

Federal Task-Force
To Combat Anti-[Zionism]



LINES IN THE SAND

Writings on the Gaza Solidarity Encampment
& Campus Flood at U.C. Berkeley from
an Anarchist Prisoner of War

Casey Goonan

*transcribed, formatted, & edited
with love & rage from
comrades to the end*

cover images:

شهادة الاطفال في زمن الحرب

In Time of War: Children Testify

(Drawings by Palestinian Children)

Beirut: Mawakif / PFLP, 1970

April 17, 2026

Palestinian Prisoners' Day

with whatever weapons at hand

withwhateverweapons.noblogs.org



Editor's Note

The content of this book comprises writings and letters written by Casey during their time at Santa Rita Jail in the year before they were sentenced to federal prison. Some of the ideas and opinions expressed in this text are rooted in a particular moment in time and do not reflect Casey's current views on strategy, approach, and political action. These are not definitive statements and must not be construed as such, especially given that Casey is imprisoned and certain ideas may create undesirable repercussions. The editors have aimed to be as faithful as possible to Casey's original words in the transcription and editing process, with minor spelling and grammar changes for readability.

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*Let's get everybody who's been
criminalized together and figure out how we can
undo this state of affairs.*

—Ruth Wilson Gilmore¹

At the time of this writing, the U.S. Department of Justice has announced it is launching a “major civil rights investigation” into the University of California, based on claims that it allowed pro-Palestine anti-war and anti-genocide protests to create an allegedly “hostile antisemitic work environment” on several campuses during the 2023-24 school year. Such investigations serve as a high-profile example of the primary narrative strategy of *victim-reversal* deployed by defenders of Israeli zionist settler colonialism: the dubious charge that to oppose “Israel” as it actually exists—a European Jewish settler nation based on land theft, occupation, native population displacement, and anti-Palestinian genocide-warfare—is to be categorically “anti-Semitic.” This intellectually and historically dishonest defense mechanism also hinges on the equally deceptive premise that to be against zionism—the western imperialist ideology that spiritually animates the (white) Civilization and nation-building project of “Israel”—is to be an anti-Semite. The zionist entity of Israel thrives on this fabricated aura of vulnerability and the ruse of “innocence” that is generated by this ploy of victim reversal.

The current D.O.J. probe of the University of California underway is part of a larger campaign organized by the Trump-Vance “MAGA” bloc, in lockstep with the far-Right Israeli government, to exert intensifying political-legal pressure on the administrative, industrial, and financial structure of U.S. universities where strong movements against Israeli apartheid exist and/or popular support for Palestinian liberation is growing.²

The so-called Federal Task Force to Combat Anti-semitism, since February, has multiplied its counter-offensive attack on the Palestine solidarity movement in what appears to be a “shock-and-awe” approach to coercing the entire social ecosystem of Higher Education back into the normative conduct and disciplinary constraints of Zionist conformity. All funding from the federal government “will stop for any college, school, or university that allows illegal protests,” writes Donald Trump proudly from his personal social media platform, “agitators will be imprisoned/or permanently sent back to the country from which they came,” or if it is an “American student,” they will be “permanently expelled, or, depending on the crime, arrested.”³

U.S. American-Israeli Zionist settler empire is approaching the 2024 intifada on the university campuses from the perspective of international geopolitics, domestic counter-insurgency, and modern warfare. Meanwhile, our Palestine solidarity movement still overwhelmingly organizes itself according to liberal-pacifist and reformist terms of engagement. Far from some irrational retributive campaign by the government to punish university institutions where dissent and support for Palestine has become most pronounced, such measures against the U.C. system (and similar institutions) are the expression of a more general urgency from (global) settler empire to realign the material equation of force that last spring was momentarily thrown into crisis by the convergence of anticolonial insurgency on campus across the country—an equation that was first upended in Palestine on October 7,

2023. That is, the material equation of force that underpins colonialism and the larger imperialist world order in which the zionist entity of Israel is a lynchpin and forward base.

This spate of federal investigations is strategic, calculated within the geopolitical and military context of U.S.-Israeli joint counterinsurgency doctrine: “Comprehensive civilian and military efforts designed to simultaneously defeat and contain” emergent and potential articulations of anti-zionist resistance.

We are now experiencing the current far-Right coalition government mobilize the ostensibly liberal-humanist legal regime of “civil rights” (Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act) on the fraudulent basis of “combatting antisemitism,” to do far much more than simply penalize participants of the 2024 campus revolt retroactively. What we are in fact experiencing is the capitalist, white-supremacist state *proactively fortify an infrastructure* that is essential for the continued social reproduction, ideological coherence, and hegemony of a singular apparatus of settler empire formed between the United States of Amerika and Israeli nation-states.

