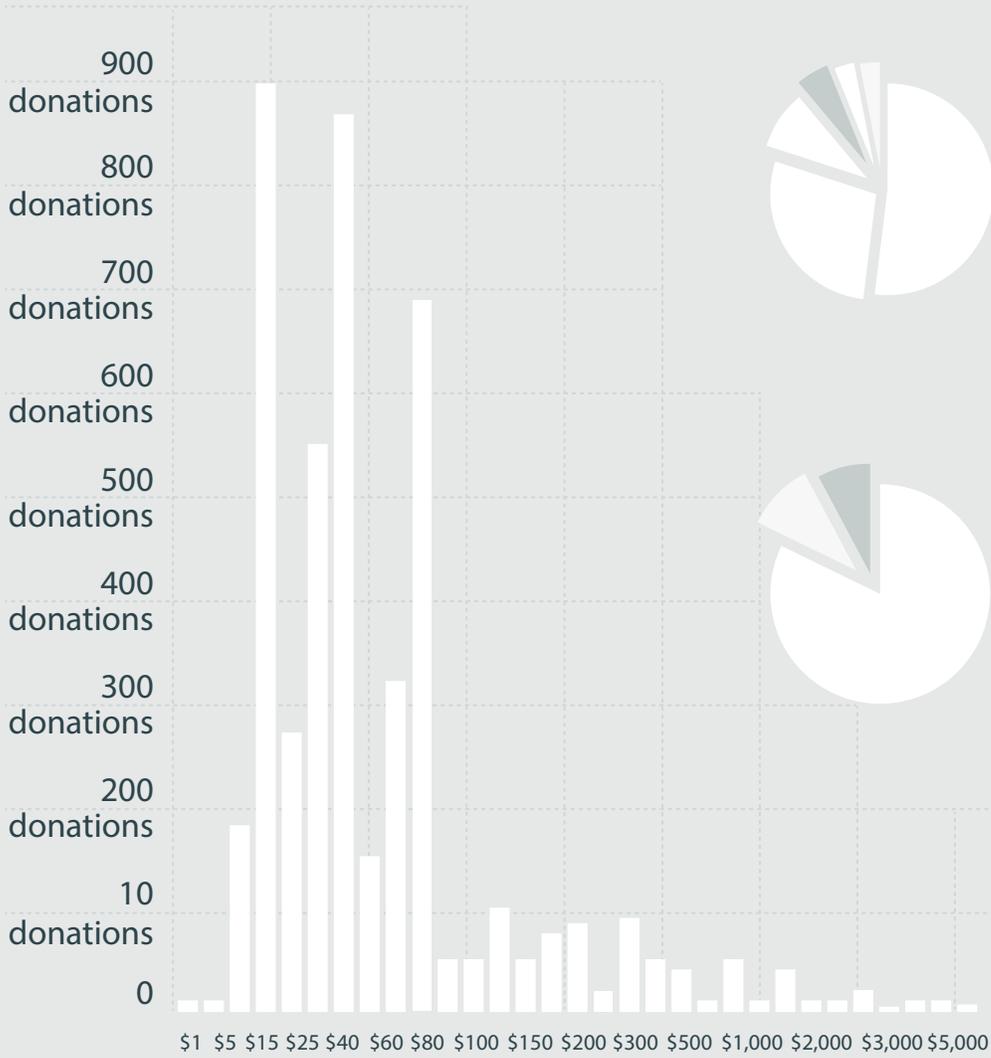
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The US Campaign's fiscal year corresponds with the calendar year, so the information below reflects the latest data submitted to the Internal Revenue Service for 2014 on the US Campaign's most recent tax return. Complete versions of previous tax returns are filed under our 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 Campaign's finances in 2014:

1. In 2014, the US Campaign received \$546,142 in income and spent \$484,711 for a net income of \$61,431.
2. At the end of 2014, the US Campaign had a cash balance of \$310,982.
3. The US Campaign's 2014 income came from over 3,888 different contributors and the average donation was about \$84. 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 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.**





◀ **2014 INCOME BREAKDOWN
JANUARY - DECEMBER**

- Conference Registration **5%**
- Membership Dues **3%**
- Honoraria **3%**
- Online **52%**
- Direct Mail **28%**
- Foundations **9%**

