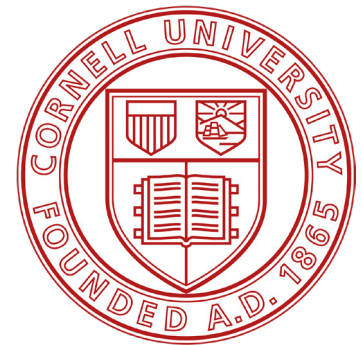




SJP Cornell

Hostility, Intimidation and Gaslighting



Who Is Canary Mission

Canary Mission documents people and groups that promote hatred of the USA, Israel and Jews. We investigate hatred across the North American political spectrum, including the far-right, far-left and anti-Israel activists.



Executive Summary

Cornell University's Students for Justice in Palestine (Cornell SJP) trivializes antisemitism and depicts anti-Israel violence as "resistance." The group often mobilizes its activists, many of whom sit on Cornell's student government, to demonize Israel and promote resolutions in support of the Boycott Divest and Sanction (BDS) movement.

In May 2021, Cornell SJP activists announced a campaign to remove a Jewish LGBTQIA+ representative from student government.

Cornell SJP also disrupts pro-Israel campus events, often engaging its intersectional allies to join its protests and disruptive events. Cornell SJP is listed as a registered student organization at Cornell.



Key Findings:

- Cornell SJP's strategy is to demonize Israel and push through BDS resolutions by electing members and allies to Cornell's student government.
- Cornell SJP is actively creating a hostile and intimidating environment for Jews and Israel supporters in the Cornell community and is minimizing antisemitism.
- Cornell SJP has a history of aggressive anti-Israel protests and disruptions on campus.

Founded:

Cornell SJP [joined](#) Twitter in [November 2012](#) and created its Facebook page on April 24, 2013.

Faculty Supporters:

[Eric Cheyfitz](#)
[Russell Rickford](#)
[Julia Chang](#)

Parent Organizations:

[Students for Justice in Palestine \(SJP\)](#)
[American Muslims for Palestine \(AMP\)](#)

Affiliated Chapters:

[SJP Chicago](#),
[Ithaca Jewish Voice for Peace \(Ithaca JVP\)](#)

Affiliated Organizations:

[Islamic Alliance for Justice \(IAJ\)](#)
[Cornell Collective for Justice in Palestine \(CCJP\)](#)
[Muslim Educational and Cultural Association \(MECA\)](#)
[Arab Student Association \(ASA\)](#)
[Jewish Voice for Peace \(JVP\)](#)

Intersectional Allies:

[Climate Justice Cornell \(CJC\)](#)
[Black Students United \(BSU Cornell\)](#)
[Cornell Asian Pacific Student Union \(CAPSU\)](#)
[South Asian Council \(SAC Cornell\)](#)
[La Asociacion Latina \(LAL Cornell\)](#)
[Native American and Indigenous Students at Cornell \(NAISAC\)](#)
[The People's Organizing Collective USAS \(POCSAS\) Local #3](#)
[Men of Color Council, Inc. \(MOCC\)](#)
[Amnesty International at Cornell University \(AICORNELL\)](#)
[Cornell Welcomes Refugees](#)
[Queer Political Action Committee \(QPAC\)](#)
[Cornell DREAM Team](#)
[Cornell MOSAIC](#)
[Womxn of Color Coalition \(WOCC Cornell\)](#)
[MECHa de Cornell](#)
[Cornell Young Democratic Socialists \(YDS at Cornell\)](#)
[Asian Pacific Americans for Action \(Cornell AAPA\)](#)

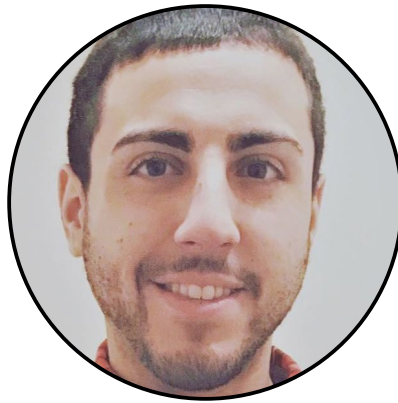
State: New York



Key Activists:



Malak Abubhashim



Yusif Khalil



Eric Cheyfitz



Joseph Mullen



Mena Attia



Max Greenberg



Piragash Swargaloganathan

For all 40 profiles checkout the [campaign page](#)

Timeline:



2021

Strategy

May 2021 saw antisemitism skyrocket due to renewed conflict in Gaza. Echoing the attacks against Jews across the country, Cornell SJP launched a coordinated campaign targeting Jewish students and campus Israel supporters.