In this historical and theoretical context, it becomes easily apparent that the CUNY 8, the Ann Arbor 11, Leqaa Kordia, Mahmoud Khalil, and i (among others) are all targets of this peculiar, historically-specific wave of ongoing repression. And yet, each of us are merely exemplary objects of criminalization. Suspensions and expulsions, visas revoked, detained to be deported, two-decade-long prison sentence proposed—we are some of the latest defendants and prisoners

from the Palestine liberation movement in the United States. Some of us can even be called prisoners of war. The attempt of the colonial apparatus to neutralize us is meant to invoke fear in the present, as much as it is a preemptive attack against *the potential for a revolutionary subversion of the U.S.-Israeli war machine* catalyzed by the convergence of society onto campuses throughout the imperial-settler core. Toward the fulfillment of our generation's historically necessary task: the *abolition* of the University of Empire, of which each of our various legal cases represent a different facet or sector of this most recent cycle of struggle.

The state uses the imprisonment of political leaders and rank-and-file activists as a bludgeon against movement victories. Their incarceration is a reminder of the strength, potential, and, just as crucially, the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of radical mass movements. As a result, political prisoners serve collective prison time for all those who participated in the movements from which they emerged.⁵

Notes

[Editor's note: this chapter was originally released as a zine in September 2024 by Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross.]

1. Ruth Wilson Gilmore, with Jenna Loyd. "Race, Capitalist Crisis, and Abolitionist Organizing," *Abolition Geography: Essays Toward Liberation*, ed. Brenna Bhandar and Albert Toscano (New York: Verso, 2022 [2012]), 469.

2. The absurdity of it all is that, following the spring 2024 uprising on the college campuses, the U.C. system engaged in the largest increase of its police department budget in over a decade. Each campus also implemented new policies disallowing the use of masks and face-covering, as well as new rules mitigating the obstruction of walkways and against encampments. U.C. Berkeley added drones and new weaponry, and some campuses acquired tanks, new surveillance tech, and other military-grade resources.

3. Quoted in Molly Gibbs, "Feds Opening Probe into U.C." *The East Bay Times* (March 6, 2025).

4. Martin Schoots-McAlpino "Anatomy of a Counter-Insurgency," *Monthly Review Online* (blog post, July 3, 2020), <https://mronline.org/2020/07/03/anatomy-of-a-counter-insurgency/>.

5. Dan Berger, "The Real Dragons: A Brief History of Political Militancy and Incarceration, 1960s to 2000s," *Let Freedom Ring: A Collection of Documents from the Movements to Free U.S. Political Prisoners*, ed. Matt Meyer (Oakland: PM Press, 2008), 3.

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1. To Speak for Myself
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4. Singular Apparatus, Differentiated Terrains
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Casey Goonan is a dedicated community educator, writer, distroist, printer, and anarchist/anti-imperialist political prisoner who has committed their life to struggles for liberation. Casey is incarcerated for actions carried out in solidarity with Palestinians facing genocide in Gaza and in response to the repressive actions against the pro-Palestine student encampments in the United States. In January 2025, Casey pleaded guilty to one count of maliciously damaging or destroying property used in or affecting interstate commerce by means of fire or an explosive for the arson attack on a campus police car. As part of a plea agreement, Casey took responsibility for other attacks but pleaded not guilty to the additional charges and was sentenced to 235 months in federal prison. Just as Casey has persistently for years cared for, supported, and struggled alongside incarcerated comrades, we aim to replicate these actions in solidarity with Casey as they continue their struggle from the other side of the wall. A note from Casey in September 2025: *“Thanks to everybody out there who has shown me love and offered support through this time. I wish every prisoner could experience the level of support you all have shown to me. In here, I’ve done my best to show my love to all my fellow prisoners and I remain steadfast to the movement to Palestinian liberation and the movements for decolonization and abolition worldwide.”* More information:

freecaseynow.noblogs.org

Writing a letter to a political prisoner or prisoner of war is a concrete way to support those imprisoned for their political struggles. A letter is a simple way to brighten someone's day in prison by creating human interaction and communication—something prisons attempt to destroy. Beyond that, writing keeps prisoners connected to the communities and movements of which they are a part, allowing them to provide insights and stay up to date. Writing to prisoners is not charity, as we on the outside have as much to gain from these relationships as the prisoners. Knowing the importance of letter writing is crucial. Prisons are very lonely, isolating, and disconnected places. Any sort of bridge from the outside world is greatly appreciated. Find out more:

nycabc.wordpress.com



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