

Alt-Daily Hampshire Gazette

Read Globally, Act Locally

Dear friend,

River Valley for Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace W. MA, and other community organizations have been trying to persuade the editors (Dan Crowley & Chad Cain) and publisher (Shawn Palmer) of the **Daily Hampshire Gazette** to improve the paper's coverage of the genocide in Gaza and to publish an editorial condemning Israel's targeted killings of hundreds of Gaza's journalists. We have also asked that when the Gazette provides news from Gaza in the form of reprinted articles from other media sources, they precede each article with an editor's note containing the caveat that the news piece provided may contain pro-Israeli bias and propaganda. We have not succeeded in persuading the editors to meet our requests.

Notably, the *Springfield Republican* and the *Montague Reporter* have recently published strong editorials condemning Israel's systematic murders of Gaza's journalists.

Since we feel that the Gazette is failing its readership vis-a-vis coverage of the Gaza genocide, we have decided to publish an (alt)ernative version of the paper containing material that we wish the editors and publisher WOULD include. This is the paper you hold in your hands. We hope you find it interesting and helpful as you seek reliable news and opinion about the Gaza genocide, Israel's occupation of Palestine, and local campaigns to stand with the Palestinian people and all people fighting empire, militarism, colonization, and exploitation.

River Valley for Palestine
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River Valley for Palestine presents here an editorial we wish the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* would publish:

EDITORIAL

As the war in Gaza grinds into its 23rd month, passing its 700th day, with incalculable, breathtaking suffering imposed by Israel and the United States on a caged civilian population of more than 2 million, the territory has been turned into an enormous death camp.

The *Daily Hampshire Gazette* rarely publishes editorials. We feel that the realities in Gaza DEMAND that our editorial voice be heard.

A feature of Israel's war on Gaza has been its targeting of crucial civilian populations: healthcare workers, civil defense workers, government workers, academics, intellectuals, journalists like ourselves.

In its killings of Gaza's extraordinarily hard-working and courageous journalists (more than 270 as of this date, according to Al Jazeera, many of them in targeted assassinations) and its refusal to allow international journalists into Gaza, Israel is killing the messenger. It is targeting the **profession** of journalism. It is assaulting free speech and freedom of information. It is targeting international law and human rights. It is seeking to **normalize** censorship, official lies, war propaganda, and murders of journalists. Its enemy is the truth; its perceived enemies are truth-tellers: Gaza's journalists.

Readers of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* are hopefully familiar with the most recent assassinations of journalists at Al Shifa Hospital (the entire Al Jazeera team, including Anas Al Sharif, in Gaza City on 8/10/25) and Nasser Hospital (8/25/25). These massacres have received some global attention due to their brazenness and the numbers of journalists targeted. But the frequent, targeted sniping and bombing of individual journalists in Gaza do not.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), "Israel is engaging in the



L-R: Anas al-Sharif, Mohammed Noufal, Ibrahim Zaher, Mohammed Qreiqeh — Gaza City Al Jazeera team murdered by Israel at al-Shifa Hospital, August 10, 2025.

deadliest and most deliberate effort to kill and silence journalists that CPJ has ever documented. Palestinian journalists are being threatened, directly targeted, and murdered by Israeli forces, and are arbitrarily detained and tortured in retaliation for their work. Israel has systematically destroyed media infrastructure in Gaza, and tightened censorship throughout the West Bank and Israel. By silencing the press, Israel is silencing those who document and bear witness to what human rights groups and academic and international legal experts say is a genocide."

In an astounding attack on Yemeni civilians on 9/10/25, Israel massacred more than thirty-two journalists. The Yemeni Journalists Union condemned the direct targeting of the 26 *September* newspaper and the *Al-Yemen* newspaper in the capital, Sana'a.

During this time of unprecedented assault on journalists and the First Amendment in our own country, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* wishes to be very clear to our readers, to our colleagues in Western media, and to our media colleagues in Gaza: We stand with the Palestinian journalists of Gaza (and with our colleagues everywhere). We condemn their deliberate murder by Israel. These murders are war crimes, as are killings of all civilians. They are flagrant violations of international law under the Geneva Conventions. They must be independently investigated. They must be prosecuted.

