

Dear friend,

River Valley for Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace W.MA, and other community organizations have been trying to persuade the leadership of the **Daily Hampshire Gazette** to improve its coverage of the Israeli/U.S. genocide in Gaza and to publish editorials condemning it. We have asked that when the Gazette provides news from Gaza from other media sources, they precede reprinted articles with an editor's caveat that the news piece provided may contain pro-Israel bias and propaganda.

We have not succeeded in persuading the editors and publisher to meet our requests. **The Springfield Republican** and the **Montague Reporter** recently published strong editorials condemning Israel's systematic murders of Gaza's journalists.

Since the Gazette is failing its readership on this topic, we are now publishing an (alt)ernative version of the paper containing material that we wish it **WOULD** include. This is the paper (edition #2) that 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 for Palestinian liberation and for all people fighting empire, militarism, colonization, and exploitation.

River Valley for Palestine ~ rivervalley4palestine@gmail.com

The following is an editorial that River Valley for Palestine wishes the **Daily Hampshire Gazette** would publish:

EDITORIAL

AS OF THIS WRITING: On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, a tentative agreement seemed to have been reached by Hamas and Israeli and U.S. negotiators regarding a ceasefire in Gaza, the exchange of hostages, and resumption of some humanitarian aid. Israeli forces will NOT completely withdraw from Gaza. As a matter of policy, Israel has systematically violated its ceasefire agreements with Hamas and with Lebanon. In losing the leverage it has had in holding the remaining hostages, Hamas will be in a perilous position, taking the enormous gamble of hoping that President Trump will prevent Israel from resuming the annihilation of Gaza.

Earlier on Wednesday, Ziyad Al-Nakhleh, the secretary general of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), appeared in a rare video address, stating: "The resistance is engaged in a fierce negotiating battle under what is called the 'Trump plan,' which also carries within it the declaration that the Palestinian people should completely surrender to the enemy. Even so, the resistance has shown its willingness to negotiate on the basis that there are clauses that can be dealt with positively, first among them the prisoner exchange clause, which could be completed in the coming few days," Al-Nakhleh said. "But we must be prepared to confront the enemy's possible attempts to turn the negotiations into an entry point for the surrender of our people and our resistance. The enemy and its allies must know that we cannot submit to their terms and dictates after all the price in sacrifices that our heroic people have paid."

BACKGROUND: As the people of Gaza approach the third year of the Israeli/U.S. genocide, they find themselves abandoned by the United Nations and by the governments of many countries, particularly those in the West as well as most Arab vassal countries in the Middle East. This despite UN experts finally conceding in September that the Israeli annihilation of Gaza is, in legal fact, a genocide, and the proclamation of Palestinian statehood by a chorus of governments.

Alongside the profound ethical and political importance of the suffering of the people of Gaza is the reality that Palestine's future is about more, even, than the human and national rights of its people. **The future of Gaza and of all of Palestine has become the defining question about the future of humanity.**

Against this backdrop, we are witnessing the latest death waltz of Tel Aviv and Washington, with the Trump 20-point "peace



Sliman Mansour, "Temporary Escape," (هروب مؤقت), oil on canvas, 2018

plan" at its center. In truth, the Trump plan is the latest Netanyahu blueprint for the destruction of Palestine. The plan arrived three weeks after Israel attempted to assassinate Hamas's lead negotiators in Doha, Qatar, and in the midst of unspeakable war crimes throughout Gaza and a laying waste of ancient, civilian-filled Gaza City.