The chapter mobilized its activists and intersectional allies to engage in a series of aggressive protests supporting the anti-Israel “resistance” – Cornell SJP’s characterization of the horrific Palestinian terrorism and violent protests occurring at the time.

Along with their intersectional allies, Cornell SJP then pushed a surprise anti-Israel statement in the Student Assembly (SA). Even though the statement was never voted on, it was widely disseminated on official SA stationary.

When Cornell’s president sent out a letter asking for calm and dialogue in the face of a dramatic rise in antisemitic hate crimes nationwide, the chapter responded with outrage. Meanwhile, Jewish students at Cornell were facing hostile antisemitic acts and reported feeling “unsafe” on campus.

Trivializing Antisemitism

On May 26, 2021, Cornell President Pollack sent out a [letter](#) [Slide 2] in which she noted the “alarming national rise in anti-Semitic hate crimes... amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East” and appealed for “rigorous discourse and debate, devoid of personal invective and attacks.”

In May 2021, antisemitic [incidents](#) in the U.S. “more than doubled,” compared to the same time period in 2020, according to the [Anti-Defamation League \(ADL\)](#).

Cornell SJP responded in a [May 28, 2021 Instagram post](#) [Slide 3], writing: “For Pollack to condemn antisemitism in the same context as the horrific actions of the Israeli state is implying the two are connected, and conflating the Jewish people with the illegal actions of Israel is itself anti-semitic.”

The chapter further [condemned](#) [Slide 4] the term “ongoing tensions,” placing the blame on Israel for the conflict and accusing Israel of “apartheid” and “provocations against Palestine, from the occupation of Sheikh Jarrah to the assault on Al-Aqsa Mosque and the bombings of the Gaza strip.”

In response to Pollack's letter, Cornell SJP also [rejected](#) [Slide 7] the university president's call for "rigorous discourse and debate." Instead, they promoted "the duty to resist colonial violence." The chapter [added](#) [Slide 9], "In conclusion: Our expectations for you were low but Holy F#%k."

Cornell SJP then [called](#) [Slide 10] on their followers to "send an email to administration [sic] in regards to their complete dismissal of the ethnic cleansing and apartheid of Palestinians."

In the Instagram post, Cornell SJP [attached](#) a link to an email [condemning](#) President Pollack's letter signed by Cornell professors, [students](#) and student groups.



Using Student Government to Demonize Israel

During the 2021-22 academic year, eight SJP activists [served](#) as representatives in Cornell's Student Assembly (SA) on a variety of committees.

[Valeria Valencia](#), an SJP activist, [served](#) in the 2021-2022 SA as the First Generation Student Representative At-Large and as a Diversity Committee member. Valencia also [served](#) as Cornell SA's Interim Vice President of Finance and Appropriations Committee Chair until November 2021, among many other committee memberships.

[Claudia Leon](#), an SJP activist, served as the 2021-2022 Vice President and Chair of Diversity and Inclusion and College of Arts and Sciences Representative with the [Cornell Student Assembly \(SA\)](#). As of March 2022, Leon also [served](#) as a 2021-2022 ex-officio member of Cornell's [SA City and Local Affairs Committee](#), as well as the [SA Academic Policy Committee](#) and the [SA Communications Committee](#).

