

A detailed illustration of an olive branch with several olives and leaves, rendered in a dark green color against a lighter green background. The branch is positioned diagonally across the page.

PALESTINIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

حركة الشباب الفلسطيني

Community Report 2022

PALESTINIAN
YOUTH
MOVEMENT



حركة
الشباب
الفلسطيني

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Dear Community,

2022 has been a year of immense growth and revitalization in the struggle for Palestinian liberation. The PYM is proud of our role in the broader movement; this year, we held 130+ actions in over fifteen cities, disseminated vital information and education on Palestine to our audience of hundreds of thousands, inaugurated new branches of our transnational work, convened 100 PYM members for our summer school, and much more. As always, we couldn't have done it without you. We hope we can count on you to continue supporting us in the years to come.

Building on 2021's surge of global support for Palestine, this year we focused heavily on organizing in our local contexts as an integral part of our regular projects, campaigns, and programs to support the social, cultural, and political empowerment of Palestinian and Arab communities. The following community report presents highlights of our work in 2022, with a special focus on the projects and mobilizations of our chapters across North America in the San Francisco-Bay Area, Boston, Los Angeles-Orange-County-Inland Empire, San Diego, Houston, Dallas, Austin, Atlanta, Detroit, D.C.-Maryland-Virginia, New York, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and Ottawa as well as our transnational expansion to Britain, Sweden, and Italy.

Rather than summarizing all of our work, this report focuses on some in-depth stories from 2022, so that you can get a better sense of exactly what you're supporting when you contribute to our fundraising efforts.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the PYM and to our people!

Until Return and Liberation,
The Palestinian Youth Movement

To support us as we continue growing Palestinian grassroots, youth-led organizing, please donate online at

palestinianyouthmovement.com/donate

or by mail-in check to WESPAC Foundation to 77 Tarrytown Rd, Suite 2W, White Plains NY 10607 with "PYM" in the memo line.

At the national and transnational level, our 2022 highlights include:

- Convening 100 members from various chapters in the US, Canada, and Sweden for our Summer School and National General Assembly in June. Through a dedicated collective process that spanned more than a week, we voted in new leadership and a robust political program.
- Publishing the 6th Annual Ghassan Kanafani Resistance Arts Anthology Tomorrow: Futures of Resistance, through which we were also able to provide multiple scholarships to Palestinian students.
- Our continued transnational expansion, including a delegation of our National Executive Board to Italy and the subsequent inauguration of the Italy branch of the PYM.
- Growing our media presence through campaigns to amplify and educate our audience of over 150,000 on issues in Palestine, including the conditions of Palestinian prisoners and hunger strikers; Zionist repression and criminalization of students and civil society organizations; escalating ethnic cleansing across Palestine in Sheikh Jarrah, Massafar Yatta, Al Khalil, Al Naqab, and Silwan; the ongoing siege and attacks on Gaza; celebration and commemoration of important dates in the history of Palestinian struggle; and the surge of uprisings and fierce resistance in Jenin and Jerusalem. We also expanded our media presence beyond social platforms; PYM members published op-eds and conducted interviews with major news outlets like Al Jazeera.
- Notably, we were able to do all this work while fighting multiple censorship efforts by large social media platforms, including the suspension and subsequent reinstatement of our Instagram account.

Our projects in 2023 include:

- Delegations to Lebanon and Dine Tah (Navajo Nation)
- Stronger coordination with movements on the ground in Palestine
- Campaigns to confront Zionism
- An oral history project to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba.



Meanwhile, our chapters...