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Israel massacres more than 32 journalists in Yemen

By Jennifer Scarlott

In attacks across Yemen on September 10, 2025, Israel killed at least 46 people and injured at least 165. Most of those killed and injured were in civilian areas. Thirty-two journalists were among the dead, massacred when Israel targeted two newspaper offices.

The Yemeni Journalists Union said, "We strongly condemn the heinous war crime committed by the brutal Israeli aggression on Wednesday, 10 September 2025, through its direct targeting of the offices of 26 *September* newspaper and *Al-Yemen* newspaper in the capital."

Yemen has been the only country to comply with its obligation under international law to try to stop the Israeli genocide in Gaza, thus drawing the ire of the apartheid regime.

Daily Hampshire Gazette Publisher Laughs at Genocide, Murder of Journalists

By Jennifer Scarlott

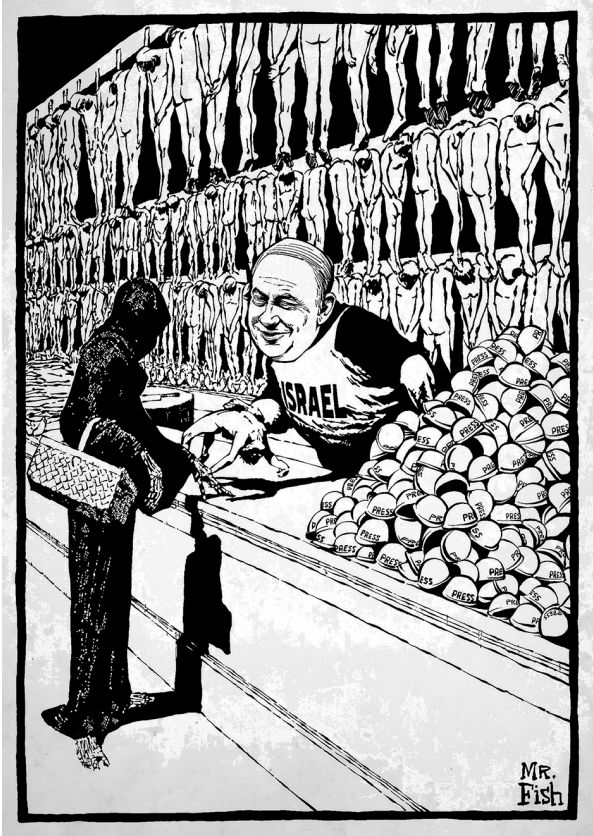
On Friday, September 5, I had a deeply disturbing encounter with a community leader—Shawn Palmer, publisher of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*.

I was at the Gazette offices on Pleasant Street in Northampton to deliver a memo, signed by 10 community organizations*, calling on the Gazette to strengthen its coverage of the genocide in Gaza. As I finished requesting that the paper publish an editorial condemning Israel's targeted killings of hundreds of Gaza journalists, Mr. Palmer laughed before saying that the Gazette is a local paper and that Northampton readers are not interested in such matters.

Given the nearly two-year genocide of the Palestinian people of Gaza... given their daily and nightly suffering, starvation, and slaughter... given that the genocide is shredding international institutions and international law supposedly designed for the protection of us all... given that murders of journalists are war crimes and the *Gazette* represents journalism in our area... given the active partnership in Israel's genocide by the United States... given the fact that our elected leaders, our tax dollars, and U.S.-made weapons make the genocide possible... given that there is a large and active movement to end the genocide in Northampton and throughout western MA... given that the Northampton City Council has repeatedly voted for a ceasefire in Gaza... and given that the *Gazette* has been deluged for two years with letters to the editor and reader opinion pieces about the genocide in Gaza... I am astonished and disgusted that our local paper's publisher would laugh as he dismisses requests for better coverage and an editorial condemning Israel's murders of journalists.

Back story: Prior to the appalling encounter with Mr. Palmer on September 5, a team of folks with River Valley for Palestine (RVP) had been making efforts to be heard by senior editor Dan Crowley and managing editor Chad Cain.

