SPECIAL REPORT

# NATIONAL STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE

Antisemitism, Violent Extremism and the Threat to North American Universities

\*Three Words A day To Live By BLAME THE JEWS SJP member, University of Texas at Dallas

I hope all of you have sweet dreams of SLAUGHTERING Zionists SJP member, San Diego State University

ISRAEL the next NAZI GERMANY, established 1948 SJP chapter, Florida Atlantic University

May Allah not help them and burn them in the hell fire.. LET THE JEWS BURN SILENTLY SJP member, New York University

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# National Students for Justice in Palestine (NSJP) and the Promotion of Hate and Antisemitism on the University Campus:

## The Threat to Academic Freedom

Report by the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP)

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with a Foreword by Natan Sharansky Chair ISGAP



### **Foreword**

Justice is an end for which all people strive, and the Palestinian people deserves it no less than any other. Yet no understanding of justice is worth the name if, in advancing the aims of one group, it disallows the legitimate cause of another. Thus, when an organization denies Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state; when it demonizes Israel by comparing the Jewish state to Nazi Germany or South African apartheid; and when in making demands of Israel it applies double-standards that are not applied to any other country in the world, this organization is not seeking justice. Rather, it is promoting antisemitism, plain and simple.

The reason for this is that demonization, delegitimization, and double standards against Jews were the main tools of antisemites for thousands of years. Now, they are being applied to the Jewish collective in the State of Israel.

Indeed, after ongoing debates, the international community has agreed upon a set of criteria for determining when criticism of Israel is antisemitic. Applying these criteria, the following report analyzes the officially proclaimed aims of Students for Justice in Palestine, and the views of its central figures, and unmasks them as fundamentally antisemitic – in nature. The findings herein can certainly be used by those on campuses seeking to combat the pernicious influence of this group. More than that, I hope they will open the eyes of everyone who sincerely wants to better the world. The way to justice is, clearly, not through this organization.

Natan Sharansky, Jerusalem, Chair of ISGAP

### National Students for Justice in Palestine

According to studies conducted by the Anti-Defamation League, for example, antisemitic propaganda, attacks, campaigns, and other incidents in the United States have been sharply on the rise over the last several years. Among the places that have seen an increase in antisemitism are college campuses in the United States and Canada, where movements such as the Boycott-Divestment-Sanction Movement against Israel have become more and more accepted.

One of the most active antisemitic forces on North American campuses is National Students for Justice in Palestine (NSJP). The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP) has compiled a comprehensive analysis of NSJP and its antisemitic discourse, its ideological origins, and its terrorist connections. In addition, this report will examine the ideology of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and its antisemitic roots, as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). The report will also show SJP's connections to violence and terror.

The findings of this research report are important to gaining an understanding into the problem of growing antisemitism on university and college campuses in North America. NSJP annual conferences continue to take place on university campuses; this year's is scheduled for November 1-3, 2019, at the University of Minnesota.<sup>3</sup> The major findings of this research are outlined in what follows.<sup>4</sup>

# A Brief Historical Background

### for the November 2019 Meeting of the Antisemitic NSJP

The NSJP's mission is to seek "justice" for Palestinians. In keeping with the origins of the NSJP – the elimination of the Jewish State is its stated objective – it is the "justice" outlined by the charters and manifestoes of the various organizations in which NSJP is so rooted, such as Hamas. The NSJP reaches out to a network of individuals and organizations to fulfill its political agenda. The NSJP invariably uses classic Muslim Brotherhood methods of mastering the art of "coalitions from within" and of temporary alliances.

It is apparent in this report is that SJP is steeped in an ideology that has roots in racist and antisemitic extremism. It has in recent years become tolerated and overlooked by university administrations across the US and Canada. In fact, in 2005 the NSJP developed guidelines, entitled the "Points of Unity" which is the basis for the BDS movement led by the Student for Justice in Palestine. The statement was adopted by NSJP at its conference in 2011 at Columbia University. The guidelines

form the principles that all SJP chapters must adhere to.<sup>5</sup> It calls for:

- 1. "ending Israel's occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall;"
- 2. "recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality;" and
- 3. "respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194."6

In other words the NSJP advocates the elimination of the State of Israel, and the ending of any form of Jewish self-determination in any part of the ancient Jewish homeland. This report examines how this mission is justified politically and ideologically, and how it uses antisemitism and other forms of insidious anti-democratic ideologies for the basis of this eliminationist and hate-filled project taking places on university campuses throughout the United States and Canada.

As evident in this report, the NSJP engages in campaigns that incite hatred against the Jewish people, and affects Jewish students in particular. Therefore, for those committed to ensure that university campuses are spaces free from all forms of hatred and discrimination, the NSJP National Conference at the University of Minnesota on November 1-3, 2019, should cause significant concern. We call upon all university stakeholders to consider the findings of this report. If the NSJP is able to promote its agenda, projecting claims of "colonialist," "racist," and "Nazi" onto the Jewish students and Jewish people, then the university's inaction will be indicative of the future for all marginalized groups on campus, and create a dangerous precedent.