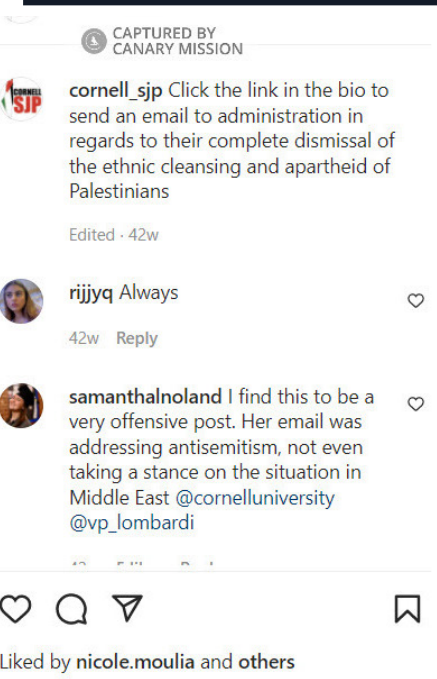
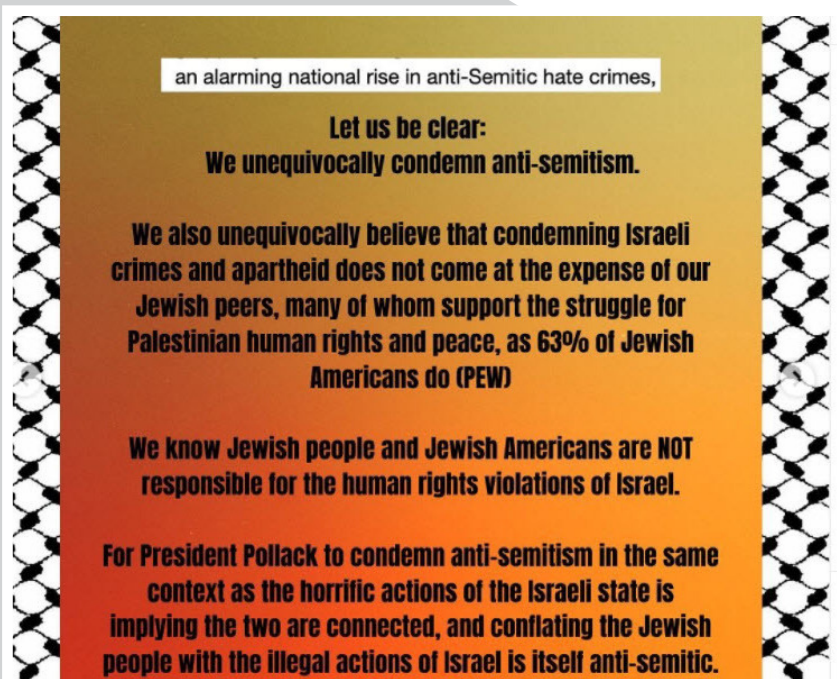
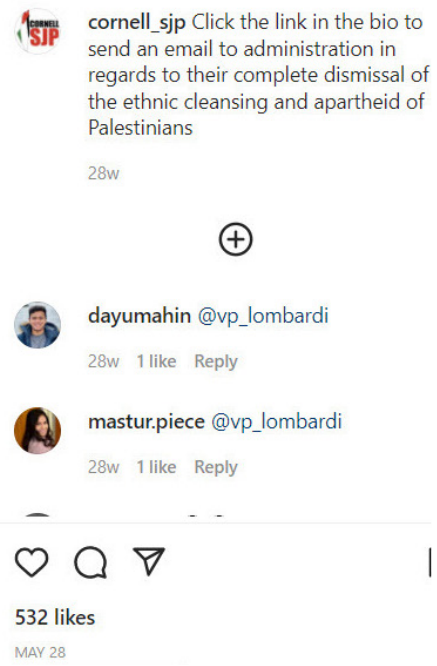
[Jenniviv Bansah](#), another SJP activist, [served](#) on the 2021-2022 Diversity, Research and Accountability, Academic Policy, Communications and City and Local Affairs Committees with the SA. Bansah also [served](#) as the [2021-2022 Executive Vice President and Chair of the SA](#).

Despite their obligation to represent all students as SA representatives, many SJP activists have [made clear](#), as has the chapter, that on the issue of the Israeli conflict, their position is not [debatable](#) and there is no room for dialogue.



For example, [Malak Abuhashim](#), a diversity senator and SJP activist, [tweeted](#) on May 26, 2021, a response to Cornell President Martha Pollack’s plea for civil debate amid rising antisemitic incidents, writing:

“Her silence on the the violation of Palestinian basic human rights is disgusting. Referring to it as ‘tensions/complex’ is belittling and normalizes associating the Middle East with chaos which is racist. There is no ‘debate’ on settler colonialism when Cornell is complicit.”



On May 12, 2021, Cornell SJP [posted](#) on Instagram, “Your stance on Palestine is not one you can be neutral on....”

During a [May 13, 2021 SA meeting](#), 23 representatives [released](#) a statement [demonizing](#) Israel on the official Cornell SA letterhead. Of the 23 signatories, 13 were Cornell SJP activists.

The [statement](#), which was [titled](#) “Recognizing and Condemning Violent Attacks Against Palestinians,” read: “We, the undersigned, are writing to condemn the violent and vicious acts of terrorism, ethnic cleansing, and settler-colonialism, that have been plaguing Palestinians for years and specifically regarding recent events.”

The statement also [alleged](#) Israel carried out “illegal evictions” and deliberately targeted Palestinians celebrating Ramadan for violent attacks.

In May of 2021, calls to save Sheikh Jarrah, a neighborhood in East Jerusalem at the center of a [property dispute](#), led to [violence](#) against Israelis and were one of the [leading factors](#) in [Hamis](#) and [Palestinian Islamic Jihad \(PIJ\)](#) terrorists [firing](#) over 4,300 rockets from Gaza at Israeli population centers that month.

The statement also [called](#) on the university administration to “act immediately” to [end](#) “their relationship with Technion in Haifa, Israel” and “any relationship between the Cornell University Police Department (CUPD) and Israel.”

The statement also called on the University to issue a statement in defense of Palestinian rights and to reconsider investments in Israel.

