

**Students
for
Justice in
Palestine:**

**A Campus
Front for
 Hamas
 Terrorists**

By John Perazzo

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Introduction

Founded at UC Berkeley in October of 2000,¹ Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is the most influential and most radical anti-Israel organization in American higher education, with chapters at approximately 200 U.S. colleges and universities.² SJP defines its mission as “promot[ing] the cause of justice,” “speak[ing] out against oppression,” and “educat[ing] members of our community specifically about the plight of the Palestinian people” at the hands of alleged Israeli depravities, in hopes that “one day [the Palestinians] will be free from occupation, free from fear, free from poverty, and ... able to determine their own fate.”³ The real agenda of SJP, however, is not justice for Palestinians but support for the Hamas terrorists who seek to end Israel’s existence as a sovereign Jewish state.

SJP literature fails to mention that Palestinians live under the direct rule of two dictatorial terrorist regimes in the West Bank and Gaza, which receive

¹<http://tinyurl.com/jfq5zrl> ; <http://tinyurl.com/hn6bcc2>

² <http://www.amchainitiative.org/sjp-chapters>

³ https://www.facebook.com/sjpal/info/?tab=page_info

more than a billion dollars annually in funding from the United States and Europe.⁴ What many of the campus groups that support SJP also fail to recognize, notes the Jewish News Service (JNS), is that “the ‘Palestine’ that SJP defends is not only anti-Semitic, but also misogynistic, homophobic, racist, anti-Christian, and fascist.” That is, “SJP defends a place where women are subject to honor killings” and other acts of violence, and where homosexuals and all “members of the LGBTQ community face persecution, torture, and death.”⁵ “SJP does not discuss these injustices,” adds JNS, “nor do they care when Hamas murders opponents and drags them through the street. In SJP’s mind, none of this matters, because ‘Israel is the oppressor.’”

SJP was created in 2000 by Hamas supporter Hatem Bazian and pro-Hamas activist Snehal Shingavi, a member of the International Socialist Organization, to wage a campus war against Israel on behalf of Hamas.⁶ Bazian has quoted approvingly from

⁴ <http://tinyurl.com/o4c5bgm>; <http://tinyurl.com/no98kw5>

⁵ <http://tinyurl.com/jb8cy6a>

⁶ <http://tinyurl.com/jdc5sac>

a famous Islamic hadith which calls for the violent slaughter of Jews and which appears in Hamas's founding charter. In 1999, Bazian said, for instance: "In the Hadith, the Day of Judgment will never happen until you fight the Jews. They are on the west side of the river, which is the Jordan River, and you're on the east side until the trees and stones will say, oh Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me. Come and kill him! And that's in the Hadith about this, this is a future battle before the Day of Judgment."⁷ Bazian once spoke at a fundraising dinner for KindHearts for Charitable Humanitarian Development, a Hamas front group that the U.S. government later shut down because of the organization's ties to Islamic terrorism. On another occasion he portrayed Hamas as "a classical anti-colonial nationalist and religious guerrilla movement."⁸ In 2004, Bazian notoriously

⁷ Islam scholar Robert Spencer has shown that variations of this apocalyptic vision run through the hadith collections of Sahih Muslim (Book 41, nos. 6980-86) and Bukhari (4.52.176 & 177, and 4.56.791); <http://tinyurl.com/jxjf428>; <http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>; <http://tinyurl.com/hl2lwt9>

⁸ <http://www.campus-watch.org/article/id/5425>; <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/Articles/Muslin%20Hate%20Groups.pdf>

called for an “intifada in this country” (the United States),⁹ and he later described Hamas’s victory in the 2006 Gaza elections as “a monumental event.”¹⁰

Hamas’s founding charter denounces “the Nazism of the Jews” and states explicitly that “Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.” Further, it claims that peace initiatives “are all contrary to the beliefs of the Islamic Resistance Movement”; that “there is no solution to the Palestinian problem except by Jihad”; and that “war for the sake of Allah” is a noble venture that requires the faithful to “assault and kill” on a massive scale.¹¹

Notwithstanding this agenda of mass murder and genocide, the website of SJP’s UC Berkeley chapter describes Hamas not as a terrorist group (as U.S. and European governments classify it), but rather, in

⁹ <http://www.campus-watch.org/article/id/11850>

¹⁰ <http://tinyurl.com/jdc5sac>

¹¹ <http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>; <http://fas.org/irp/world/para/docs/880818.htm>; <http://tinyurl.com/j37k3lq>

antiseptic language, as “a vast social organization” that “provides schools, medical care, and day care for a number of Palestinians who otherwise live difficult lives”; a group with a “clean record as far as domestic corruption in governance [is] concerned”; and an entity whose “officials have often stated that they are ready for a long-term truce with Israel during which time final status negotiations can occur.”¹²

