



American Muslims for Palestine

2020 Annual Report

Turning the tide for Palestine in the U.S.

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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 Palestinian 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 our people.



Mission

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



Protestors gather in front of the Israeli Embassy at the AMP National “All Out Against Annexation” protest in Washington, DC (2020).



Letter From The Executive Director



Dr. Osama Abuirshaid
Executive Director

“He who does not thank the people is not thankful to Allah.” (Hadith: Sunan Abi Dawud 4811).

With all of our hearts, we say: **Thank you!** Despite all of the obstacles and challenges, and with the blessing of Allah and your generous continuous support, we have achieved extraordinary accomplishments for Palestine in the US during the challenging year of 2020. This report in your hands now is a testament to that.

It is true that we, like other people, countries, and institutions, have been severely affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, from the first day, after relying on Allah, we resolved not to spare any effort in serving Palestine.

Oppressors do not freeze their injustices during moments of crisis such as a pandemic. It is not reasonable nor acceptable for the people standing in opposition to these oppressors to abandon their responsibilities in fighting these injustices.

Over the past year, Israel has attempted to further legalize its land theft from Palestinians (with the backing of the Trump administration) by de facto annexing additional parts of the West Bank, continued to support settler expansion, demolished more Palestinian homes even as the pandemic escalated, shut down COVID-19 testing sites for Palestinians, denying them access to vaccines, extrajudicially killed Palestinians at checkpoints, and furthered its chokehold on Gaza.

Therefore, withdrawing from the scene or reducing our workload was never an option. The Palestinian people understand this reality. Despite the

tremendous difficulties and challenges they face, they have not given up, nor will they surrender. Following in their footsteps and inspired by their determination, we solidified our commitment to our just cause in Palestine.

We know the extent of the challenges facing the work for Palestine in the US. Furthermore, we are aware of the betrayals to Palestine by some Arab states. But we know that surrendering and accepting this reality is neither logical nor a correct choice. The only option available to us is to rise to the challenge and deliver the appropriate response. We are not defeated, and we will not be defeated unless we accept defeat.

In this report, you will find many accomplishments we have achieved over the past year despite our modest capabilities. There is real positive change currently taking place in US public opinion relating to Palestine. Millennials and Gen Z are more receptive to the Palestinian cause, and new dynamics are evolving within Congress to condition US funding to Israel on Palestinian human rights.

We don't anticipate the Biden administration to abandon the seven decades plus of US complicity in Israel's abuses against the Palestinian people. Nor are we under any illusion that it will adopt an "even-handed approach" to the conflict caused by Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and its cruel oppression of Palestinians. Nonetheless, the last elections resulted in more Democratic progressives who won't shy away from taking a principled stance on Palestinians rights. We are at an inflection point in US history. How we capitalize on this energy is dependent on the support we receive from our donors.

We at American Muslims for Palestine promise we will continue to work for the sake of our blessed cause. We kindly ask you to keep your faith in us and our work. Your support and partnership are essential for the success of our collective mission. Thank you for believing in the importance of our work. Together, we are making a difference on the path toward freedom and justice in Palestine. May Allah (SWT) bless our collective efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Osama Abuirshaid

Executive Director





Board of Directors



Dr. Hatem Bazian
Board Chairman



Munjed Ahmad, Esq.
Board Member



Dr. Osama Abuirshaid
Executive Director



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Grassroots Organizing



Shakeel Syed
West Coast Director



Felicia Eaves
Black-Palestinian Solidarity
Consultant



Hareth Adlouni
Digital Communications
Consultant



Mohamad Habehh
National Development
Coordinator



Zarefah Baroud
Digital Media Associate



Malak Shalabi
Media Coordinator



Tarek Khalil
Education Coordinator



Nour Abughoush
Chicago Coordinator

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

20+
WEBINARS

Hosted more than 20 educational webinars with renowned speakers.

53
EDUCATIONAL
VIDEOS

Produced more than 53 educational videos with over 200,000 views.

10k+
SIGNERS

Over 10,000 signed our petition calling on DNC & RNC to include Palestinian rights in their platforms.

5k+
REACHED

Expanded our campaign to boycott Israeli dates and reached thousands of people nationwide.

750+
ATTENDEES

More than 750 from 42 states attended our first virtual Palestine Advocacy Days, with activities including a legislative advocacy session with expert trainers, over 150 meetings with Congress members and their staff, and a plenary session with 6 Members of Congress.