The plan, which is in fact an ultimatum ("accept it or we will 'finish the job'"), was drafted by top Netanyahu advisor Ron Dermer in collaboration with Trump toady Steve Witkoff and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner. **No Palestinian officials from Hamas or any other faction, including the collaborationist Palestinian Authority, were consulted in devising the plan.**

The ultimatum:

- links the delivery of food and other essentials to the maintenance of life, and the withdrawal of genocidal Israeli forces, to the demilitarization of Gaza. (Please read that sentence again and absorb its full humanity-destroying meaning. The U.S. and Israel have normalized starvation and deprivation of civilian medical care as weapons of war.)
- includes loopholes that would allow Israel to resume the genocide.
- would impose a foreign-led authority on the demilitarized Gaza Strip, backed by Arab and international troops, and allow the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to indefinitely encircle the Strip by maintaining positions within it.
- requires Hamas to release all Israeli captives, alive and dead, before any Palestinians would be freed.
- makes no mention of how Israel would be prevented from violating the agreement.
- includes a vague reference to possible future Palestinian "self-determination and statehood" after the "re-development" of Gaza under a "Board for Peace" headed by war criminal President Donald Trump and former UK prime minister and war criminal Tony Blair, and the reformation of the Palestinian Authority.

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What You Can Do To Stop The Genocide

I. Boycott Amazon and Its Subsidiary, Whole Foods

By Jeanne Allen

"Put your money where your mouth is"—or better yet, take your money away from where it doesn't align with your values. Local activists are calling on people to boycott Amazon and its subsidiary Whole Foods because of their profiteering on the backs of the people of Palestine. In our profit-driven society, moral messages do not persuade global companies to stop their partnership in genocide. Economic pressure does. Boycott now and spread the word.

Why boycott Amazon? Amazon is involved, with Google, in Project Nimbus, a \$1.2 billion contract to provide cloud computing services to the Israeli government and military. It includes cloud infrastructure and advanced artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including data analysis, automated image categorization, object tracking, and facial recognition. This plays out as mass surveillance and human rights violations in Occupied Palestine, i.e. the West Bank, east Jerusalem, and Gaza. It allows Israel to target individuals like journalists, medical workers, and people who protest settler violence, and shoot, bomb, or detain them. Amazon has said publicly that they will ensure human rights are not violated through this technology, but they are violated daily. It has taken disciplinary action against at least one employee, an engineer, who spoke out against Project Nimbus.

In the terms for the Project Nimbus contract, Israel included a stipulation prohibiting Amazon and Google from halting services due to boycott pressures. They knew there would be blowback and are determined to get that technology.

Calling for this boycott is part of the "No Tech for Apartheid" movement. Amazon is no longer the online bookstore it started as, nor only the consumer sales behemoth it became. Its tech and web services are highly profitable divisions and largely unseen because they are not consumer-facing. (This technology is used by ICE to target individuals in the U.S.)

Why boycott Whole Foods? Whole Foods is wholly owned by Amazon. There is a store on Rt. 9 in Hadley. **Join us at our Boycott Whole Foods standout each Thursday, 4-5 pm, behind the Jiffy Lube on Rt. 9.**

To learn more, read the report by UN Special Rapporteur for Palestine Francesca Albanese, "From economy of occupation to economy of genocide"; look up the Boycott/Divest/Sanction (BDS) Movement; and read, "Amazon is investing in AI-assisted apartheid in Palestine" in Jacobin.



II. Demand Legislation from Congressman Jim McGovern

By Nick Mottern

Israel, as has been astutely observed, is a U.S. military base masquerading as a country. Congressman Jim McGovern (MA-2), in line with U.S. colonial ambitions, has been a constant supporter of the formidable, nuclear-weapons-equipped military entity. Smack dab in the middle of the world's biggest oil-producing fields, Israel is largely dependent on U.S. weapons and economic support.

As the U.S. and Israel intensified their genocide against the Palestinian people after October 7, 2023 and through the 2024 presidential campaign, McGovern refused to call for a halt to U.S. weapons shipments to Israel, arguing that if President Joe Biden cut off weapons to Israel, Donald Trump would be elected President.

It was only on December 18, 2024, after Trump's election, that McGovern read on the House floor what he described as, "a straightforward message to President Biden," calling for a halt to "offensive" weapons to Israel. McGovern contended that Israel was defending itself against Palestinian attack, despite more than a year of Israel's genocidal military campaigns in Gaza.

