

JVP News

NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER FROM JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE

OUR ANSWER? EQUALITY.

The uprising and repression in Palestine and Israel today is multi-dimensional. But the guiding principle behind our response is clear: equality and justice for all.

THIS IS AN ANGUISHING TIME. It's horrible to watch, read, and hear about such an intense level of violence, state repression, and incitement in Israel and Palestine - and worse that no one can say how long this "moment" will last. Even sorting through the news is a huge amount of work - to say nothing of figuring out what we each can do.

1.7 PALESTINIAN HOMES DEMOLISHED EACH WEEK IN 2015

Now, more than ever, we have to focus on our core values. An unshakable commitment to equality. Trust that getting to the root

**"EVERYTHING
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causes of violence is the only way to fully uproot it. And a fierce belief in the dignity of all people. From that framework, all of us can

make a difference, because we can see what is happening in Israel and Palestine for what it really is: a struggle between those seeking to maintain the status quo, and those demanding freedom.

22 YEARS SINCE OSLO ACCORDS SIGNED

Because that's what this boils down to: either Palestinian human rights are recognized as inviolable, and all can live with freedom and equality; or this indefensible status quo will continue. Because the root cause

we all must confront is the denial of those rights.

And as American Jews, we have a responsibility to assert that perspective in the public debate.

THIS UPRISING DID NOT COME OUT OF NOWHERE. Violence against Palestinians by the Israeli Defense Forces, Israeli police and Jewish settlers, in fact, is constant. Over decades, Israel has demolished Palestinian homes; allowed increasing numbers of Jewish settlers, and cracked down with increasingly violent policing practices. The status quo is unsustainable, and is now reaching a breaking point.

500-700 PALESTINIAN CHILDREN DETAINED IN THE ISRAELI MILITARY COURT SYSTEM EACH YEAR

But the narrative in mainstream media - so far - has been focused solely on Israeli fears about security, overlooking the crucial message



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A PATTERN OF BIAS FROM THE NYT

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Mobilizing all over the US to demand accountability from institutions that uphold and profit from the status quo.

Transforming Jewish community through ritual and education that reconnects the political and the spiritual.

Changing culture through original works of art that make this movement irresistible.

Seizing media narratives through Letters to the Editor, op-eds, and public speaking.

MEMBER HOURS CONTRIBUTED:

2013: 98,700

2015: 205,000

OUR MEMBERS ARE THE REASON JVP CAN TAKE ON GROUPS LIKE AIPAC TIME AND AGAIN...AND WIN.

YOUR SUPPORT CLOSES THE RESOURCE GAP

It's a lot cheaper to tell the truth. That is a huge part of why JVP is able to go up against organizations 2, 10, even 50 times our size, time after time, and win. But that isn't to say telling the truth is free...or easy.

Our incredible member leaders are the reason: and your support makes it possible for our small staff to help those leaders move this movement.

Take **MICHAEL DEHEEGER** and **ILANA ROSSOFF**. Michael works just part-time as our Chicago Organizer, and Ilana is responsible for all of our Midwest chapters. But they were able

to lend support to a leadership team of Chicago JVP members who designed, planned, and implemented an incredible 3-day series of direct action at the Jewish National Fund's annual convention. 300 people participated, and not just the city but the whole region rose to an entirely new level of connection, power, and skill.

Or **STEFANIE FOX**. After years of conversations with members, she led a collaborative process to articulate a vision of how culture can shape this movement, and organized a one-of-a-kind retreat for 40 artists from around the country. That

process birthed a new force for change inside the art world and within Jewish communities: the JVP Artists and Cultural Workers Council.

Or when JVP Rabbinic Council Co-Coordinator **LAURIE ZIMMERMAN** was looking to build the profile her Reframing Israel curriculum, Media Coordinator **NAOMI DANN** helped her craft a media outreach strategy and connected her to key contacts, and together they placed a powerful opinion piece in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency newswire.

These are just the smallest examples of the powerful

working relationships your support unleashes. Every dollar stretches two, even ten times as far because our staffing model focuses on identifying and responding to the natural leaders within our communities - and then racing to keep up with them.

In the end, it comes back to telling the truth. Working together, our members and staff pull people to think about Israel and Palestine in terms of human rights, equality, and dignity. And those basic values can cut through all the noise the opposition can throw our way.

IRAN DEAL: WE WON

THE FIGHT CONTINUES

It's worth remembering: the passage of the Iran Deal earlier this fall was a huge, almost unprecedented example of the kind of specific policy change we are all working for.

And no small part of it is the fact that AIPAC spent upwards of \$40 million to stop this deal - and came up empty.

The schism in the Jewish community over the Iran deal made headlines all summer. And that shift isn't just some natural fact we sit back and observe. Shifting opinions, especially among younger Jews, is something you made happen. It is an active process

of organizing, strategic communications, and coalition-building. It's the sum total of what JVP members - of what you and thousands like you - are doing.

But it's not over. In fact, many analysts think Israel boosters actually won,

re-establishing a narrative that Israel faces an existential threat, and extracted a pledge from the US to, in effect, compensate Israel for the deal with hundreds of millions of dollars in additional military aid.

So any report of AIPAC's demise is, to say the least, exaggerated. But what's real is that the prevailing balance of power in DC has been shaken up. And you better believe AIPAC has a comprehensive strategy to regain the upper hand.

From what we can see, though, a big piece of that strategy involves looking "down-ballot" from Congress. As many as 40 states are considering legislation to condemn, criminalize, or penalize the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement. This is a two-pronged strategy for them: firstly, it's a way to bolster and unite the pro-occupation,

pro-displacement coalition on a state-by-state level, including Christian zionists, military contractors, and Jewish institutions. And secondly, it's a way for AIPAC and their allies to start building relationships with state legislators - including those who eventually will become Members of Congress with direct power over US foreign policy.