The statement was [introduced](#) during the final SA meeting of the year by [Laila Abd Elmagid](#), a Cornell SJP [activist](#) and Vice President of Internal Affairs with the Cornell Student Assembly (SA), along with incoming College of Arts and Sciences Representative and Cornell SJP activist [Joseph Mullen](#) and Vice President of Finance and Cornell SJP activist [Uche Chukwukere](#).

During the open microphone part of the meeting, other students objected to what they claimed were inaccuracies in the statement and its failure to mention the rockets fired by Palestinian terrorists at Israeli population centers. After an objection made by the outgoing Students with Disabilities representative Raquel Zohar, Elmagid reportedly [responded](#), “Your name is not on the statement. We are not speaking for any of you. If you would like to make your own statement, then you are more than welcome to,”

Elmagid [added](#), “Again, we did say [this is] not something [we] wanted to debate, whether people deserve human rights or not ... Just make your own statement.” The statement was [neither](#) voted on nor enacted by the SA.

Promoting Violent Anti-Israel “Resistance”



cornell_sjp Saturday May 15th, March on Ho Plaza.
Bring your mask, signs, and friends.
All COVID-19 safety precautions will be followed.

As we mark the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba, we join together to reaffirm our commitment to the Palestinian people’s struggle for justice, return, and liberation. We commemorate the loss experienced by Palestinians in 1948 when hundreds of thousands of people were forced into exile and saw their homes and villages stolen or destroyed.

We continue to witness the bravery of the Palestinian people as they resist attacks on neighborhoods and holy sites.



200 likes



CAPTURED BY CANARY MISSION

On [May 12, 2021](#), during Israel’s [Operation Guardian of the Walls \(OGW\)](#) against Palestinian terrorists in Gaza, Cornell SJP [promoted](#) on Instagram their “March for Palestine” at the university. The event poster featured calls to: “SAVE SHEIKH JARRAH” and “SAVE AL-AQSA.”

On that [same day](#), Cornell SJP again [promoted](#) their upcoming march on Facebook, calling on their followers to “show support for the ongoing rebellion in occupied Palestine against the Zionist occupation” and condemn “Zionism and Israeli state terrorism.”

[Zionism](#) is the belief that Jews have the right to self-determination in their own national home, and the right to develop their national culture.

At the May 15, 2021 march, activists [displayed](#) signs that [read](#): “End the Palestinian Holocaust” and “Stop the US Funding of Genocide” and a banner that said, “Stand with Palestinian Resistance.” At the protest, one demonstrator [accused](#) [slide 2] Israel of “white supremacy,” as well as [slide 1] “ethnic cleansing” and “violent brutal occupation.”

[Joseph Mullen](#), a newly-elected SA member and one of the organizers of the march, addressed the attendees as “a member of the student assembly and a South African in solidarity with Palestine.”

Mullen [claimed](#) that [00:01:50] South African-style apartheid “lives on in one place today, Israel” and [characterized](#) [00:01:59] Israel as “a massive police state” that

“brutalizes, monitors and murders Palestinianans.” Mullen also [pledged](#) [00:00:50] “to end Cornell’s relationship with Israel.”

On [May 16, 2021](#), Cornell SJP [posted](#) photos of the march to Facebook and commented: “Cornell students and Ithaca residents turned out in force today to demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation and apartheid!”

Bullying a Jewish LGBTQIA+ Student

During the last meeting of the undergraduate SA on May 13, 2021, outgoing SA representatives [reportedly](#) promised to work to remove newly elected LGBTQIA+ Liaison At-large Dillon Eisman, who is Jewish.

According to the Cornell Review, outgoing liaison and Cornell SJP activist [Toamas Reuning](#) objected to the [election](#) of Eisman during the open microphone part of the meeting.

Reuning [reportedly](#) claimed that Dillon “has been openly transphobic, Islamophobic and racist” but did not present evidence at the meeting. Reuning reportedly vowed to work with other LGBTQIA+ groups to remove Eisman from his seat by the end of the summer.

Addressing the electoral body, Reuning [added](#), “And hopefully y’all will elect someone who has the interest of all LGBT people. And this is not for debate.”

Vice President of Finance and Cornell SJP activist [Uche Chukwukere](#) also reportedly condemned Eisman’s election at the meeting, [saying](#), without presenting evidence, that Eisman had posted transphobic, racist and misogynistic sentiments on his social media.

[According](#) to the Cornell Review, “Chukwukere encouraged the incoming Student Assembly to remove Eisman as soon as possible and choose someone who ‘cares about the queer community and understands the intersectionality that comes with it.’”