The Direct Hamas Link: American Muslims for Palestine

SJP’s solicitude for Hamas terrorists is the result of formal ties as well as political affinity. Operating through an organization called American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), Hamas is the most significant and influential supporter of SJP. The stated mission of American Muslims for Palestine, also established in 2005 by SJP co-founder Hatem Bazian, is to propagandize the public about: “the just cause of Palestine and the rights of self-determination, liberty and justice”; how American “tax dollars support the longest-

¹² <http://calsjp.org/key-issues/general-background/>

lasting ... military occupation [by Israel] in modern history”; and “how the people of Palestine have been living ... for decades” under an Israeli “occupation” characterized by “flagrant and continual violations of international law,” “human rights abuses,” and “ethnic cleansing.”¹³

AMP is arguably the most important sponsor and organizer for [SJP],” writes Jonathan Schanzer, vice president of research at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. “AMP provides speakers, training, printed materials, a so-called ‘Apartheid Wall,’ and [financial] grants to SJP activists. AMP even has a campus coordinator on staff whose job is to work directly with SJP and other anti-Israel campus groups across the country. According to an email it sent to subscribers, AMP spent \$100,000 on campus activities in 2014 alone.”¹⁴

AMP’s status as a front for the terrorist

¹³ <http://tinyurl.com/h48kd5x>; <http://tinyurl.com/9btdqvu>; <http://tinyurl.com/jpdf7qq>; <http://tinyurl.com/zyjjxuc/>; <http://tinyurl.com/jbdt68>

¹⁴ <http://tinyurl.com/jfqwuho>

organization Hamas is reflected in its organizational make-up. At least eight of its current board members, key officials and close allies were previously members or employees of now-defunct Islamic extremist groups that were funders of Hamas.¹⁵ These groups included the Palestine Committee of the Muslim Brotherhood (established by the Brotherhood to advance Hamas's agendas in the U.S.);¹⁶ the Islamic Association for Palestine (founded by senior Hamas operative Mousa Abu Marzook to serve as the chief U.S. propaganda and recruitment arm of Hamas);¹⁷ the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (which from 1995-2001 contributed approximately \$12.4 million in money, goods, and services to Hamas);¹⁸ and KindHearts for Charitable Humanitarian Development (a Hamas

¹⁵<http://tinyurl.com/jr8x3ll>; <http://tinyurl.com/jfqwuho>

¹⁶ <http://tinyurl.com/hx6e8sq>; <https://counterjihadreport.com/category/american-muslims-for-palestine/>

¹⁷ <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/groupProfile.asp?grpId=6215>

¹⁸ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/federal-judge-hands-downs-sentences-holy-land-foundation-case>

fundraising entity).¹⁹

Over the years, AMP has received donations from groups whose members, affiliates, or associates had ties to terrorist organizations like Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Qassam Brigades (Hamas’s military arm), and al-Qaeda.²⁰

In March 2014, AMP was one of six major national American Islamic groups that collaborated to form a coalition called the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), whose stated purpose was to “serve as a representative voice for Muslims as that faith community seeks to enhance its positive impact on society.” The other five USCMO members were the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the Muslim American Society (MAS), the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), the Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA), and the Mosque

¹⁹ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/299.pdf>

²⁰ <http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/262640/bds-movements-terror-ties-ari-lieberman>

Foundation. According to the Investigative Project on Terrorism, three of USCMO’s members—AMP, CAIR and MAS—“have roots in the Muslim Brotherhood or in ... the Palestine Committee.”²¹ The Muslim Brotherhood is “the parent organization of Hamas and al-Qaeda.”²²

At its annual conference in 2014, AMP showed its true colors by inviting participants to “come and navigate the fine line between legal activism and material support for terrorism.”²³

SJP and Terrorism

Not surprisingly, given these roots and sponsorships, SJP’s rank-and-file members support Islamic terrorism. As a Columbia University SJP member said in 2002: “We support the right of Palestinians to resist occupation and do not dictate

²¹ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/4890/islamist-groups-join-forces-to-lobby-congress>

²² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J34Ub8q2niE>

²³ <http://tinyurl.com/h84jjn9>

the methods of that struggle. There's a difference between violence of the oppressed and violence of the oppressors."²⁴ That same year, SJP's national convention at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor was sponsored by the Islamic Association for Palestine, a now-defunct, Illinois-based front group for Hamas. The conference featured keynote speaker Sami Al-Arian, a former University of South Florida professor (later indicted by the federal government for supporting terror groups) who served as the North American leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, an organization whose objectives include the destruction of Israel, the elimination of all Western influences in the Middle East by means of an armed jihad, and the welding of all Muslim countries into a single Islamic caliphate.²⁵