Today, McGovern continues to describe the U.S. as helping a beleaguered Israel to defend itself, voting against U.S. shipment of certain "offensive" weapons to Israel, such as bombs, while voting for sending Israel "defensive" weapons such as air defense missiles. Congressman McGovern refuses to recognize that these so-called "defensive" weapons are part of a military, diplomatic, and economic shield intended to protect Israel while it wildly and illegally launches ground and air attacks against Gaza, Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, and Syria.

Please demand that McGovern introduce the following legislation to stop the genocide, achieve justice and liberation for the Palestinian people, and end the sick colonial relationship between the U.S. and Israel:

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The Scale of Devastation in Gaza

UNRWA (UN Relief & Works Agency, established in 1949, whose stated purpose is to protect and help Palestinian refugees), has published a factsheet marking two years since Israel's war on Gaza, detailing the scale of destruction and humanitarian impact imposed by Israel:

- About 80 percent of structures across Gaza damaged or destroyed
- 845 people killed while sheltering in UNRWA facilities
- More than 370 UNRWA staff members killed
- More than 790 attacks on health workers and medical infrastructure
- Only four out of 22 UNRWA health centers operational
- More than 98 percent of cropland damaged or inaccessible
- Nearly 90 percent of water and sanitation assets destroyed or damaged
- 500,000 women and girls lack menstrual hygiene materials
- More than 60 percent of households have no access to soap
- Over 40 percent of families live near uncollected waste
- 660,000 children out of school for a third consecutive year
- 92 percent of school buildings need full reconstruction or major rehabilitation
- About 90 percent of UNRWA schools destroyed or damaged
- More than 500,000 children received psychosocial support prior to Israel's ban on UNRWA activities in Gaza



Congressman Jim McGovern, MA-2

EDITORIAL Continued...

• requires the “deradicalization” and complete disarmament of Hamas... as if the perpetration of a sustained genocide were not, in fact, radical.

In touting the plan at a White House press conference, Netanyahu immediately asserted that any pushback on the plan by Hamas would lead Israel to resume the genocide and “finish the job.” Trump underscored his submission to Netanyahu by echoing that Israel would have his full support in “finishing the job and destroying the threat of Hamas.”

Trump gave Hamas three to four days to accept the plan in full. Meanwhile, in the days and nights following the press conference, and following Hamas’s agreement to release all hostages, Israel redoubled its bombing of the entire Gaza Strip using U.S. weapons, with barely a whimper of protest from Trump. In the same period, Israel, with no comment by the Trump administration, committed piracy in international waters by intercepting and kidnapping the courageous activists of the Global Sumud Flotilla. Genocidaire Ben-Gvir boasted about their treatment as “terrorists” while in illegal Israeli custody.

Hamas was given no details of the ultimatum prior to its unveiling. “Not a single Palestinian has reviewed this plan... it amounts to a continuation of the war and annihilation. Nothing more, nothing less,” said senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Mardawi. “To negotiate an end to this criminal war in exchange for ending the Palestinian people’s right to their state and their rights to their land, homeland, and holy sites—no Palestinian will accept that.”

Indeed, the Trump-Netanyahu ultimatum constitutes a demand for abject surrender, future enslavement of the people of Gaza, renunciation of Palestinian human rights and political sovereignty, and renunciation of accountability for the war crimes committed during the genocide. All this, *despite (in fact, because of)*, the failure of Israel to achieve any of its stated military aims in Gaza.

In the days following the press conference, in yet another grotesque betrayal of fundamental human rights and the rule of law, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres joined Western and Arab leaders in praising the ultimatum as a legitimate path to peace.

After conducting an intense series of meetings among Palestinian factions and regional mediators to formulate the Palestinian response to the Gaza ultimatum, Hamas officials found an elegant way to appear positive regarding certain of the plan’s requirements that they had already repeatedly agreed to – handing over all Israeli hostages and ceding Hamas governance of the Strip – while objecting to Israeli plans to continue its war of annihilation if Hamas did not agree to the ultimatum wholesale. Mohammad Nazzal, veteran Hamas official said, “This plan is not Trump’s plan; it is an Israeli plan. I say this with deep regret: the United States of America acts as an agent of the Zionist entity.”

