



American Muslims for Palestine

2021 Annual Report

Cracking The Dams of US Complicity

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🌐 www.ampalastine.org

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Background

AMP was founded in 2006 as a community organization to fill a void in the work for Palestine among the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim American communities. Over the years, AMP has transformed to become a major national organization in the Palestine solidarity movement. Within the policy domain, AMP is engaged in vigorous advocacy work for Palestinian rights, effectively enhancing the Palestine voice in the U.S.

With 10 chapters from coast to coast, and with supporters in many other places, AMP has built a large and solid grassroots community. AMP organizes events, actions, and festivals to educate about the history, culture, and struggle of the Palestinian people.



Mission

American Muslims for Palestine is dedicated to advancing the movement for justice in Palestine through education, advocacy, and grassroots mobilization.





Letter From The Executive Director



Dr. Osama Abuirshaid
Executive Director

Assalamu alaikum,

At AMP, we have always promised that our work for Palestine will continue to evolve and improve. We are keen to fulfill our promise to you and are keen to honor our word.

We understand our responsibility towards our just cause. For us, this is a mission, not a job. We are doing Palestine no favor. Rather, we are the ones who are honored with this mission and we know that it elevates our esteem and our value.

Because we are a people of a just and noble cause, and because you have entrusted us with this responsibility, we, God willing, will not disappoint your hopes and the hopes of the oppressed Palestinian people who look to us.

We are fully aware that Palestine will not be liberated, that the occupation will not fall, and that injustice will not collapse, without there being a parallel change in America.

Our tax money finances the occupation and the apartheid regime in Palestine. Our government provides immunity to Israel from its crimes. Our weapons kill Palestinians, injure them, and destroy their lives. Our technology is what enables the occupation to enslave the Palestinians and monitor their breathing, movement and static.

This must change. We can change it if we work together. The heroic actions the Palestinian people took this year prove that we can disrupt and permanently alter the status quo. This past summer proved that the unity of our demands and the sanctity of our rights remain intact and that despite Zionism's greatest efforts, our people remain resolutely committed to achieving collective freedom. We know what we are doing, we know

what we want, and we continue to develop our strategies and upgrade our tools to achieve our common goal. Our work this year speaks for itself. This report will highlight key aspects of our work from our incredible grassroots to our dynamic advocacy, all of which was done by our vast network of extraordinary volunteers and staff nationwide.

With your sustained support, we will write a success story that will make our people in Palestine proud of us. We will be proud of ourselves as we rid America of the burden of supporting a murderous occupation.

Against the backdrop of a devastating pandemic, our resolve and strength did not fade away nor did our work unravel. God willing, with you, we will continue to defy all challenges until we live together in a free Palestine and pray in its mosques, churches and synagogues, without occupation or racist colonial Zionism.

None of this would have been possible without your generous support, so we thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Osama Abuirshaid
Executive Director





Board of Directors



Dr. Hatem Bazian
Board Chairman



Munjed Ahmad, Esq.
Board Member



Dr. Osama Abuirshaid
Executive Director



Salah Sarsour
Board Member



Staff



Dr. Osama Abuirshaid
Executive Director



Taher Herzallah
Director of Outreach &
Grassroots Organizing



Hareth Adlouni
Digital Communications
Director



Ayah Ziyadeh
Advocacy Director



Shakeel Syed
West Coast Director



Mohamad Habehh
Development Director



Zarefah Baroud
Digital Media Associate



Tarek Khalil
Education Coordinator



Malak Shalabi
Media Coordinator



Malak Kanan
Chicago Coordinator



Nour Abughoush
Administrative Clerk

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

AMP in the Media

- 150 Media features
- 10 Articles published
- 17 Radio/TV interviews

Facebook Stats

- 813k Total Video Views
- 5.9k Total Video Likes
- 24 Live Webinars
- 8k New Followers

Twitter Stats

- 6.7k New Followers
- 3.5M Impressions

Instagram Stats

- 336 Total Posts
- 241 Graphic Posts
- 95 Video Posts
- 14 Live Videos
- 14k New Followers

Overall Stats

- 1M+ Total Video Views
- 35+ Webinars & Livestreams
- 300+ Pieces of original content

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[#PalestineConnectsUS](#)

Advocacy

Since AMP opened its office in DC in 2015, political advocacy has become a central feature of our work. We've excelled in energizing Americans to advocate for crucial policy change for Palestine. The past six years of advocacy work gave us the experience and tools to deal with the tumultuous landscape of DC politics in a pivotal year for the Palestinian people. Here are some of our accomplishments in 2021.