SJP routinely denounces Israeli self-defense measures as assaults on the civil

²⁴ <http://www.villagevoice.com/news/tipping-toward-hate-6413513>

²⁵ <http://archive.frontpagemag.com/Printable.aspx?ArtId=20854>

and human rights of Palestinians, rather than acknowledging that those measures are a response to Palestinian terror attacks. For example, in a September 2014 “vigil” at Binghamton University in honor of Palestinians who had been killed in Operation Protective Edge—Israel’s military response to constant Hamas rocket attacks on Israeli civilians—SJP member Victoria Brown told the campus newspaper that her group’s goal was to “commemorate” and “humanize” the Palestinian “children, women and innocent civilians who were massacred” by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).²⁶ She made no mention of the fact that the IDF’s actions were in response to a massive barrage of deadly rockets—more than 11,000 total since 2006²⁷—that Hamas terrorists had been firing indiscriminately into southern Israel, resulting in a reign of terror responsible for 38 Israeli deaths.²⁸

²⁶ <http://www.bupipedream.com/news/37336/sjp-pro-israel-groups-rally-on-the-spine/>

²⁷ <https://www.idfblog.com/facts-figures/rocket-attacks-toward-israel/>

²⁸ <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/07/rocket-deaths-israel/>

On another occasion, New York City's SJP created posters praising the Palestinian terrorist Leila Khaled, who in September 1970 had participated in the hijacking of five jetliners, for "committing her life to be a freedom fighter in the struggle for Palestinian liberation."²⁹

In a similar spirit, a number of SJP chapters hold annual commemorations in honor of the late Hassan Al-Banna,³⁰ founder of the Muslim Brotherhood. Al-Banna was an inveterate Jew-hater who had *Mein Kampf* translated into Arabic and attempted to forge a formal alliance with Hitler and Mussolini when World War II broke out. Al-Banna not only opposed the idea of a Jewish state, but called for its destruction in advance of its creation out of the ruins of the Turkish empire in 1948.³¹ Al-Banna was also the mentor of

²⁹ <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/Articles/Muslin%20Hate%20Groups.pdf>; <https://nycsjp.wordpress.com/>

³⁰ <http://tinyurl.com/jyjr8g9>; <http://canadafreepress.com/images/uploads/StudentsforJusticeInPalestine.pdf>

³¹ <http://media0.terrorismawareness.org/files/NaziRoots.pdf>

Haj Amin Al-Husseni, the pro-Hitler father of Palestinian nationalism.

The same attitude is evident in the opinions of campus leaders of SJP in the United States. Former Northeastern University SJP leader Max Geller, a Jew, drew much attention to himself and his cause by proudly donning a headband that bore the emblem of Palestinian Islamic Jihad; posing for a photograph while holding a machine gun and a bullet belt during a friendly visit with Palestinian terrorists in the West Bank; and posting online pictures of himself wearing T-shirts adorned with the flag of the Lebanese Islamic terror group Hezbollah and its leader, Hassan Nasrallah.³² A staunch advocate of Palestinian suicide bombings, Nasrallah has described Israel as a “cancerous entity” of “ultimate evil” whose very existence is “both unjust and unlawful.” He claims, further, that “the Jews invented the legend of the Nazi atrocities,” and asserts that “if Jews all gather

³² <https://canarymission.org/individuals/max-geller/>; <http://tinyurl.com/jfq5zrl>; <http://tinyurl.com/gq3gy2j>

in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide.”³³

Another high-profile former member of SJP, Rutgers University’s Charlotte Kates, stated: “I do not believe apartheid, colonial settler states [i.e., Israel] have a right to exist.” Moreover, she invited members of Hamas to speak on her campus and flatly refused to condemn the practice of suicide bombing, saying: “Why is there something particularly horrible about ‘suicide bombing,’ except for the extreme dedication conveyed in the resistance fighter’s willingness to use his or her own body to fight?”³⁴

In 2012, Cornell University’s SJP issued a publication featuring a logo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist organization that embraces “a revolutionary understanding of Marxism” and views the

³³ http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=7&x_issue=11&x_article=1158; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPcap/2000-02/20/003r-022000-idx.html>; <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/218207/eradication-first-michael-rubin>; http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/23/books/the-enemy-within.html?_r=0

³⁴ <http://www.campus-watch.org/article/id/12944>

“liberation” of Palestine as a key component of Communism’s worldwide ascendancy.³⁵

Just as SJP has often celebrated Islamic extremists and terrorists, so has it been the object of their praise. In a September 2014 speech at Cooper Union in New York, for instance, Palestinian Authority dictator Mahmoud Abbas referred to members of SJP as “seeds of peace.” Likening them to “the young people” who in previous generations had protested in civil rights, anti-war, and anti-apartheid demonstrations, Abbas exhorted SJP activists and their ideological allies to use their powers of persuasion “to convince the American people to rethink Palestine.”³⁶ A longtime ally of Yasser Arafat, who was the most prolific Jew-killer since Adolf Hitler, Abbas, in 1982 at People’s Friendship University in the USSR, completed a PhD