Hamas made clear that there must be actual negotiations rather than a one-sided acceptance of Israeli edicts. As of this writing, it remains to be seen whether any permanent or temporary relief for the people of Gaza emerges from the ongoing farce of Israeli and Western “peace-seeking” in the Strip.

For a twentieth-century colony and U.S. military base to be maintained through genocidal violence in the twenty-first century is unspeakable and unspeakably dangerous for the future of us all. The genocide of Gaza has revealed the deep-seated corruption of Western notions of democracy, justice, and international law and the corruption of leaders of financial, academic, corporate, and religious institutions actively or passively enabling the genocide.

Humanity’s future lies in Palestine’s future. It lies in whether mass mobilization of the world’s peoples can succeed in bringing down the corruptions of capitalist, militarist, white-supremacist empire.

We urge our readers not to be passive observers of this struggle.

— Written by Alt-Daily Hampshire Gazette editorial board member Jennifer Scarlott

Demand Legislation Continued...

Clip and mail to:
Congressman Jim McGovern
307 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Please introduce Congressional legislation to accomplish the following. I understand that passage may not be immediate but setting these goals and winning them are essential to achieving a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the other Occupied Territories and to restoring human rights, land, and freedom to the Palestinian people.

Name _____

Address _____

• Ban, indefinitely, the shipment of weapons, weapons parts, and technological services, including cloud and surveillance technology and support, to Israel by the U.S. government and any corporation with business operations in the U.S. or U.S. territories.

• Withdraw, indefinitely, all U.S. military and intelligence personnel from Israel and ban any further U.S. military and intelligence support to Israel.

• Ban all business dealings by U.S. corporations with Israel, including financial and academic institutions, until there is a permanent ceasefire and Israel has ended its illegal occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and east Jerusalem. According to UN General Assembly Resolution ES-15/24, which was decisively adopted on September 18, 2024, by a vote of 124 in favor, 14 against, and 43 abstentions, Israel was mandated to complete its withdrawal from the Occupied Territories by September 18, 2025.

• Establish a Congressional Truth and Reconciliation Commission that will investigate and name all U.S. government and corporate officials who have, since October 7, 2023:

(a) violated the Leahy Law and other U.S. laws barring the shipment of weapons to gross violators of human rights by permitting shipment of U.S. weapons to Israel

(b) violated the U.S. War Crimes Act of 1996, in concert with various corporate officials, by collaborating with Israel to commit genocide against the Palestinian people. Corporate officials would be identified using a variety of sources including the report of Francesca Albanese, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, “From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide,” and the American Friends Service Committee report, “Companies Profiting from the Gaza Genocide.”

(c) The commission, patterned to some degree after South Africa's post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission, could: hold hearings to enable victims to share their stories; grant amnesty to some perpetrators who confessed fully; refer cases to the Justice Department and the International Court of Justice for further investigation and prosecution that involve incidents of gross human rights violations such as murder, torture, enforced disappearance, kidnapping and genocide; and make legally binding findings for reparations and rehabilitation to victims, including the complete restoration of buildings and infrastructure destroyed by Israel.

(d) The Congressional commission would go further than the South African commission in aggressively pursuing prosecution of gross human rights violators and ensuring that reparations and rehabilitation are swiftly dispatched to victims.

NOTE: On October 7, 2025, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced that she, her defense and foreign ministers, and probably the head of the Italian military contractor Leonardo, had had complaints filed against them with the International Criminal Court (ICC), charging them with complicity in genocide for supporting Israel's actions in Gaza. The 50 or so signing the complaint included law professors, lawyers, and several public figures.

Northampton City Council Stands with the Palestinian People
By Zain Salim and Alex Pinkowish, Hampshire College SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine)

We applaud the Northampton City Council’s unanimous decision on September 18 to approve a resolution that would result in the city divesting from several companies, some based in Israel and some based outside of Israel, involved in apartheid in Palestine. This is not a blanket boycott of Israel. The resolution does not target every Israeli company or every company doing business with Israel; only those most involved in apartheid (including RTX, Lockheed Martin, and Palantir). Those who believe otherwise are encouraged to read the resolution before criticizing it.