Eisman reportedly responded, [saying](#), “As a gay, Jewish person ... who has family and has lived in Israel... these comments are antisemitic. The persistent harassment from members who are currently serving on the Student Assembly [against] people like myself ...is incredibly inappropriate.”

Eisman also reportedly [claimed](#) that he had been harassed through direct messages on Twitter and Instagram and said he had screenshots of the offending posts.

Demonizing Israel

On [April 21, 2021](#), Cornell SJP [promoted](#) a “[virtual teach-in](#)” on the “Deadly Exchange,” encouraging students to “tune in to find out what it will take to end the militarization of campus police and (one aspect of) Cornell’s complicity in the occupation of Palestine!”

JVP launched the “[Deadly Exchange](#)” campaign in 2017. The campaign claimed that American Jewish organizations promoted human rights abuses. A video for the campaign by JVP accused American Jewish organizations of planning programs between American and Israeli security personnel to [advance](#) “racist policies.”

On [January 5, 2021](#), Cornell SJP [retweeted](#) a claim that “Israel spreading covid to Palestinians under their control through violent raids and military occupation only to not give them the vaccines is apartheid at its finest.”

Under the [Oslo Accords](#), the Palestinian Authority (PA) is [responsible](#) for providing health services to Palestinians under its jurisdiction. In December 2020, PA officials [reportedly](#) contacted Israel’s Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) department to request the vaccine, which Israel agreed to provide.

On [March 29, 2021](#), Cornell SJP [retweeted](#) a tweet by JVP that claimed, “Why are Palestinians still relying on donated vaccines while Israel holds on to extras? The differentiation in access to the vaccine shows clearly Israel’s medical apartheid system.”



2020

Strategy

With COVID-19 restrictions pushing activities online, Cornell SJP used the internet to demonize Israel and glorify terrorists.

Demonizing Israel

On [December 14, 2020](#), Cornell SJP [hosted](#) a teach-in titled: "Health and the Israeli Occupation."

The event description [claimed](#): "The apartheid system imposed by the Israeli occupation of Palestine extends to all facets of life, including health and medical treatment ... Hospitals in Gaza are frequently demolished by Israeli bomber planes."

Hamas has [used](#) hospitals and other civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip to hide and disguise their [military command](#) centers, weapons storage and [launch sites](#) for missile and [rocket](#) attacks against Israel. According to [international law](#), under such [circumstances](#) the sites would forfeit their right of protection as "civilian objects."

On [February 21, 2020](#), Cornell SJP [hosted](#) a webinar titled: "Mental Health Under Siege - the Case of Palestine" given by four members of the [Palestine Global Mental Health Network \(PGMHN\)](#) steering committee.

The Facebook event description [accused](#) Israel of "political violence, institutional racism, and internal colonialism" and claimed that Israel does not "just target the physical living conditions of the Palestinians, but aims to break the very fabric of their society, their souls, and their psyche as well."

One of the speakers, Mustafa Qassoqsi, [described](#) [00:11:53] the emigration of Jews to the Land of Israel during periods of Russian persecution in the 1880's, as the "colonization of Palestine by European Jews" and [accused](#) [00:13:15] Israel of "settler colonialism" [and](#) [00:15:00] "ethnic cleansing."

Another presenter, Samah Jabr, head of the Mental Health Unit within the Palestinian Ministry of Health, [suggested](#) [00:38:15] that Israel's humanitarian aid to Gaza is used "to have control over Palestinian minds" and a "deceiving mask for sadistic intentions of Israelis maintaining the upper hand over Palestinians."

Rana Nashashibi, a psychologist living and practicing in Jerusalem, [alleged](#) [00:46:54] that the Gaza Strip and most of the West Bank today is “very much like a huge, overcrowded prison, whose inmates are kept in check by heavily armed guards at the gates. If this prison were to be called anything, it would be called a ghetto.”

Glorifying Terrorists

On [January 29, 2020](#), Cornell SJP [shared](#) to their Facebook page a post from a local communist [collective](#), the [Central Ohio Revolutionary Socialists \(CORS\)](#). The post glorified Palestinian terrorist Ghassan Kanafani and promoted Kanafani’s rejection of any negotiations with Israel.

Kanafani was a [leading member](#) of and spokesman for the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine \(PFLP\)](#) during the [terrorist](#) organization’s early years.

Kanafani announced the PFLP’s responsibility for the [Lod Airport Massacre](#) of May 1972 and was linked to the airport attackers. In that attack, people were [killed](#) 26 and 80 [wounded](#).

On [November 13, 2020](#), Cornell SJP [retweeted](#) a post by [Electronic Intifada \(EI\)](#) decrying universities and platforms such as Zoom for [shutting down](#) lectures by Palestinian terrorist Leila Khaled.