³⁵ <http://campus.zoa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/08/FACT-SHEET-SJP---s-Connections-to-Terrorism.pdf>; <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Terrorism/pflp.html>

³⁶ <http://www.seedsofpeace.org/palestinian-president-mahmoud-abbas-seeds-of-peace-is-the-future/>

thesis promoting Holocaust denial.³⁷ In his activism and governance since then, Abbas has never recognized Israel's legitimacy as a Jewish state; has made it explicitly clear that any calls for the dismantling of Islamic terrorist groups represent a "red line" that should not be crossed; has denounced Israel as "the Zionist enemy"; has offered prayers for "the souls of the martyrs" who died for the cause of killing Jews; has invoked Palestinians' "legitimate right to direct our guns against Israeli occupation"; has praised Hezbollah as an ideal embodiment of "Arab resistance"; and has vowed that "if there is an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, we won't agree to the presence of one Israeli in it."³⁸

³⁷ <http://archive.frontpagemag.com/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=1088>

³⁸ <http://archive.frontpagemag.com/Printable.aspx?ArtId=31702>; <http://archive.frontpagemag.com/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=2310>; <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/abbas-calls-israel-zionist-enemy/>; <http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Abbas-Aim-guns-against-occupation>; <http://tinyurl.com/kagdf55>

SJP's Role In The Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions Movement

SJP is America's leading campus promoter of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, a Hamas-inspired and funded (through AMP) initiative that aims to use various forms of public protest and economic pressure to advance the Hamas agenda of Israel's destruction.³⁹ As the Anti-Defamation League's former national director, Abraham Foxman, has put it, SJP is "the main organizing force behind the [BDS] campaigns" on U.S. college campuses.⁴⁰ Similarly, Jonathan Schanzer of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies calls SJP "the most visible arm of the BDS campaign on campuses in the United States."⁴¹ And *NGO Monitor* describes SJP as "the organization most directly responsible for creating a hostile campus

³⁹ <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=250>; <http://jcpa.org/unmasking-bds/>

⁴⁰ <http://forward.com/news/israel/308236/the-guerilla-political-warriors-on-campus/>

⁴¹ <http://tinyurl.com/jfqwuho>

environment saturated with anti-Israel events, BDS initiatives, and speakers.”⁴²

While Hamas pursues the destruction of Israel by means of terrorism and bloodshed, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign complements those efforts by pushing three agendas designed to cripple Israel’s economy and bring the nation to its knees politically: (1) coordinated boycotts that aim to intimidate and coerce corporations and individuals into breaking off their business relationships with Israel; (2) resolutions designed to force banks, pension funds, corporations, and other entities to withdraw financial investments they may have made in the state of Israel or in companies that operate there; and (3) targeted sanctions—such as trade penalties or bans, arms embargoes, and the severing of diplomatic ties—imposed by governments around the world against Israel.⁴³

⁴² http://www.ngo-monitor.org/nm/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Campus-BDS_FINAL-2.pdf

⁴³ <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/key-issues/bds/about/>; <http://jcpa.org/unmasking-bds/>

Using these tactics, SJP and its allies in the BDS movement seek to lay the ideological groundwork for the creation of the false impression that Israel has illegally and immorally usurped large swaths of land that rightfully belong to the Palestinians; the depiction of Israel as a habitual human-rights violator guilty of subjecting its Palestinian neighbors to brutal campaigns of “apartheid,” “ethnic cleansing,” “war crimes,” “crimes against humanity,” and “genocide”; the likening of Israeli public officials and soldiers to “Nazis,” and Gaza to a “concentration camp” or “ghetto”; the delegitimizing of Israel and the questioning of its right to exist as a sovereign state; and promotion of the idea that this “illegitimate” Jewish state should be replaced by an Arab-majority alternative. As *NGO Monitor* puts it, the effectiveness of BDS campaigns is rooted chiefly “in their ability to penetrate the public and political discourse and blur the lines between legitimate criticism of Israel and the complete delegitimization of Israel in the international arena.”⁴⁴

⁴⁴ <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/key-issues/bds/bds-and-antisemitism/>; <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/key-issues/bds/about/>

Characterizing Israel as a habitual human-rights violator, SJP exhorts American college students to help punish Israel by demanding, in accordance with BDS principles, that their schools divest their financial assets from any companies—e.g., Starbucks, General Electric, Disney, and scores of others—that conduct business there. Indeed, SJP is the campus group most active in bringing divestment resolutions to votes in front of student governments. Its chapters have sponsored many of the nearly 70 divestment campaigns that have been pursued on U.S. college campuses to date.⁴⁵