This resolution is a huge milestone in the struggle for Palestinian human rights and fulfills Northampton’s obligation to Palestinian-Americans residing in the city. We celebrate the efforts of Northampton residents who brought this resolution to the table.

At the same time, we feel obliged to respond to critics who ask why the resolution singles out Israel’s human rights violations when countless other countries have egregious human rights violations. It’s necessary to single out Israel’s crimes for the same reason that it’s necessary to say, “Black Lives Matter.” Just as the phrase “Black lives matter” means “Black lives matter too” rather than “Black lives matter more,” explicitly mentioning Israel in our investment policy has the effect of signaling that “Israel’s human rights violations matter too”, not that “Israel’s human rights violations matter more.” Just as Black Americans have been treated for centuries as if their lives don’t matter, Israel’s violations of Palestinians’ human rights have been ignored for decades as if Palestinian lives don’t matter.

This contrasts starkly with human rights violations in China and Russia and other countries, which *have* been criticized by the U.S. government and other liberal democracies, resulting in sanctions. Criticizing the resolution by asking, “What about Sudan? What about North Korea?” is like responding to “Black lives matter” with “all lives matter.” Yes, all lives matter. Yes, all human rights violations matter. But domestically it’s Black people whose rights have been most curtailed and globally it’s *Israeli* human rights violations that have been most ignored by the U.S.

The U.S. government refuses to stand up for the rights of Palestinians which is why it’s incumbent upon municipal governments and ordinary citizens to do so and to divest from companies complicit in apartheid. Alleging that this is anti-Semitic is like alleging that saying, “Black lives matter” is Black supremacist; it’s false and represents a profound misunderstanding.

- CONNECTING WITH PALESTINE IN WESTERN MA:
- » See the W MA Coalition for Palestine calendar for local standouts & events: <https://tinyurl.com/4zxjetvc>
 - » To sign up to receive weekly newsletters detailing action for Palestine, email to: W MA SURJ: westernmasssurj@gmail.com & JVP W MA: westernmass@jewishvoiceforpeace.com
 - » Recommended reading: The Electronic Intifada, Mondoweiss, Drop Site News



A Global Sumud Flotilla boat, late September 2025

First Churches of Northampton
Raises Funds for Gaza’s Sumud School

By Ruth Moushabeck

On Saturday October 4, an interfaith benefit concert for the children of Gaza called “No Other People’s Children” was held at First Churches in Northampton. Organized by The Rev. Peter Kakos and The Rev. Diane Johnson, Chair of the Peace and Justice Action Team, music was provided by Layaali Arabic Music Ensemble and Tony Silva and Fiesta Rumbera with Michel Moushabeck on percussion for both bands which joined together at the end resulting in dancing in the aisles!

Moroccan author and poet Yasin Adnan read poetry from Gaza and Mare Berger played her beautiful compositions.

Muslim, Jewish, and Christian prayers of peace were offered by Dr. M. Saleem Bajwa, Rabbi Simcha Halpert-Hanson, and The Rev. Sarah Buteaux and The Rev. Dr. Peter Kakos.

Ruth Moushabeck updated the audience about the Sumud School: “Early last month, the Israeli military started dropping threatening leaflets across Gaza City telling people to leave – and the bombing increased substantially. Nevertheless, plans for the new academic year went ahead. Teachers were interviewed and hired and given training sessions. Four hundred and fifty students were registered. Children were photographed holding their registration certificates with pride and determination shining from their faces. On September 10th the bombing became so bad that Enaam, founder of the School, was forced to move the school once again. She and her family are now in Deir el-Balah but she is recruiting teachers and organizing a festival to register students and help their morale. ‘Sumud School will continue to operate no matter what the circumstances,’ Enaam said. The school is a miracle of survival, hope and belief in the power of education.”

Scan code to donate to Friends of Sumud School