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"His Favorite Merchant"



Shawn Palmer Dan Crowley Chad Cain

Northampton Urged to Cut City Services to Genocide Profiteer L3Harris

By Nick Mottern

Citing the criminal, genocide profiteering of the international weapons maker L3Harris Technologies, Nick Mottern, a member of Demilitarize Western Massachusetts, has urged Northampton to cut off water and sewer services and police and fire protection to the L3Harris plant at 50 Prince Street, Northampton.

Speaking at the September 4, 2025 Northampton City Council meeting and displaying the accompanying photo, Mottern said cutting these services, which would almost certainly shut down the local L3 plant immediately, "is imperative because the L3 Northampton plant is contributing to the profits of the L3Harris conglomerate that is every day, criminally enabling the expanding slaughter and starvation of our sisters and brothers in Gaza and the West Bank."

Mottern said that L3 arms shipments to Israel are being made in violation of U.S. laws, notably the Leahy Law, which prohibits selling U.S. weapons to gross violators of human rights.

Despite the raging extermination of the Palestinian people, *The Daily Hampshire Gazette* did not cover Mottern's request to the Northampton mayor and city council, even though the paper was sent a copy of his statement before the meeting.

Nor did the *Gazette* follow up by asking the city officials whether and how they would act on the request, which was aimed at instant action to prevent further city complicity in genocide. The newspaper also has failed to report on various legal actions that might be taken by Northampton to remove L3Harris from the city.

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Child wounded in an Israeli assault in Gaza

EDITORIAL Continued...

Twenty-three months into the war on Gaza, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* acknowledges that media “neutrality” is complicity. For the past nearly two years, Western media, through silence or through pro-Israel bias, has been complicit in the Israeli/U.S. genocide in Gaza and in the ongoing assassinations of journalists. We will not be complicit. We acknowledge that though we are a local paper, we bear responsibility for creating conditions that have contributed to a genocide in Gaza and attacks on our journalist brothers and sisters.

In acknowledging that the war in Gaza is a genocide being conducted by the Israeli and U.S. governments, we call for: immediate ceasefire; the immediate, permanent removal of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) from Gaza; a global arms embargo on Israel; global economic sanctions on Israel; the immediate and permanent opening of Gaza’s borders; the immediate, permanent influx, under the auspices of UNRWA, of humanitarian aid and supplies for the entire Gaza population; and removal of Israel from the United Nations. We call for the immediate assembly of an international protection force in Gaza under the UN General Assembly’s “Uniting for Peace” Resolution.

At this critical moment in world history, with the **extermination of an entire people** gaining momentum, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* will not fail this test: We will defend Palestinian journalists and journalism, and in so doing, defend and stand with the civilian population of Gaza in its desperate hour of need. We understand that if we fail to do so, we fail ourselves, the readers of this newspaper, the people of Gaza, and humanity itself. We call on our colleagues throughout Western media – whether local, regional, or national and whether print, television, radio, or Internet – to do the same.

Lastly, as to news articles about the genocide in Gaza: We make a promise to our readers that if we reprint news articles from outlets such as the Associated Press, we will



Bloody press vest of a Gaza journalist murdered by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)

acknowledge our responsibility for the bias in those articles (the AP and other outlets routinely quote Israeli government and military sources without comment), by preceding them with the following:

Editors’ Note: This news report may be inaccurate for the following reasons — Israeli government and military statements, frequently cited uncritically by Western media, are war propaganda and should not be taken at face value; and many Western media outlets exhibit consistent pro-Israel bias. In addition, be aware that the Israeli regime bars international media from entering and reporting from Gaza or other parts of Palestine, all of which it illegally occupies.

(Written by the editorial board of the Alt-Daily Hampshire Gazette, which is published by River Valley for Palestine)

Valerie Zink, journalist, explains her resignation from Reuters, August 25, 2025

For the past eight years I have worked as a stringer for Reuters news agency. My photos covering stories in the prairie provinces have been published by the New York Times, Al Jazeera, and other media outlets across North America, Asia, Europe, and elsewhere. At this point it’s become impossible for me to maintain a relationship with Reuters given its role in justifying and enabling the systematic assassination of 245 journalists in Gaza. I owe my colleagues in Palestine at least this much, and so much more.