SJP & The Palestinian “Right-of-Return”

One of SJP’s other leading priorities is to bring about the “recognition and implementation of the Right-of-Return for all Palestinian refugees and their descendants.” By SJP’s telling, Israel’s birth on May 15, 1948 was followed immediately by a war in which “Zionist militia groups violently took

⁴⁵ <http://archive.frontpagemag.com/Printable.aspx?ArtId=20854>; <http://tinyurl.com/gqu8f4x>; <http://tinyurl.com/o3d8agc>; <http://tinyurl.com/jlmbybu>

over the land” and “committed mass atrocities that led to the expulsion of approximately 700,000 indigenous Palestinians from their homes.” Following its Hamas mentors, SJP refers to this alleged expulsion as *Al-Nakba*—Arabic for “The Catastrophe.” Each year, on or around May 15, numerous SJP chapters across the United States mournfully commemorate the anniversary of *Al-Nakba*.⁴⁶

But SJP’s version of the events of 1948 is not only deceptive but false. In 1948 “Palestine” was a geographical designation like “New England,” not an ethnic or governmental one. There were no Arabs claiming to be Palestinians, an identification only adopted years later. Israel was created on land that belonged to the Turks, who are not Arabs, for the prior 400 years. Even more important, the SJP narrative fails to mention the fact that

⁴⁶ <http://calsjp.org/about-2/>; <http://calsjp.org/key-issues/>; <http://calsjp.org/key-issues/refugees-right-of-return/>; <http://tinyurl.com/8hn6bfl>; <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/refugees.html>; <http://tinyurl.com/z6b9dax>; <http://tinyurl.com/htksvpd>

on the very day of Israel's creation, five Arab armies joined forces in a war of annihilation designed to wipe the nascent state off the face of the earth and to expel or exterminate its entire Jewish population. Nor does SJP propaganda make mention of the 600,000 Jews who themselves were expelled from Arab countries all over the Middle East, where they and their ancestors had lived for hundreds, even thousands, of years. Neither does it acknowledge that the vast majority of the Arabs who fled their homes (472,000, according to UN statistics) did so in response to calls from the invading Arab armies who assured them they would be allowed to return after the Jews had been wiped out.⁴⁷

Based on this false narrative of Palestinian expulsion, SJP supports the Fatah-Hamas demand of a “Right-of-Return” to Israel by approximately 5 million Arabs who are now scattered throughout some 58 refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank.

⁴⁷ <http://tinyurl.com/gljc6sd>; <http://tinyurl.com/ysc6yo>

This 5 million is ten times greater than the number of Arabs who actually left the fledgling Jewish state in 1948, because it includes not only those original refugees but also several generations of their descendants, 90 percent of whom have never lived for even a moment in territorial Israel. These are in effect fictional refugees whose “return” would swamp and effectively submerge the existing Jewish state (which is exactly the reason that Hamas demands that this “right” be acknowledged).⁴⁸

Smearing Israel As An “Apartheid State”

Another element of SJP’s campaign against the Jews is propaganda that routinely smears Israel as “this generation’s South Africa,” and asserts that Israel, like pre-Mandela South Africa, is an “apartheid state” controlling the indigenous Palestinian population by an elaborate system of

⁴⁸ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3313/sjp-dialogue-goes-nowhere>; <http://tinyurl.com/pp7kaax>; <http://discoverthenetworks.org/guides/Why%20Israel%20Is%20The%20Victim.htm>

discrimination.⁴⁹ Mitchell Bard, executive director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, dismantles this assertion by pointing out, among other things, that “it is illegal for employers [in Israel] to discriminate on the basis of race”; that “Arab citizens of Israel are represented in all walks of Israeli life” (including positions as senior diplomats, government officials, and Supreme Court judges); and that “Israel allows freedom of movement, assembly and speech” for all its citizens, Jew and non-Jew alike.⁵⁰ The author, broadcaster, and scholar Dennis Prager amplifies Bard’s observations by noting that “Arabs in Israel live freer lives than Arabs living anywhere in the Arab world,” and that “no Arab in any Arab country has the civil rights and personal liberty that Arabs in Israel enjoy.” Anticipating and answering a likely objection, Prager adds: “Now, one might counter: ‘Yes, Palestinians who live inside Israel have all these rights, but what about the Palestinians who live in

⁴⁹ <http://archive.frontpagemag.com/Printable.aspx?ArtId=20854>; <http://calsjp.org/about-2/>