[Khaled](#) was a leading member of the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine \(PFLP\)](#) and participated in the hijacking of [TWA Flight 840](#) in 1969 and [El Al Flight 219](#) in 1970. As of 2017, Khaled was a [member](#) of PFLP’s Political Bureau.

Khaled has [said](#) that the [second intifada](#) failed because it was not violent enough, [advocated](#) [00:36:07] for the use of children in terror activities and [compared](#) Zionists to Nazis.

“From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free” is a chant [used](#) [00:02:52] to [call](#) for the elimination of the State of Israel. It has also been employed by [Hamas](#) leader Khaled Mashal to [call](#) for the replacement of Israel with an Islamic state.

[Cornell Students for Justice in Palestine Retweeted](#)

 **Electronic Intifada**  @intifada

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University administrations more afraid of losing contracts than upholding academic freedom



electronicintifada.net
Zoom censors events about Zoom censorship
Selective censorship tactic dependent on complaints from groups with anti-Palestinian agenda.

2019

Strategy

After a major loss in 2014 when the group failed to pass a BDS resolution in the Student Assembly (SA), Cornell SJP worked in the intervening years to stack the student government with their activists and intersectional supporters. The strategy nearly worked in 2019, save for two last-minute additional votes granted to the undergraduate community attending the proceedings.

Thwarted by the student government, Cornell SJP took their battle to the university's trustees, staging a disruptive event at a trustee meeting.

BDS Campaign

In [February 2019](#), Cornell SJP [launched](#) an anti-Israel [divestment campaign](#), introducing Student Assembly (SA) Resolution 36 titled: "Urging Cornell to Divest from Companies Profiting from the Occupation of Palestine and Human Rights Violation."

Cornell SJP's resolution [called](#) on Cornell to divest from [Cornell Tech's](#) partnership with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology (Technion). Cornell Tech is Cornell's technology, business, law and design campus.

Cornell SJP also [called](#) on the university to divest from Tata Motors, Ingersoll-Rand, Raytheon, G4S and Hewlett-Packard and any other companies the group claimed "profit directly from Israeli military occupation."

Cornell SJP [said](#) in a February 19, 2019 Facebook post: "We will publicly name endowment investments... and hold university leadership responsible for complicity in crimes of apartheid."

As part of the campaign, on [February 18, 2019](#), Cornell SJP [delivered](#) a letter to Cornell's President Martha Pollack [calling](#) on the university to "divest from companies profiting from morally reprehensible human rights violations in Palestine."

Ultimately, the resolution was defeated 14-15 after two "community votes" were incorporated into the count. According to the SA bylaws, undergraduate students present at the meeting are allocated (as a group) two "community votes."

On [April 11, 2019](#), Cornell SJP [presented](#) their divestment initiative to Cornell's SA for a vote. During the discussion, [Mahfuza Shovik](#), a Cornell SJP activist, College of Engineering [representative](#) to the SA and resolution sponsor, [denied](#) [00:23:03] the resolution was part of the BDS movement.

In April 2017, [Omar Barghouti](#) — the BDS movement founder — [said](#) [00:58:53]: “If you join a campaign for justice and freedom, it doesn't have to carry the BDS logo. It doesn't have to say ‘boycott’ and it doesn't have to say ‘BDS.’ There are many creative ways how to do things without labeling it as BDS.”



SA senators [used](#) a secret ballot to [vote](#) 14-13 in favor of the resolution. BDS activists have previously [resorted](#) [00:11:05] to the [use](#) of secret ballots to [eliminate](#) [02:51:15] transparency from the voting process and avoid any public scrutiny and accountability for their anti-Israel initiatives on university campuses.

Ultimately, the resolution was defeated 14-15 after two “community votes” were incorporated into the count. According to the SA [bylaws](#), undergraduate students present at the meeting are allocated (as a group) two “community votes.”

On [April 12, 2019](#), the day after the vote, Cornell Alumnus [Saim Chaudhary](#), a 2019 Cornell SJP activist and former diversity representative who had been at the university in 2014 when a similar Cornell SJP BDS resolution failed to pass in the SA, shared in a Twitter [thread](#) his “excitement” that, because of the strategy of encouraging SJP activists to become SA senators, the divestment resolution had almost passed.

Chaudhary detailed how, in 2014, he had been “on the fringes” of student

involvement and that he decided to run for a position on the SA **because** he “always thought if we got more likeminded people on the SA we could get the resolution passed.”

“By end of my tenure I only wanted to inspire ppl like me to come forward and participate. And they did,” he **continued**. “More and more people from the community started running in the elections. And more and more got elected.”

“Alas,” he **lamented**. “Cornell gives two community votes and a really organized Hillel ensured their support base was there.”