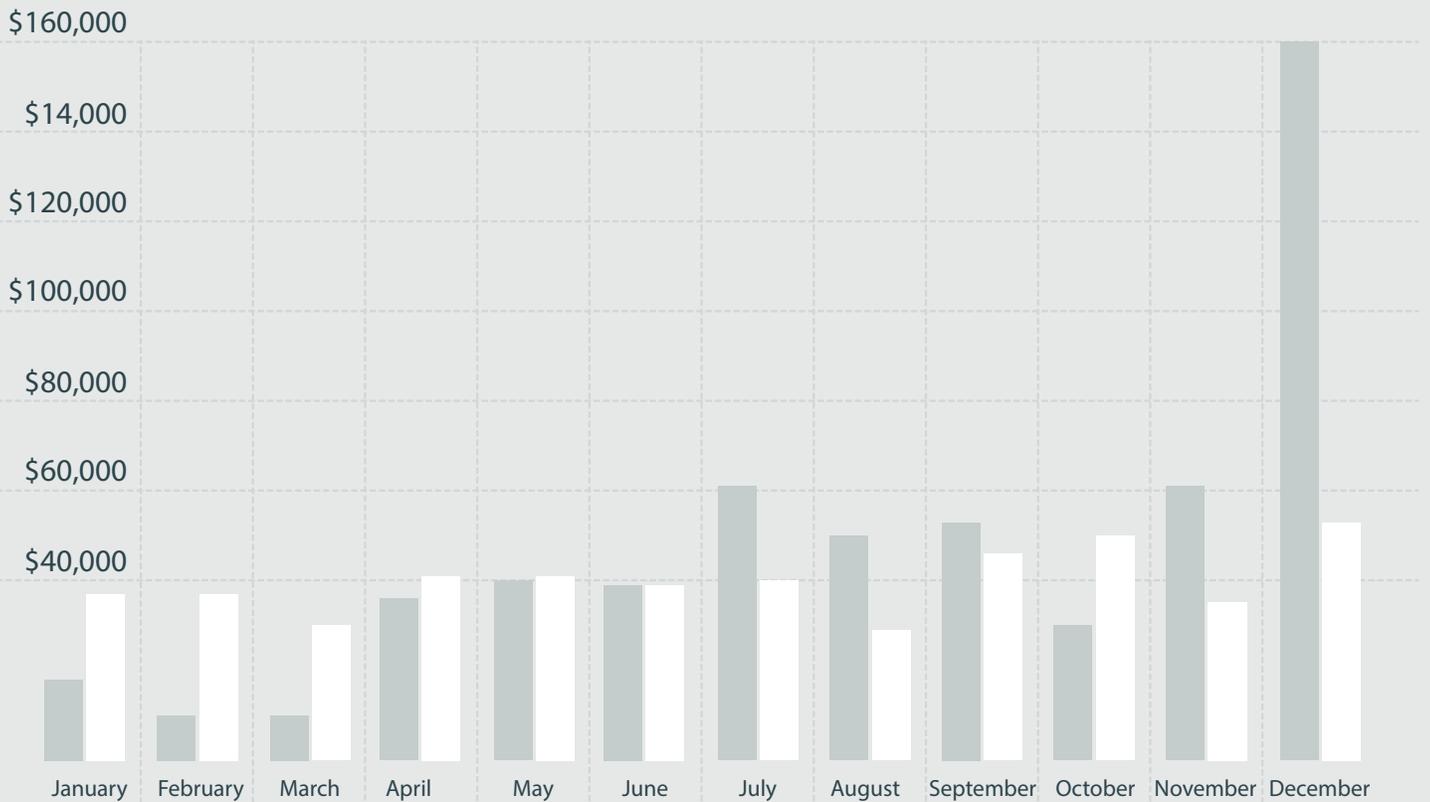


◀ **2013 EXPENSES BREAKDOWN**

- Fundraising **8%**
- General & Administrative **10%**
- Program **82%**

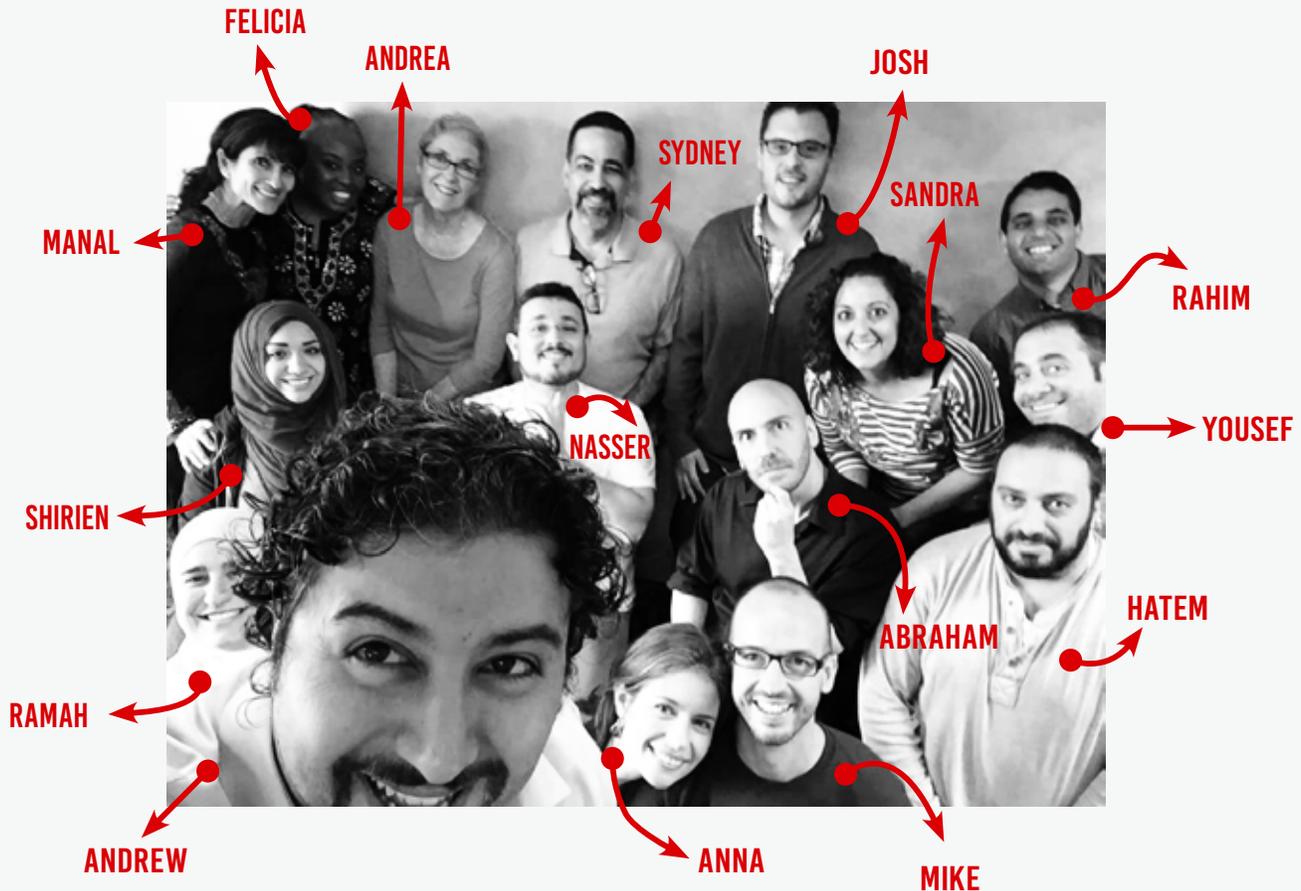
◀ **BREAKDOWN OF DONATIONS**

■ Number of Contribution



▲ **INCOME & EXPENSES BY MONTH 2014** ■ Income ■ Expenses

STAFF & STEERING COMMITTEE, 2014-2015



Staff members perform the day-to-day work of the US Campaign.

The Steering Committee meets monthly by phone and twice a year in person to provide strategic guidance to the work of the US Campaign. Many also serve on subcommittees and some represent the US Campaign in public and in the media. Steering Committee members are elected for three-year terms by accredited delegates of member groups in good standing at our annual national conferences. *Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only; members serve in their individual capacities.*

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. 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. We would especially like to acknowledge our outgoing Steering Committee Co-Chair, Felicia Eaves, who has served the US Campaign for more than nine years and been instrumental in growing and strengthening the organization, providing leadership to both the Steering Committee and Staff. We wish her all the best.

STAFF

- Anna Baltzer, National Organizer
- Mike Coogan, Director of Development and Legislative Coordinator
- Ramah Kudaimi, Membership & Outreach Coordinator
- Yousef Munayyer, Executive Director
- Josh Ruebner, Policy Director
- Hatem Abudayyeh (2016) - US Palestinian Community Network
- Nasser Barghouti (2016) - San Diego BDS, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