⁵⁰ <http://israeldefender.com/?p=1078>

what are known as the occupied territories? Aren't they treated differently?' Yes, of course they are—they are not citizens of Israel. They are governed by either the Palestinian Authority (Fatah) or by Hamas. The control Israel has over these people's lives is largely manifested when they want to enter Israel. Then they are subjected to long lines and strict searches, because Israel must weed out potential terrorists.”⁵¹

But SJP typically ignores the undisputable fact of Palestinian terrorism and describes “the checkpoints and other impediments to movement” in the West Bank designed to thwart terrorists, as ugly hallmarks of “an apartheid regime” that seeks “to control all activity” in the region and to “collectively punish the entire Palestinian population.”⁵²

By SJP's reckoning, yet another manifestation of Israeli “apartheid” is the Jewish state's construction in the West Bank

⁵¹ <http://www.dennisprager.com/israel----an-apartheid-state/>

⁵² <http://calsjp.org/key-issues/occupation-and-realities/>

of a lengthy security barrier which, according to SJP, amounts to nothing more than a “land grab” aimed at advancing “the continued dispossession of Palestinians from their lands” by an expanding Israeli state. “For most Palestinians,” adds SJP, this “Apartheid Wall” “devalues and dehumanizes the Palestinian population”; “is connected to a larger system of inequality, discrimination, control and oppression that is central to the Israeli occupation of Palestine”; “is producing an open-air prison whose gates only Israel has the key to”; and “is the manifestation of the continued colonization of Palestinian land and society.”⁵³

Absent from SJP’s rhetoric is any mention of the historical context in which the construction of the barrier was originally authorized. As Mitchell Bard explains: “From September 2000 to mid-2005, hundreds of Palestinian suicide bombings and terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians killed nearly 1,000 innocent people and wounded thousands of others. In response, Israel’s government decided to construct a security fence that would run near

⁵³ <http://calsjp.org/key-issues/apartheid-wall/>

the ‘Green Line’ between Israel and the West Bank to prevent Palestinian terrorists from easily infiltrating into Israel proper.... Since construction of the fence began [in August 2003], the number of attacks has declined by more than 90%.”⁵⁴

The Hamas-Inspired “Anti Normalization” Campaign

Viewing the Arab-Israeli conflict as a zero-sum game, SJP views any sort of compromise with Israel as fundamentally counterproductive. As one SJP student puts it: “This is not a conflict between two equal and opposite parties.... You have an occupier, you have the occupied. And you have the oppressors and you have the oppressed.”⁵⁵

This is the Hamas view of the conflict. And like Hamas, numerous SJP chapters conduct “anti-normalization” campaigns predicated on the notion that any type

⁵⁴ <http://tinyurl.com/26rtzm>

⁵⁵ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3313/sjp-dialogue-goes-nowhere>

of dialog Palestinians hold with Israelis will not only help to “whitewash” Israel’s public image, but also amounts to a tacit admission that the pro-Israel side merits at least some measure of formal recognition.⁵⁶

SJP “Protests”

- On April 24, 2001, when the UC Berkeley Board of Regents failed to respond to an SJP demand for divestiture of all school assets from companies with significant holdings in Israel, dozens of SJP activists used steel chains as well as “human chains” to block access to Wheeler Hall, an important campus building, during a six-hour siege that violated fire codes and other regulations. When theater-arts professor Mel Gordon, a Jew, attempted to walk through one of the human chains in order to get to a class he was scheduled to teach in Wheeler Hall, the students showered him with spit and punches that left

⁵⁶ <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/israel-international/sjp-2015-background.pdf>

the professor in need of medical treatment.⁵⁷

- At a “Rally For America” organized by UC Berkeley’s Israel Action Committee (IAC) in conjunction with the campus Republicans and Democrats thirteen days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, SJP members wearing kaffiyehs and waving Palestinian flags staged an “anti-war” counter-rally in which they distributed fliers accusing the IAC of “exploiting the World Trade Center tragedy” and “wanting war.” Among SJP’s slogans were: “It’s the Jews’ Fault,” “Stop the Jews,” and “Go back to Israel!”⁵⁸
- On April 9, 2002, Jewish students at UC Berkeley gathered for their annual Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration where they solemnly read the names of people who had perished at

⁵⁷<http://tinyurl.com/jxaehep>; <http://tinyurl.com/jt2c3x2>; http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1709.pdf; <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/667.pdf#page=2>

⁵⁸ <http://www.jweekly.com/article/full/16540/u-c-berkeley-jews-citevocal-anti-israel-activity/>

the hands of the Nazis during the Second World War. SJP countered by holding, at the same time and very nearby, a noisy anti-Israel rally where 600 to 1,000 demonstrators shouted epithets, waved Israeli flags covered in swastikas, and displayed signs bearing slogans like: “Magen David [Star of David] = Swastika” and “Israel lovers are the Nazis of our time.”⁵⁹