Omar Din, a Cornell SJP activist and SA senator for the College of Human Ecology who **spearheaded** the divestment resolution in the SA, **tweeted** back to Chaudhary, saying, “This is your story to tell. You got me elected and involved. This led to me getting @KidKhaddy and @dushtomeye into the Assembly. Everything that happened yesterday started with you!!!!”

Board of Trustees Disruption

On **October 19, 2019**, Cornell SJP, in conjunction with **Islamic Alliance for Justice (IAJ)**, and **Climate Justice Cornell** as well as other student organizations, **disrupted** the quarterly meeting of Cornell’s Board of Trustees, again **calling** on the board to “sever ties” with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

The group claimed that the Technion engaged in “morally reprehensible” behavior. Protesters **demanded** that the board’s power of discretion in investments be eliminated to “stop funding atrocities in Palestine” and end “the 71 year long Israeli occupation of Palestine!”

The disruption was **followed** by a protest held outside the meeting venue.



Demonizing Israel

On [November 22, 2019](#), Cornell SJP [hosted](#) an event titled: “Teach-in Gaza: Life inside the world’s largest open air prison.”

The event description on Facebook [said](#), “... we will be discussing the history of Gaza from the Nakba to the Great March of Return to last week’s military aggression by Israel. Learn more about U.S ally Israel’s role in creating the world’s largest open air prison ... and how Palestinians today are fighting back for their lands.”

“Last week’s military aggression” referred to Israel’s [Operation Black Belt](#), the targeted killing of terrorist [Baha Abu al-Ata](#) [Bahaa Abu Al-Atta], a senior commander of the terror group [Palestinian Islamic Jihad \(PIJ\)](#). Abu Al-Ata was [reportedly](#) in the midst of planning attacks against Israel.

In response to the killing, PIJ [fired](#) hundreds of rockets toward Israel including those that targeted Israel’s largest [civilian](#) population centers.

Nakba is generally translated as “catastrophe” in Arabic, [referring](#) to the outcome of the [1948 Arab-Israeli War](#). It is a term often used to delegitimize the creation of the State of Israel by defining it as a catastrophe.

On March 30, 2018, some 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza [approached](#) Israel’s border to take part in “Land Day Protests” or the “March of Return.” The March of Return was [organized](#) and [funded](#) by Hamas as a campaign of [violent](#) protests along Israel’s border to spotlight the demand of Palestinians to “return” to Israel.

The “right of return” is a Palestinian demand [discredited](#) as a means to eliminate Israel.



2018

Supporting an Anti-Israel Agitator

On [February 12, 2018](#), Cornell SJP [held](#) a rally in [support](#) of anti-Israel agitator Ahed Tamimi, calling for her release from Israeli detention. During the event, protesters held signs that [said](#): “Free Ahed,” and “Israeli Occupation is Apartheid.”

Ahed Tamimi has a long [history](#) of physically [attacking](#) Israeli soldiers. Tamimi is the daughter of Bassem Tamimi, who is [known](#) for exploiting young children as political props in staged confrontations with Israeli soldiers. In 2011, he was [jailed](#) for inciting minors to commit violence against Israelis, such as [rock-throwing](#).

On [February 21, 2018](#), Cornell SJP [hosted](#) an event billed as a “letter writing for Ahed Tamimi.”

On the [same day](#), the group [posted](#): “Thank you for all of you who stopped by to write some words of support in solidarity with Ahed Tamimi, who has become the symbol of the Palestinian resistance headed [sic] the youth and children against the occupation and apartheid in Palestinian Lands.”



2017

Disrupting Israeli Independence Day Celebration

On [May 2, 2017](#), The Cornell Daily Sun reported that Cornell SJP [disrupted](#) Cornell Hillel's Israeli Independence Day [celebration](#) by holding a "die-in" in the middle of the event.

[Hillel International](#) Hillel International is a Jewish campus organization serving college students at more than 550 universities worldwide.

Cornell SJP activists were [granted](#) entrance to the event venue after they promised campus police they would not disrupt the event. However, within minutes of entering the hall, four members of Cornell SJP held up a sign that read: "Celebrating 69 years of Genocide," while others handed out flyers or lay on the floor, simulating dead bodies.

Cornell SJP also [reportedly](#) distributed flyers that said, "The modern day Jewish state was founded on the expulsion of the indigenous population."



2015

Glorifying a Terrorist

On [March 16, 2015](#), Cornell SJP [posted](#) to Facebook and Instagram a photo of Cornell SJP activists [holding](#) a large banner in support of Palestinian terrorist Rasmia Odeh. The banner read: “Justice for Rasmia” with the hashtags “#justiceforrasmia #CornellSJP #resistance #freepalestine.”