- **Organized the #SanctionIsrael campaign to end US support for Israel.** This campaign was launched in May and included our online petition, our virtual gala with esteemed guests such as Rep. Rashida Tlaib and a national march for Palestine in Washington, DC with over 35,000 attendees and 130+ endorsing organizations.
- **Advocated to get more members of Congress to sponsor HR2590,** the Palestinian Children & Families Act, a legislation introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum that prohibits US funding of Israeli human rights abuses of Palestinians. This is the most progressive piece of legislation in support of Palestinian rights yet. 31 Members of Congress signed onto the bill in 2021.
- **Mobilized thousands of calls, emails, and tweets** in support of the groundbreaking joint resolution of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders in May to block the Biden administration from giving more US weapons to Israel.



- **Organized to get 24 Members of Congress** to support Rep. Marie Newman's Dear Colleague letter to the State Department, in the beginning of May, protesting Israel's war crime of forcibly expelling Palestinians in the Shaikh Jarrah neighborhood of Jerusalem.
- **Delivered a petition in May signed by more than 200,000** people to the State Department opposing expulsions in Jerusalem and co-organized a rally at the State Department upon delivery. Representatives Rashida Tlaib and André Carson spoke to 1,000 people to demand swift action from the Biden administration to halt the expulsion of the families.
- **Launched AJP Action.** In August, AMP officially launched an affiliated organization, Americans for Justice in Palestine Action (AJP Action). AJP Action fiercely and unapologetically lobbies for Palestinian rights. As a new 501(c)(4) organization, AJP Action will work in a boundless capacity to oppose legislation and policy that furthers Israeli oppression, and to support legislation and policy that upholds and advances Palestinian rights. AJP Action hosted Palestine Advocacy Day in 2021 and will be running this project moving forward.


 Congress of the United States
 House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken
 Secretary of State
 U.S. Department of State
 Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:



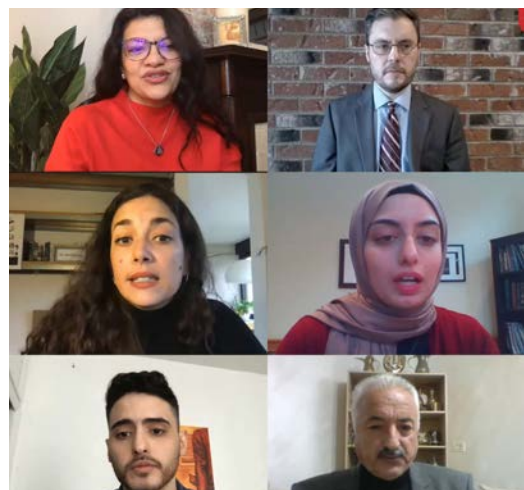
Education

Educating Americans about Palestine is the cornerstone of our work. In fact, over the past 15 years, we've been aiming to fulfill our mission of empowerment, through education and action because we know that when people are equipped with the knowledge, they are driven towards action. With workshops, seminars, training, and book clubs across the US, our AMP staff and chapters in ten major cities have led on the educational front on and off-campus, in places of worship, and in the general public. In a year when so many were eager to learn more about Palestine, AMP worked hard to educate people all over.

- **First-ever Aqsa Week.** In 2021, collaborated with Friends of Al Aqsa, a UK based Palestine organization, to host the first-ever aqsa week. This initiative was a global event to reassert the Islamic narrative on Palestine, a lens often deliberately ignored and slowly erased. Aqsa week included numerous webinars with panelists and viewers from across the world.
- **Launched Turning Tables.** Turning Tables is a new and exciting culinary arts series featuring Palestinian chefs with over 200k viewers in our first season. In each episode, we focused on a popular Palestinian dish and saw how our chefs made it with a twist!
- **Yalla Y'all Series.** This series undertook an oral history project of Black and Palestinian activists and allies to better document the long-standing history of solidarity between the two communities and how they have supported each others' struggles.