Organized or co-sponsored 80+ actions that mobilized thousands of people in over 15 cities across the U.S. and Canada. These included:

- Vigils and protests for the martyrdom of Shireen Abu Akleh.
- Protests and rallies against heightened Zionist attacks on Gaza in August.
- Hands Off Al Aqsa and Hands Off Palestine mobilizations against heightening campaigns of land theft, expulsion, attacks, and genocide against our people in April and May.
- Sit-ins at the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. to protest forced evictions in Jerusalem.
- Nakba Day protests and actions in LA, the Bay Area, NYC, Austin, Ottawa, San Diego, Montreal, Atlanta, San Francisco, Toronto, D.C., Vancouver, and Detroit.
- Participation in the “No Tech for Apartheid” campaign, working alongside workers at Google and Amazon to protest the companies’ contracts providing surveillance technology to the Zionist military.
- Large-scale, political visual projections on significant buildings (including the Israeli consulate in San Francisco) to commemorate our martyrs, condemn Zionist violence, and affirm our peoples’ right to resist.
- Collaborated with 50+ organizations and joint struggle partners



Put on 55+ educational and cultural events, including:

- Teach-ins, community discussions, and workshops on creative writing, Palestine and the military industrial complex, confronting Zionism, Palestinian revolutionary history, art against imperialism, BDS, the history of Algerian-Palestinian solidarity, the Holy Land Foundation 5, the fight for ethnic studies curriculum, tatreez, Palestinian prisoners, creating zines, banner painting, and more.
- Launch parties for the publication of our 6th annual Ghassan Kanafani Resistance Arts Anthology and commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Kanafani's assassination in over 10 cities.
- Cultural events such as dabke nights, community iftars, picnics, a soccer tournament, panel discussions on nakba memories, and more.
- Film screenings of Fedayin: Georges Abdallah's Fight, Off Frame: Revolution Until Victory, and Jenin, Jenin.
- Revolutionary reading groups to engage educational material and enhance the political education of our membership.
- A special art exhibit at the Dallas Public Library showcasing Palestinian history, literature and art while commemorating 74 years of the Nakba.



2022 in our chapters' own words:

LAOCIE

“2022 was the LAOCIE chapter’s biggest year yet! Our chapter membership grew fivefold, and over the course of the year, we led numerous direct actions in Los Angeles and Orange County while further cementing relationships with community members and joint struggle partners in our area. As a whole, this was an action-packed year for the LAOCIE chapter, and we are excited to continue learning, building, and struggling together in 2023.”

Bay Area

“In 2022, we organized banner drops, projections, wheat-pasting, rallies, marches, vigils, film screenings, and cultural events supporting our freedom fighters and the resistance, honoring our martyrs and prisoners, educating our community, and confronting Zionist institutions in our area. We provided outlets to our youth during the height of resistance and attacks on our people. We responded to calls from the ground to mobilize against land theft, expulsion, attacks, and genocide against our people in Al-Naqab, Jerusalem, Hebron, and throughout Palestine. Through political education and actions, we built momentum against Zionist charity organizations in San Francisco and worked with the Defund Racism campaign. We have held actions and cultural events honoring our martyrs and our freedom fighters, including a fundraiser and event honoring Ghassan Kanafani on the 50th anniversary of his assassination. During the Unity of the Fronts operation, we held a vigil for our martyrs honoring their lives and the strength of the resistance at Parker Elementary School in East Oakland where there was a 180 day sit-in protesting discriminatory school closures.”

San Diego

“In the past year, PYM San Diego has engaged hundreds of community members across the county with our political education, community, and joint-struggle events and programming. Throughout the year we hosted political education workshops for youth at community centers, high schools, and college campuses; protests and projections; prisoner support work. Most notable, were our intergenerational three-part 74th Nakba commemoration series during May 2022, our commemoration of the 50th-anniversary of Ghassan Kanafani’s assassination Arts Resistance Night, and Jenin, Jenin film screening with Q&A with Director Mohamed Bakari.”



DMV

“In addition to the first ever sit-in at the Israeli embassy in January to protest forced evictions in Jerusalem, and a Nakba Day protest at the Lincoln Memorial in May which also commemorated the martyrdom of Shereen Abu Akleh, the DMV chapter held a community Iftar to mark the launch of the 6th Annual Ghassan Kanafani Anthology and Scholarship, which brought the community together to celebrate Palestinian cultural resistance. Over the summer, the chapter brought together community youth for a basketball fundraiser tournament. In October, the chapter held a community picnic, with dabke, music, henna, olive pickling, face-painting, and other family-friendly activities, which brought out hundreds of community members. The chapter prepared a banner uplifting the struggle of our political prisoners, and invited families to write their own messages of support for the prisoners on the banner. We also debuted a new zine at the picnic, honoring the sacrifices of our heroes in the West Bank. The chapter is currently planning a film screening of “Resistance, Why?” for the community in December.”