- In November 2003, SJP helped organize the Third National Palestine Solidarity Conference at Ohio State University. According to one report: “when some attendees ... tried to get a resolution passed rejecting terrorism, it was voted down and this news was greeted with a standing ovation on the final day of the event”; terrorism was routinely characterized as “legitimate resistance”; and students were taught how to “deconstruct the Israeli narrative in the United States,” counter negative pub-

⁵⁹ <http://archive.dailycal.org/article.php?id=8263>; <http://tinyurl.com/jmnc92c>; <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/Articles/Muslin%20Hate%20Groups.pdf>

licity generated by Palestinian suicide bombings, gain influence in student governments, and infiltrate Hillel chapters.⁶⁰

- In November 2008 at UC Berkeley, Husam Zakharia and fellow SJP students physically assaulted Jewish students in the Eschelman Hall Student Union building. The attack occurred after the Jewish students had sought to remove a Palestinian flag that had been draped over a balcony at a pro-Israel campus event. While Zakharia punched one Jew in the head, his SJP comrades shouted that Jews were “dogs” and threatened to kill them.⁶¹ During the SJP-backed “Israel Apartheid Week” at UC Berkeley in March 2010, Zakharia, who was now president of the school’s SJP chapter, rammed Jessica Felber, a Jewish member of a pro-Israel campus group that had organized a competing event titled

⁶⁰ <http://tinyurl.com/gt3uey6>; <http://tinyurl.com/zlyxexd>

⁶¹ <http://archive.frontpagemag.com/readArticle.aspx?ARTID=34657>; http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/1709.pdf; <http://tinyurl.com/jdc5sac>

“Israel Peace and Diversity Week,” with a shopping cart. As a result of the incident, Felber required medical treatment.⁶²

- At a 2012 SJP meeting at Northeastern University (NU), the SJP faculty advisor, M. Shahid Alam, gleefully reported that anti-Israel activism on the NU campus had made pro-Israel students afraid to speak out in support of the Jewish state. On another occasion, Alam suggested to SJP members that if they were called anti-Semites, they should wear that label as “a mark of distinction.”⁶³ Several years earlier, Alam had likened al-Qaeda’s 9/11 hijackers to the American patriots who fought against the British during the Revolutionary War: “On September 11, 2001, nineteen Arab hijackers too demonstrated their willingness to die—and to kill—for their dream. They died so that their peo-

⁶² <http://www.berkeleyside.com/2011/03/07/jewish-student-sues-uc-berkeley-over-assault-by-palestine-supporter/>

⁶³ <http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/221247/northeastern-u-suspends-students-justice-palestine-ilya-feoktistov;>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9mmOilcDA4;>

ple might live, free and in dignity.”⁶⁴

- In November 2015, the AMCHA Initiative, a campus anti-Semitism watchdog organization, announced that during the preceding eleven months it had collected approximately 70 testimonials from Jewish students on various University of California campuses complaining of anti-Semitic words and actions being aimed at them, often by members of SJP and related groups. Among the complaints were allegations that SJP members in particular had: “physically assaulted” and “spat at” Jewish students; followed Jewish students to frighten them; defaced school property with swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti; displayed placards and banners bearing such inscriptions as “The Zionists should be sent to the gas chambers” and “Death to Zionism”; and shouted slogans like “Down with Jews,” “Hitler was right,” “Zionist kike,” “Dirty Jews,” and “From the river to the sea Palestine must be free.”

⁶⁴ <http://www.wnd.com/2005/02/28989/>

According to AMCHA co-founder and UC Santa Cruz professor Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, the “testimonials demonstrate unequivocally that all Jewish students are targeted, regardless of their feelings on Israel, and that anti-Israel and BDS campaigns have gone far beyond scholarly debate and criticism directly into hate and antisemitism.”⁶⁵

- In April 2016, the University of Minnesota chapter of SJP, citing Israel’s alleged violations of human rights, attempted to pass a student-government resolution calling for the school to divest from specific companies that had business dealings with the Jewish state. When a pro-Israel coalition of students added an amendment focusing not on Israel alone, but on all countries where human rights were being violated, SJP members promptly removed their names from the resolution.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ <http://tinyurl.com/zxd7gxd>; <http://www.amchainitiative.org/uc-students-speak-out-about-antisemitism/>

⁶⁶ <http://tinyurl.com/h8xbh4a>

- In May 2016, UC Irvine’s SJP organized a protest in which a mob of screaming students pounded on the doors and windows of a building where a campus group called Students Supporting Israel was screening a documentary about the Israel Defense Forces. The demonstrators shouted things like “Intifada, Intifada—Long live the Intifada!” and “F**k Israel!” After Jewish students called local police and campus law-enforcement to come and protect them, SJP boasted on Facebook about the “success” of the demonstration.⁶⁷