- Shirien Damra (2015) - American Friends Service Committee; Students for Justice in Palestine
- Manal Fakhoury (2017) - Fakhoury Leadership International
- Abraham Greenhouse (2016) - The Palestine Freedom Project
- Rahim Kurwa (2017) - UCLA Students for Justice in Palestine
- Sydney Levy (2017)
- Mike Merryman-Lotze (2017) - American Friends Service Committee
- 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

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Felicia Eaves (2015) - US Campaign Co-Chair
- Andrew Kadi (2016) - US Campaign Co-Chair

WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY AMAZED BY THE LEADERSHIP, HARD WORK, AND CREATIVITY OF OUR MEMBER GROUPS, WHOSE ACTIVITIES INSPIRE AND KEEP US BUSY EVERY DAY. LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO EACH AND EVERY PERSON WHOSE SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE OUR CRITICAL WORK TO END ALL FORMS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND APARTHEID, WITH THE VISION OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY FOR ALL. FROM ALL OF US AT THE US CAMPAIGN, WE SAY, THANK YOU! AND ONWARD!



A nationwide coalition of hundreds of organizations working to end all forms of U.S. support for Israel's military occupation and apartheid policies that deny Palestinians their human rights. We support freedom, justice and equality for all.



Presented by the Steering Committee and staff to the US Campaign's 14th National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, September 25-27, 2015.

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2014 - AUGUST 2015

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