When Israel murdered Anas Al-Sharif, together with the entire Al-Jazeera crew in Gaza City on August 10, Reuters chose to publish Israel’s entirely baseless claim that Al-Sharif was a Hamas operative – one of countless lies that media outlets like Reuters have dutifully repeated and dignified. Reuters’ willingness to perpetuate Israel’s propaganda has not spared their own reporters from Israel’s genocide. Five more journalists, including Reuters cameraman Hossam Al-Masri, were among 20 people killed this morning in another attack on Nasser hospital. It was what’s known as a “double tap” strike, in which Israel bombs a civilian target like a school or hospital; waits for medics, rescue teams, and journalists to arrive; and then strikes again.

Western media is directly culpable for creating the conditions in which this can happen. As Jeremy Scahill from Drop Site News put it, “every major outlet – from the New York Times to the Washington Post, from AP to Reuters – has served as a conveyor belt for Israeli propaganda, sanitizing war crimes and dehumanizing victims, abandoning their colleagues and their alleged commitment to true and ethical reporting.”

By repeating Israel’s genocidal fabrications without determining if they have any credibility – willfully abandoning the most basic responsibility of journalism – Western media outlets have made possible the killing of more journalists in two years on one tiny strip of land than in WWI, WWII, and the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, and Ukraine combined, to say nothing of starving an entire population, shredding its children, and burning people alive.

The fact that Anas Al-Sharif’s work won a Pulitzer Prize for Reuters did not compel them to come to his defense when Israeli occupation forces placed him on a “hit list” of journalists accused of being Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants. It did not compel them to come to his defense when he appealed to international media for protection after an Israeli military spokesperson posted a video making clear their intention to assassinate him following a report he did on the growing famine. It did not compel them to report on his death honestly when he was hunted and killed weeks later.

I have valued the work that I brought to Reuters over the past eight years, but at this point I can’t conceive of wearing this press pass with anything but deep shame and grief. I don’t know what it means to begin to honour the courage and sacrifice of journalists in Gaza – the bravest and best to ever live – but going forward I will direct whatever contributions I have to offer with that front of mind.



To the Editor of the Alt-Daily Hampshire Gazette:

On 4/19/25, the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* published an opinion piece by me titled, “The Butcher and the Megalomaniac” about the horrific genocide in Gaza. The *Gazette* then quickly published a letter by Northampton resident Veronica Darmon, in which she falsely quoted me as having written that I “hate” Israel and described my op-ed as “antisemitic vitriol.”

The *Gazette* has refused to publish my response to Ms. Darmon seeking to set the record straight, to clear my name and reputation, and to reiterate that criticizing Israeli policy is not antisemitic. Below, please find my rebuttal of Veronica Darmon. I hope its appearance in the *Alt-Daily Hampshire Gazette* will be in some certain measure a restoration of my standing.

Response to Veronica Darmon’s critique of my op-ed, “The Butcher and the Megalomaniac”:

First: Ms. Darmon used the word “hate” four times to slander me as a radical antisemite, twice using quotation marks to suggest that she was actually quoting me from my April 19 *Gazette* piece: “The Butcher and the Megalomaniac.”

The facts: I never used the word or phrase to which she refers FOUR times. What particularly bothers me, and, I hope, the reader, is that now I have become open to being vilified both in my family’s eyes and also the public’s. My being labeled in this repulsive way was raised and questioned at a recent gathering of fellow peace-activists, one participant going out of her way to phone me that this was so.

Veronica, you should be ashamed of yourself for personally defaming me, and in the eyes of the public, spreading this vicious lie, which I can prove is blatantly false.

Second: A word about this ecumenical clergy person’s history standing with my Jewish sisters and brothers. As far back as 1992, as a minister in Westfield, a rash of antisemitic signs were posted across the city. Together with my high school son, we painted on six foot by six foot plywood, nine candles in menorah-like fashion, signifying the violent Ages of Jewish Persecutions (beginning with the Roman occupation’s desecration of Jerusalem in 70 C.E.). It hung above our front door for an entire year, for all to see, and for many to serve as an education in and of itself.