SJP and the Left

SJP benefits enormously from the lock-step support of the political left for which the “intersectionality” of all alleged oppressions is a matter of faith. As SJP puts it: “We believe that no struggle against oppression is divorced from one another, that in order to resist structural oppression

⁶⁷ <http://observer.com/2016/05/jewish-woman-forced-to-hide-from-anti-israel-activists-at-uc-irvine/>

we must embody the principles and ideals we envision for a just society, and that we must be vigilant about upholding ethical positions against homophobia, sexism, racism, bigotry, classism, colonialism, and discrimination of any form.”⁶⁸ Thus SJP commonly collaborates with black, Latino, LGBT, and socialist organizations in sponsoring events and organizing protests.⁶⁹

- In the fall of 2012, SJP’s San Diego State University chapter co-sponsored an event with MEChA, comparing Israel’s “Apartheid Wall” with proposals for the expansion of a border fence between the U.S. and Mexico. MEChA favors a U.S. immigration policy founded on amnesty and open borders, and believes that the Southwestern portion of the United States rightfully belongs to the people of Mexico, from whom it was allegedly stolen. According to the

⁶⁸ <http://www.nationalsjp.org/our-vision.html>

⁶⁹ <http://forward.com/news/israel/308236/the-guerilla-political-warriors-on-campus/>; <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/israel-international/sjp-2015-background.pdf>

Anti-Defamation League, “Members of MEChA have ... attended SJP conferences since they started, and for many years now, members of the group have led sessions such as ‘Beyond Borders: Palestine and the Latina Connection.’”⁷⁰

- As part of its 2013 Israel Apartheid Week activities, New York University’s SJP chapter co-sponsored an event with the campus’s Queer Union as well as the International Socialist Organization, this despite the fact that gays are an endangered species in countries like Iran while Israel is the only country in the Middle East where gays can hold a pride parade or live a normal existence without fear for their safety.⁷¹
- During the summer and fall of 2014, SJP tried to liken Israel’s military incursion

⁷⁰<http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/israel-international/sjp-2015-backgrounder.pdf>

⁷¹ <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/israel-international/sjp-2015-backgrounder.pdf>

against Hamas in Gaza to the alleged police brutality and racism that had resulted in the fatal August 2014 shooting of an African American teenager named Michael Brown by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. The City University of New York's SJP chapter hosted a panel discussion titled "CUNY Stands for Justice: From Ferguson to Palestine," and several other chapters organized "die-ins" equating Gaza and Ferguson as bastions of racist injustice.⁷²

Campus Funding for SJP

SJP chapters are funded primarily by university grants that range, for the most part, from several hundred to several thousand dollars.⁷³ This money is derived chiefly from student-activity fees that colleges charge to support campus groups and events, and is allocated to SJP and other recipients by each school's student government. SJP also receives university

⁷² <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/israel-international/sjp-2015-background.pdf>

⁷³ <http://tinyurl.com/pp7kaax>

offices from which to carry out their hate campaigns. At some universities, the funds provided to groups like SJP may be much higher than the norm. According to one source, “At larger campuses like UC Berkeley or UCLA,... clubs like SJP can receive as much as \$30,000 in funding for events they wish to hold.... At Concordia University in Canada,... SJP at one point received \$50,000 for anti-Israel actions (including calls for divestment) on campus.”⁷⁴ Along the same lines, *NGO Monitor* notes that “SJP at San Diego State University received a combined \$14,000 to host ‘Palestine Awareness Week’ in 2010-2013.”⁷⁵ To maximize the likelihood of being approved for their funding requests, SJP chapters often run one or more of their student members or sympathizers for seats in their university’s student government.⁷⁶

⁷⁴ <http://tinyurl.com/zlyxexd>

⁷⁵ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/nm/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Campus-BDS_FINAL-2.pdf

⁷⁶ <http://canadafreepress.com/images/uploads/StudentsforJusticeInPalestine.pdf>

Conclusion

Operating under the cover of the “multiculturalism” that dominates U.S. higher education, Students for Justice in Palestine has become a dominant organization on American campuses over the last 15 years and the driving force behind the anti-Israel and anti-Jewish bigotry that have become part of the everyday reality there. It is the key member in an alliance of campus groups that seek to indoctrinate American college students in the false beliefs that Jews are racists who stole Arab land and oppress Palestinians, and that consequently the Jewish state of Israel has no right to exist. Couching its agendas in the deceitful rhetoric of “social justice,” SJP covertly and overtly supports terrorism. It acts as a megaphone and mouthpiece for Hamas and supports without reservation that group’s stated goals—to “obliterate” Israel by any means necessary and exterminate its Jews.

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