- Hosted 14th Palestine Convention in Chicago.** During Thanksgiving weekend, November 25-27, thousands of people attended AMP's 14th Annual Convention for Palestine in the US making it one of our most successful conventions in a year where much was uncertain. With three different programs catered to all ages, everyone had a session, workshop, and activity to take part in. Our main program, tailored to all audiences, featured key figures in our movement. Our Campus Activism Track program catered more to students, emphasized the history of Palestine, the Zionist project, and how to utilize social media as a tool in the movement to better uplift Palestinians. We also had a program centered on our high school youth in order to get them more engaged and knowledgeable on the issue with a focus on subjects such as political prisoners, the history of Palestinian villages, and life under occupation.
- Dozens of educational webinars and sessions.** As many were still uneasy because of the pandemic, we increased our digital production and hosted dozens of webinars and sessions on our FB and IG with renowned scholars and speakers from a variety of backgrounds to reach new audiences to teach Palestine. Over a million people have been reached through these sessions on these platforms.
- Launched AMP's new website** with improved features and content. Check it at www.AMPalestine.org



Organizing

In 2021, hundreds of thousands took to the streets around the world, social media accounts were completely transformed to bring awareness to Palestine, elected officials scrambled to respond to the immense pressure they faced, and corporations were forced to meet their employees' demands for justice for Palestine. For 15 years, AMP has been building its base, building its organizing capacity, and most importantly, building our community's power. And this year, we saw our collective efforts come to fruition.

- **Launched a petition** to demand newly elected President Biden and Vice President Harris to prioritize Palestinian rights as they enter the Oval office in January.
- **Mobilized 100,000+ people nationwide** in massive protests against Israeli aggression and attacks. These protests took place in all major cities including Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and Washington, DC. These mass demonstrations took place in May and attracted the attention of local and national media in New York, Chicago, LA, Minnesota, and New Jersey.
- **Led a coalition of 30 Muslim organizations to #BoycottBidenEid**, which was endorsed by nearly 8,000 signers in 24 hours. Together we boycotted President Biden's Eid celebration at the White House due to his callous response towards the Israeli attack on Gaza in May.



- **AMP staff and chapters spoke with numerous media outlets** throughout the year to discuss issues like US funding of weapons to Israel, Gaza, Black-Palestinian solidarity, and the growing momentum and work in the US.
- **Our National Israeli Date Boycott Campaign** has worked to educate people on Israeli dates that are sold to the Muslim community during Ramadan. These dates are often deceptively marketed to disguise their origin and are frequently harvested from illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank with exploited Palestinian labor. In 2021 we reached more people than ever before with viral videos and posters in 4 languages including Spanish, Arabic, and Urdu. Local committees in major cities visited dozens of stores to ensure no sales of Israeli dates. Overall, the date boycott campaign has led to a sharp decrease in imports of Israeli dates into US markets.
- **Hosted a LIVE event with four employees** from Amazon and Google in October to discuss their historic campaign against Project Nimbus, a 1.2 billion dollar contract to provide cloud services to the Israeli military and government.
- **Co-organized the #FacebookWeNeedToTalk** global campaign with 40+ organizations and delivered a petition of over 52,000 signatures to Facebook offices around the world.



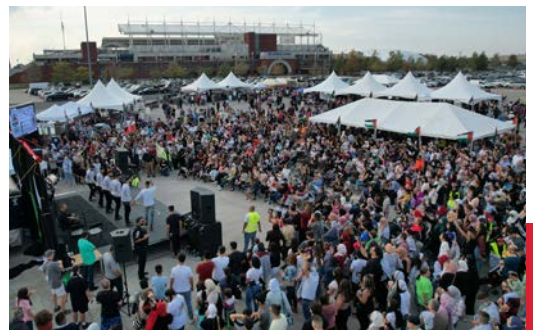
Chapter Work

In 2021, AMP's chapters in cities across the US from New York/New Jersey to San Francisco and from Dallas to Chicago, organized the country's largest mobilizations for Palestine in the last decade. In response to Israeli aggressions against Palestinians this summer, our chapters brought out tens of thousands of community members and allies in protests so large they shut down city streets and highways.