This prompted my friends at Congregation Ahavas Achim, Westfield, to select me for their Citizen of the Year award the following year, an honor I treasure to this day.

Third: Ms. Darmon mentioned being “shocked” that a person of faith could come to despise hers. Permit me to refer you to a recent mainline news feature on Jake Tapper’s show on CNN, aired on April 30, 2025, where his segment described the dire conditions of the families of Gaza who, for two hellish months, have been unable to receive life-and-death supplies. The segment showed a relief warehouse as huge as an airplane hangar, but as empty as an enormous, abandoned tomb, ready to be occupied. Tapper added that a staggering 500,000, half being children *OF GOD*, will very likely horribly suffer and die for lack of basic human necessities (unless our U.S. rockets do the job first, pulverizing their tents and rubble shelters, hearkening back to our totally unnecessary “shock and awe” blitzkrieg of relatively defenseless Iraq in 2003). CNN interviewed one desperate mother who stared into the camera announcing: “Death would be better!!” than the wretched blockades.

That Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump (the butcher and the megalomaniac of my op-ed’s title) continued allowing Zionist extremists to orchestrate their macabre opus of slow, excruciating slaughter, without interruption, is the true, shocking reality, Veronica. One that all of humanity must come to hate.

— Rev. Peter Kakos, Northampton, member, River Valley for Palestine

Daily Hampshire Gazette Publisher Laughs at Genocide Continued...

During a visit to the *Gazette* office on August 12, Messrs. Crowley and Cain sat down with us and heard our concerns. However, they did not publish an editorial, as requested.

At the meeting, Crowley asked, skeptically, about River Valley for Palestine. Two weeks later, having collected the endorsement of RVP’s requests of the *Gazette* from the ten local organizations listed below, we requested an appointment to meet with Crowley and Cain on August 26. Our phone calls and emails went unanswered, leading us to visit the *Gazette*’s office again on September 5... whereupon we encountered the light-hearted Mr. Palmer.

The people of Gaza continue to die. But on September 5, on the topic of their suffering,

Shawn Palmer shared only dismissive laughter and repeated assertions of disinterest. This is how genocides are made. Across a “great” nation, in small city newsrooms, by small-minded publishers. Through their belief that in their silence (or in their laughter, in Shawn Palmer’s case), lies their neutrality and their protection.

This is deeply shameful. We demand of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*: end your complicity in genocide and the slaughter of journalists.

*River Valley for Palestine
JVP Western Mass (Jewish Voice for Peace)
Demilitarize W. MA | Apartheid-Free W. MA
Easthampton Solidarity with Palestine
Hampshire College FSJP (Faculty & Students for Justice in Palestine) | Veterans for Peace 413
WMSURJ (W. MA Showing Up For Racial Justice)
River Valley DSA (Democratic Socialists of America)
Reimagining Our Safety South Hadley (ROSSH)

Northampton Urged to Cut City Services Continued...

Because a *Gazette* reporter was not at the September 4th council meeting, which is generally the case, the paper did not report on the demand by Laura Bellusci, another Demilitarize W. MA member, that the city follow the intent of a declaration signed by Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra calling for the city to cut ties with any producers of nuclear weapons.

L3Harris’ local plant makes periscopes for U.S. submarines carrying nuclear weapons. Since October 2023, Mottern and other Demilitarize W. MA members have been arrested at protests at the local L3 plant. In articles about these arrests, the *Gazette* routinely asks L3 for comment and gets no response. Rather than demand of L3 executives why they choose to violate U.S. laws and be complicit in genocide, the *Gazette* chooses not to challenge the corporation or to note in every article about L3 that it is listed by the American Friends Service Committee among “Corporations Profiting from the Gaza Genocide” and that it is violating U.S. laws.



Jewish Voice for Peace W. MA protest at L3Harris, Northampton. (Photo: Dave Canton | dcantan/masslive.com/TNS)