# Origins of the NSJP

### and its Ties to Known Terrorist Organizations

In June 2010, the US Palestinian Community Network (USPCN) organized the Palestine Program at the US Social Forum. The Forum provided the backdrop and venue for the American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) to establish the NSJP.<sup>7</sup> The Forum was in part sponsored by the Boycott-Divest-Sanction movement's National Committee (BNC). The primary constituent of the BNC is the Palestinian National and Islamic Forces (PNIF), a coalition of multiple US-designated terror organizations including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP, which was founded in 1967 by George Habash as part of a Marxist-Leninist revolutionary movement), the Popular Front – General Command, and the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF).

At NSJP's 2012 conference, there was a session devoted to the We Divest campaign, a boycott effort endorsed by the BNC, and another session which included a speech from Khader Adnan, via live video. Adnan is a known leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad.<sup>8</sup> Like Hamas, PIJ is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood. PIJ views Israel as "the main enemy of [all] Muslims"; hence PIJ is dedicated to "the destruction of the State of Israel," as well as to the "overthrow of Arab governments that do not uphold Islamic law [which forbids making peace with the Jews]." The annihilation of the Jewish state, then, is a defining ideological principle of PIJ and, by association and implication, of NSJP.

At the NSJP 2013 conference, there was a session held on mass incarceration, advocating the support of working with Addameer, a political prisoners support organization based in the Palestinian Territories. Addameer was founded by PFLP leaders and is currently led by at least eight PFLP members. At the 2014 conference, NSJP once again hosted a member of the BNC. NSJP's tacit endorsement of terrorism continued at the 2015 conference, when Rasmea Odeh was the main speaker (see Appendix). Odeh was convicted for her participation in two terrorist bombings and for being a member of the PFLP. NSJP has also supported Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, such as PFLP terrorist Bilal Kayed. In addition, NSJP retweeted a message from Jewish Voice for Peace in support of Marwan Barghouti. Barghouti was a leader of Fatah's armed wing, known as the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, during the Second Intifada. In 2004, he was convicted, by an Israeli court, of five counts of murder, as well as attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, and membership in a terrorist organization. Incredibly, this organization has more than 200 Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) official affiliates organizations on college campuses throughout the US and Canada. (see Appendix)

# SJP Chapters and Antisemitism

The ISGAP report on the NSJP defines antisemitism according to the working definition adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), established in 1998 at the behest of former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." <sup>13</sup>

In keeping with the IHRA definition, NSJP, and SJP members have demonstrated consistent and overt antisemitism via social media, protests, violence, and hate speech. This advocacy of and adherence to antisemitic actions have been demonstrated not only by individuals, but by entire chapters at these university-approved entities. ISGAP's report chronicles the antisemitic propaganda and activities promulgated by SJP chapters. The report shows that it is not just a few extreme individuals who are spreading antisemitism and incitement against Jewish students and the Jewish community, but rather a systematic problem within NSJP rooted in its ideology. The upcoming conference at the University of Minnesota on November 1-3, 2019, will promote this form of hatred.

The ISGAP report illustrates how the antisemitism that has broken out on college campuses that host more than 200 SJP Chapters is spread over regions that span the United States and Canada. The campuses where the incitement to hatred is most insidious include some of the most prestigious universities. Among these are Harvard, Columbia, Stony Brook, Georgetown, Brandeis, Penn State, Rutgers, Temple, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, University of Chicago, University of Washington, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Florida State, University of North Carolina, University of Georgia, University of Florida, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at Austin and numerous universities in Canada such as York University, Concordia University, McGill University and the University of Toronto, where the BDS movement was launched in North America. (see Appendix) The more legitimate the antisemitism becomes within the halls of higher learning, the more lethal Jew-hatred becomes within society, spreading from the classrooms to the halls of Congress, from lecture halls to city halls.

# Following the Money

### NSJP's Fiscal Sponsor

The WESPAC Foundation is NSJP's financial sponsor. On SJP East and SJP Stanford websites, for example, it states,: "Please consider making a donation—large or small, every dollar goes a long way—to SJP National through our PayPal or send a check to our fiscal sponsor, the WESPAC

Foundation, 52 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603."14

ISGAP's comprehensive report provides greater details on this disturbing trend of antisemitism on campus, and on the acquiescence of the university community, administrators, faculty and philanthropists in refusing to take a stand against this blatant form of hatred.

# **Concluding Recommendation**

NSJP was founded with the support of American Muslims for Palestine and the US Palestinian Community Network; both have ties with antisemitic terrorist organizations. This year's annual NSJP conference will take place at the University of Minnesota on November 1-3, 2019. This conference, to be attended by more than 200 SJP chapters, will serve as a conduit for antisemitic discourse to enter university campuses. The fact that the members and chapters that make up NSJP promote antisemitic rhetoric on university campus suggests that higher education is not only turning a blind eye to protecting Jewish students but sets the stage for further forms of prejudice and discrimination against other groups and communities on campus. In order for students to be protected and for universities to abide by their own commitments and legal requirements of maintaining secure learning environments, it is necessary to cancel this conference, or, if it does take place, for administration officials to monitor the conference, and end funding to NSJP.