You can help us be ready for this next stage. It's extremely likely you live in a state where some kind of anti-BDS legislation is on the table. So whether it's through a JVP chapter, online, or with your donations, we need your help now to put forward the best defense of our movement we can. Two years ago, we

AIPAC's loss on the Iran Deal put them on the ropes - and that's our next challenge.

helped defeat the first barrage of anti-BDS legislation, including a New York bill sponsored by then-Assembly leader Sheldon Silver - at the time,

one of the ten most powerful people in the state.

But even that's not going to be enough. We have to keep advancing specific policy changes, even as we defend the principled, movement-building tools we use to win them. The Iran Deal fight was a chance for us to fight for something concrete and meaningful. And so what we accomplished wasn't simply a moral victory or public education campaign. Working together, we helped guarantee one of the most significant improvements to US foreign policy in a generation. And that's exactly the direction we all want to be going in.

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AN INTEGRATED APPROACH.

JVP's strategy is based in the deep integration of strategic communications and organizing. And rarely has this integrated approach worked more effectively than the Iran Deal fight.

45 in-district meetings with Members of Congress

71,197 letters and e-mails to Congress and the White House (20% of the Win Without War's Coalition's total)

25 protests, vigils, and town-halls

20 local and national articles cited JVP's positions and member's opinions on the Iran deal.



WHEN I SEE THEM, I SEE US:

WWW.BLACKPALESTINIANSolidarity.COM

We are extremely honored to announce the release of a truly inspiring new media project: a Black-Palestinian collaboration that points the way forward through joint struggle against state sanctioned violence and dehumanization, and towards equality and freedom.

Sponsoring Organizations: Dream Defenders, Black Youth Project 100, DC Palestinian Film and Arts Festival, Arab Studies Institute - Quilting Point Productions and JVP. Produced with assistance from the Institute for Middle East Understanding.

**"THE
PREVAILING
BALANCE
OF POWER
IN DC
HAS BEEN
SHAKEN
UP."**



YES! COUNT ME IN.

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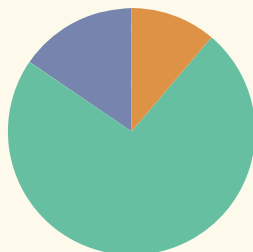
We believe that building a strong organization is a critical part of our mission - especially with such powerful opponents. Giving to our general operating fund allows us to direct resources where they're most needed - rapid mobilizations, education, and training - and also, as needed to the infrastructure that helps us stay efficient and independent. All donation to JVP are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our IRS tax identification number is 90-0018359.

A gift of \$18 or more makes you eligible for JVP Membership. Check here to decline ☐

PROGRAM: 73.33%

ADMIN: 11.19%

FUNDRAISING: 15.48%



SEND TO: 1611 TELEGRAPH AVE SUITE 1020, OAKLAND CA 94612

The New York Times

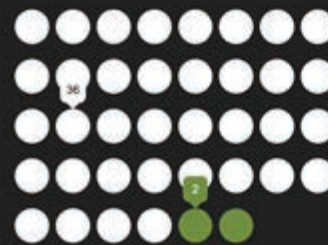
A Pattern of Bias on Israel/Palestine

An open letter from Jewish Voice for Peace

Jewish Voice for Peace www.jvp.org



So.....
**HAS THE NEW YORK TIMES BEEN
FAIR AND STRAIGHTFORWARD
WHEN COVERING THE MIDDLE EAST?**



The NYT talked about Palestinian "violence" 36 times and Israeli "violence" 2 times.



**18 OF THE LAST
35 NYT HEADLINES
DEPICTED PALESTINIANS
AS THE INSTIGATORS
OF VIOLENCE.**

The NYT used the word "terrorist" 42 times to refer to Palestinian violence, and 1 time to refer to Israeli violence.

**0 HEADLINES
DEPICTED ISRAELIS
AS AGGRESSORS.**

**HERE'S WHAT THE NEW YORK
TIMES SHOULD BE SAYING**



The root causes of the current uprising are Israel's ongoing policies of occupation, displacement, and oppression.

To change policy, we have to change the narrative.

2:

Amplify the underlying message from Palestinians: the status quo won't stand.

3:

Express our empathy for all those suffering *and* doing so with a real power analysis.

4:

Don't condemn Palestinians for resisting occupation; don't justify violence against civilians.

5:

Name concrete actions you actually think will help. We have a responsibility to step up.



Rabbi Brant Rosen leads Havdalah outside a JNF Major Donor gathering.
Photo courtesy of Christian Peacemaker Teams

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of this uprising: the urgent need for freedom and dignity for Palestinians.

We can change that. Everything we're doing - everything we need you do to - is about taking aim at the root causes that uphold the status quo.

**130 ISRAELIS, 3000 PALESTINIANS
INJURED IN OCTOBER 2015**

We need your help to do what we always do when things reach a turning point: take action. Your support has already helped more than a dozen JVP chapters organize demos, rallies, and interfaith vigils that make Jewish support for equality visible on the streets. Your support made it possible for us to launch a campaign to expose bias in the New York Times with a quantitative analysis of its one-sided coverage.

And together, we're making sure those with the most immediate power to change this situation - starting with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, and on down to our friends and family - can hear us. --

What Can We Say? Even talking about this situation can be difficult - but it's absolutely essential work for us all. Here are the **5 principles** we've developed to guide our communication:

1: BRINGING THE CONVERSATION BACK TO THE ROOT CAUSES

One of the things we're all talking about...is how hard it can feel to talk about what's going on in Palestine and Israel right now. But the most important thing is to expose the root causes of violence in occupation, dispossession, and discrimination.