Odeh was a [key military operative](#) [00:02:08] with the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine \(PFLP\)](#) terrorist organization. In 1969, she [masterminded](#) a PFLP supermarket [bombing](#) that killed two college students. She also attempted to bomb the British consulate in Jerusalem. Odeh later moved to the United States but was [deported](#) to Jordan in 2017 for immigration fraud.

On [March 17, 2015](#), Cornell SJP [posted](#) a blog to their website titled “Justice Denied: Rasmia Odeh Sentenced To Prison And Subsequent Deportation.” The blog condemned the U.S. court’s decision to sentence and deport Odeh and called the decision a “repression of Palestinian activists.”



Disrupting Israeli Independence Day Celebration

On [April 23, 2015](#), Cornell SJP [held](#) a march and “die-in” during Hillel’s Israel Day at Cornell. Simulating dead bodies, protesters lay on the floor in front of Hillel’s Israel Day tables while holding a banner that read: “Celebrating 67 Years of Genocide.”

One protester [displayed](#) a sign that [said](#): “Celebrating Apartheid,” while another [held](#) a sign [reading](#): “Celebrating Genocide.”

2014

Anti-Israel Protest

On [November 19, 2014](#), Cornell SJP held an anti-Israel protest in Cornell's Ho Plaza. The demonstration took place the day after [six Jews](#) were [murdered](#) in Jerusalem by [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian \(PFLP\)](#) operatives using a gun, axes and a [butcher knife](#) during [morning prayers](#) in a synagogue in the Har Nof neighborhood.

The attack [became known](#) as the Har Nof Massacre.

During the protest, anti-Israel agitator [Kat-Yang Stevens](#), a [reported](#) "protester-for-hire," verbally [assaulted](#) [00:00:09] a group of pro-Israel students. Stevens repeatedly [taunted](#) [00:00:34] one student, saying, "Go ahead, slap me, b**ch, slap me" and [00:01:56] "Shut your f**king pie-hole."

Stevens also [yelled](#) [00:01:32]: "Aggression will be met with aggression."

One of the anti-Israel demonstrators [told](#) [00:00:08] the pro-Israel students, "F**k you, Zionist scum." Other slurs and insults [reportedly](#) used by Cornell SJP activists during the assault were, "Apartheid is f**king apartheid" and "there's no logic to Zionism."

Cornell SJP activists [reportedly](#) ripped pro-Israel signs and smeared ketchup on another.

Cornell SJP activists [erected](#) a mock checkpoint with some activists dressed in black and playing the role of Israeli soldiers and others playing the role of Palestinians being searched.

Cornell SJP activists also [placed](#) posters condemning Cornell's partnership with the Technion throughout the campus. One poster [read](#): "CORNELL+TECHNION=ISRAELI APARTHEID. DON'T MAKE A BUSINESS EXPLOITING PALESTINIANS."



Glorifying a Terrorist

On [August 20, 2014](#), Cornell SJP [tweeted](#): “Arrest of Odeh is part of the systematic criminalization of Palestinian organizing #Justice4Rasmea.”

On [November 6, 2014](#), Cornell SJP [tweeted](#): “Cornell SJP is in solidarity with Rasmea Odeh!” The tweet was accompanied by a [link](#) to their statement [titled](#): “Justice For Rasmea Odeh, Justice For Palestine.”

In the statement, Cornell SJP [claimed](#) that Israel detained Odeh “on a spurious accusation of terrorism” and [added](#): “Rasmea Odeh is the type of citizen that American leaders should be honoring, not prosecuting.”

Surprise BDS Resolution

On [April 8, 2014](#), right before the Jewish holiday of [Passover](#) when many Jewish students would be leaving campus, news [broke](#) that Cornell SJP was planning to introduce as “new business” an anti-Israel divestment resolution at the scheduled SA meeting two days later.

On April 10, 2014, SA Resolution 72, [titled](#): “Urging Cornell University to Divest from Companies Profiting from Israeli Occupation and Human Rights Violations,” was introduced to the SA. Procedurally, since the motion was new business, it could only be voted on one week later, on April 17, 2014, which was in the middle of the week-long holiday of Passover.

Despite the call [issued](#) by Cornell SJP to “pack the Student Assembly meeting” in order to “Help us defend the resolution and prevent it from being tabled,” on [April 10, 2014](#), the SA voted [00:02:17] to indefinitely [table](#) Resolution 72 with a 15-8-1 [vote](#).

Before the vote, Cornell SJP and BDS activists [staged](#) [00:00:52] a walkout, [shouting](#) expletives [00:00:51].

Stevens, who also attended the hearing, [accused](#) [00:01:23] the SA of “supporting colonization and genocide.”