Atlanta

“With the start of 2022, PYM Atlanta launched an ongoing community-centered boycott campaign against Israeli products. The PYM Atlanta organized a protest march in commemoration of the 74th Nakba as well as the martyrdom of Shireen Abu Akleh. PYM Atlanta organized their first community event; a panel of elder Palestinians who experienced the Nakba as well as the Naksa spoke to the community about their experiences and what their advice is for the next generation of Palestinian organizers. PYM Atlanta also commemorated the 50th anniversary of Ghassan Kanafani’s assassination last July. The Atlanta chapter was also engaging with the community in two different festivals; the May Day Festival and the Arab Festival at the Alif Institute in the Fall of this year. The

PYM Atlanta chapter is now focused on fighting and ending the Israeli-US police exchange program known as the Georgia International Law Enforcement program.”

New York

“Over the past year, the New York Chapter has worked to strengthen community relationships, provide opportunities for cultural engagement, and support the political development and education of our youth. We have had community events bringing together different artists and forms of cultural production while engaging our political history. We have also strengthened joint struggle relationships through showing up for our comrades and hosting joint teach-ins and events with them, in particular our Filipino and Cuban comrades. To do our part in amplifying the struggle of our prisoners and freedom fighters in Palestine, we have engaged in and co-organized numerous large actions/protests throughout the city, did large-scale visual projections, conducted media interviews, and written op-eds.”

Dallas

“This year the Dallas chapter was successful in furthering the political education of our members as well as continuing to mobilize the community during crucial moments through rallies which uplifted the voices of political prisoners, protests against the Zionist regime, and vigils honoring our martyrs. We commemorated the 74th year of the ongoing Nakba by showcasing Palestinian art, history, and culture with the North Texas community through an exhibition set up with the Dallas public library system where we featured local artists, poets, and other contributors. We marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Ghassan Kanifani through a community event which promoted the launch of PYM’s 6th anthology and scholarship in his name. We plan to end the year by continuing to build stronger relationships with our joint struggle partners through community events and teach-ins.”

Toronto

“In the last year, the Greater Toronto Area of the PYM was able to host and co-sponsor numerous events and be available amongst our community in sectors areas ranging from arts and culture to popular protests and political education sessions. Our chapter was able to mobilize thousands of our community members in protests and marches, for the 74th anniversary of the Nakba, to demand freedom for our Political prisoners, and call for an end to arms trade to the zionist state. Our work in the region has had a strong focus of counter-zionism and its narratives across all sectors of society. One of our highlight events was the launch party for the annual Ghassan Kanafani Resistance Arts Scholarship, which also commemorated the 50th year since his assassination.”

Houston

“PYM Houston used 2022 to focus on our internal community that we have developed from prior years of organizing. We prioritized further deepening the relationships within the community, education, and strengthening our base. In May, PYM Houston held an intergenerational event to commemorate the 74th year of Nakba, bringing in elders from the local community to pass on their stories to youth and share with other community members. We also developed a reading group to further push our general body membership and working group to further engage in educational material. Covering nearly six different texts thus far, we are continuing to grow and look forward to conversations around Palestine and other political issues. We provided major support to the Houston Palestinian festival by inserting our members into positions of leadership within the organizing, deepening our relations with local Palestinian and Arab institutions.

Additionally, this year Houston hosted its very first Ghassan Kanafani Resistance Arts Scholarship Launch Party, which brought together community members from every generation to partake in cultural resistance performances, ranging from the art of tatreez to a recitation of Kanafani's Return to Haifa. The Houston chapter was also proud to engage in joint struggle work, attending a community commemoration of Carl B. Hampton, and mobilizing alongside Anakbayan and Malaya. Houston is happy to share its growth and hopes to have your continued support."



Thank you for your ongoing support!



You made all of this work possible! We are so grateful for your unwavering commitment to our struggle and we hope to continue with your support in the future.

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