AMP's grassroots projects on a chapter level ranged from the Minnesota chapter's campaign targeting Pillsbury and their parent company, General Mills, for their factory on an illegal Israeli settlement to AMP Chicago's fun-filled Palestine Fest which attracted thousands from the Chicagoland area.

In Dallas, our chapter brought the community together to participate in the age-old process of olive brining and in New Jersey our chapter raised the Palestinian flag on the steps of city hall in Jersey City.

With the momentum and energy built since the summer, AMP launched a brand new chapter in Toledo, OH as chapters nationwide deepened their grassroots bases with new events such as monthly book clubs, cultural education and new flagship events.



FINANCIAL REPORT

STARTING BALANCE

\$ 316,106.51

REVENUE

DONATIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS & SPONSORSHIPS \$ 1,568,205.92

LOANS & PPP \$ 90,422.95

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 1,658,628.87

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS, CONFERENCES & CAMPAIGNS \$ 372,608.64

PAYROLL, INSURANCE, BENEFITS & TAXES \$ 629,260.55

IT EXPENSES \$ 26,385.35

GRANTS, DUES & SPONSORSHIP \$ 73,857.96

OFFICE, REAL ESTATE, ACCOUNTING & OPERATING EXPENSES \$ 144,122.98

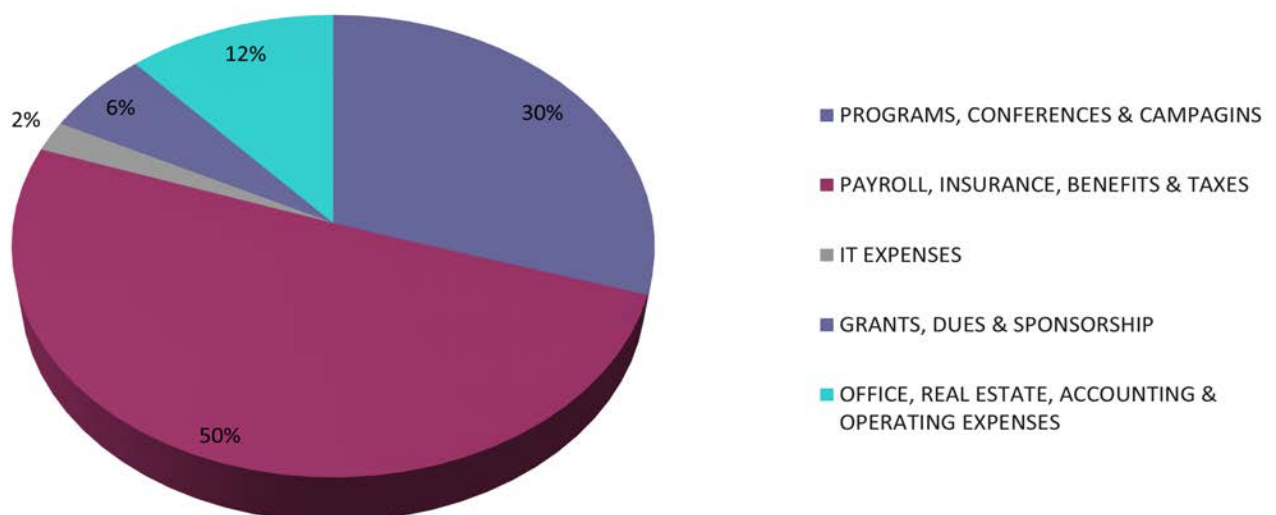
TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,246,235.48

DEFICIT / SURPLUS \$ 412,393.39

ENDING BALANCE

\$ 728,499.90

2021 EXPENSES





American Muslims for Palestine

THANK YOU!

We have always promised that our work for Palestine will continue to evolve and improve. We are keen to fulfill our promise to you and are keen to honor our word.

Last year was a tremendous year for Palestine in America. Through your support, we were able to achieve so much. This report is a testament to that.

We are grateful to have partners on this path like you to help make our efforts for the noble cause of Palestine possible. With your sustained support, we will write a success story that will make our people in Palestine proud of us.

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