This report calls upon US and Canadian universities to adopt the IRHA definition of antisemitism as a guideline, to fight antisemitism on campus, and to protect basic academic freedoms and democratic principles. It would be tragic if universities were to be purveyors of hate, rather than places to learn and a source of inspiration for democratic principles steeped in human rights.

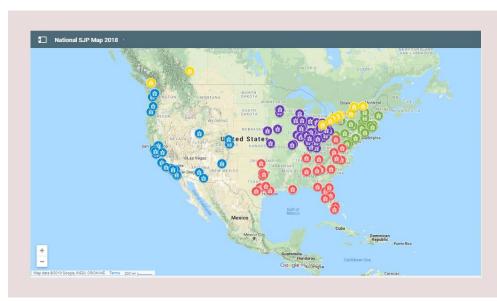
# Appendix - NSJP and the Spread of Antisemitism



# National SJP supporting terrorist Rasmea Odeh

Facebook

published 03/26/17, accessed 07/18



### National SJP on more than 200 campuses

About-Interactive SJP Map

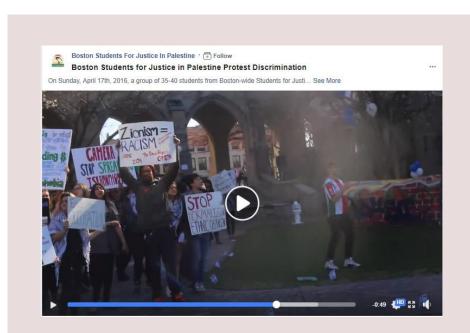
accessed 08/19



# Rutgers University SJP

Twitter, Rutgers SJP

published 04/09/13, accessed 08/19



### **Facebook**

Boston Students for Justice in Palestine

published 04/19/16, accessed 08/19



### San Diego State University SJP Halima Eid

Deleted Twitter, Halima Eid

published 06/19/13



# Marquette University SJP Ahmad Ewis

Ahmad Ewis
Deleted Twitter Post

published 07/09/14



### NYU SJP/ NYC SJP Arkan Dawoud

"May Allah not help them and burn them in the hell fire... and they will leave our land with fire of our children. Let the Jews burn silently."

Facebook Arkan Dawoud

published 11/24/16, accessed 08/19



### University of South Florida SJP

Facebook, SJP at USF

published 07/20/14, accessed 08/19



# Florida Atlantic University SJP

Twitter, SJP at FAU

published 02/24/15, accessed 08/19



### University of Houston SJP Zeina Elissa

Deleted Twitter, Zeina Elissa

published 07/20/14



### Concordia University SPHR Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights Waed Elaarag

Deleted Twitter, Waed Elaarag

published 04/04/13

### **Notes**

- <sup>1</sup> See "What We Do," https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/anti-semitism/anti-semitism-in-the-us, accessed 10/19.
- <sup>2</sup> See, for example, Anne Hendershott, "Anti-Semitism Growing on America's Campuses," *Minding the Campus*, 9 April 2019, https://www.mindingthecampus.org/2019/04/09/anti-semitism-growing-on-americas-campuses/, accessed 10/19.
- <sup>3</sup> See https://www.nationalsjp.org/2019-conference.html.
- <sup>4</sup> See https://isgap.org/, accessed 10/19.
- <sup>5</sup> National SJP, "Points of Unity," https://www.nationalsjp.org/, accessed 08/19
- <sup>6</sup> National SJP, "Points of Unity," accessed 08/19.
- <sup>7</sup> US Social Forum, "Welcome to Palestine at the US Social Forum!" published 10/10/11, accessed 07/19.
- <sup>8</sup> Department of State, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/, accessed 08/18.
- <sup>9</sup> Yonah Alexander, *Palestinian Religious Terrorism: Hamas and Islamic Jihad* (Ardsley, NY: Transnational Publishers, 2002), 29.
- <sup>10</sup> Addameer Annual Report 2003, https://web.archive.org/web/20050304101119/http://www.addameer.org: 80/2004/annual04.html, published 04/07/04, accessed 07/18.
- <sup>11</sup> US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, "Convicted terrorist stripped of citizenship, ordered deported for failing to disclose ties to deadly bombing," https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/convicted-terrorist-stripped-citizenship-ordered-deported-failing-disclose-ties-deadly, published 08/18/17, accessed 07/18.
- <sup>12</sup> PFLP, "PFLP salutes the victory of Comrade Bilal Kayed," published 08/24/16, accessed 07/18.
- <sup>13</sup> IHRA, Working Definition of Antisemitism, published 06/26/16 accessed 08/19.
- <sup>14</sup> SJP East, Send a Student to the SJP National Conference this Year!, published 09/25/14, accessed 08/19; SJP Stanford, Send a Student to the SJP National Conference this Year!, accessed 08/19.