1,400+
REGISTRANTS

Hosted nation's largest virtual event for Palestine with viewers from around the globe and 40 panelists discussing topics including the role of the Palestinian diaspora, US foreign policy, resistance to oppression, Jerusalem, and Black-Palestinian liberation.

42
STATES

20k+
ONLINE VIEWS

200+
CONGRESSIONAL
MEETINGS

Worked with Congressional offices to propose cutting and conditioning US funding if Israel illegally annexes additional Palestinian land.

14
ACTION ALERTS

14 action alerts with over 15,000 actions taken by AMP supporters around the country on several critical issues.

Advocacy

- Organized the first-ever Virtual Palestine Advocacy Days (V-PAD).** AMP was set to hold its largest-ever Palestine Advocacy Day (PAD) with Members of Congress in March 2020 with an expected 750 attendees. COVID-19 made this in-person gathering impossible, necessitating AMP to postpone PAD and make it a virtual event. During the week of September 13th, we held our first-ever Virtual Palestine Advocacy Days! More than 750 people from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds from 42 states held more than 150 congressional meetings, including dozens with members of Congress themselves, to advocate for Palestinian rights.

V-PAD included an entire week of activities: a training session on Monday, September 13; a plenary session with Members of Congress on Tuesday, September 14; and virtual constituent meetings with congressional staff and members later on in the week. We saw dramatic results with more members of Congress cosponsoring historic legislation--H.R.2407 and H.R.8050--to support the human rights of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention and to impose consequences on Israel should it illegally annex more Palestinian land. In addition, six members of Congress--Reps. Betty McCollum, Rashida Tlaib, Donald Payne, Jr., Judy Chu, Debbie Dingell, and André Carson--delivered powerful remarks during our public plenary session, viewed by more than 25,000 people, in support of Palestinian human rights.

AMP PRESENTS

From the comfort of your home...

Book your seat today...

Day 1 Sept 14
Advocacy Training Sessions (for registrants only)

Day 2 Sept 15
Congressional Leaders Plenary (LIVE on Facebook)

Days 3-5 Sept 16-18
Congressional Meetings (for registrants only)

...you can now advocate for Palestinian rights!

...at the largest lobbying event for Palestine in the US!

September 14th-18th, 2020

\$10 Fee includes Access to Training & Meetings with Representatives

Register TODAY palestineadvocacy.com

Share with Friends & Family members

ampalastine.org | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [y](#) [v](#) | #PalestineConnectsUS

- **Took a leadership role in convening the Palestine solidarity movement to achieve policy change.** AMP hosted our first-ever policy forum in January 2020 with representatives of dozens of key organizations and individuals working within the electoral system for Palestinian rights to strategize about how to leverage the 2020 elections to advance our goal. AMP followed up by convening a second virtual policy forum in July, focusing on how to impact the political conventions.

AMP's campaign www.platformforpalestine.org with Jewish Voice for Peace Action to include Palestinian rights in the parties' platforms, signed by nearly 10,000 people, was a culmination of this effort.

- **Built and convened a coalition to coordinate legislative initiatives.** AMP also took the lead in assembling and co-convening a coalition with over 60 organizations--the Palestine Federal Working Group--to coordinate federal legislative efforts broadly across the spectrum of groups supporting Palestinian rights. We also launched the Palestine Advocacy Corps with our most dedicated supporters to engage in high-level policy training and additional advocacy opportunities.



Organizational leaders from around the country gathered at the AMP Policy forum (2020).

- **Countered Israeli annexation plans by building Congressional support for sanctioning Israel.** AMP worked with several Congressional offices, including Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), on legislative initiatives to cut and/or condition US funding as a response to Israel's plans to illegally annex additional Palestinian land. These were game-changing initiatives that finally sought to hold Israel accountable for its actions. AMP produced a policy memo, which was distributed to congressional staff, outlining the legal and political reasons to oppose Israeli annexation and hold Israel accountable, and we held a webinar for congressional staff and the public on the same topics.
- **Organizing around the Israeli Annexation Non-recognition Act.** Rep. Betty McCollum introduced a historic bill on August 14 to withhold US recognition of Israeli annexation and prevent US funding from supporting annexation.

This bill would have held Israel accountable for its violations of Palestinian rights and imposed consequences for laying further claims on Palestinian land. AMP is proud to have worked closely with the Congresswoman's office on the rollout of this bill and to be an official supporting organization of the bill listed on her website. AMP mobilized chapters and volunteers around the country to promote this bill with their Representatives.

- **Action Alerts.** One of AMP's most popular advocacy tools is our action alerts that go to tens of thousands of AMP supporters around the country. These action alerts typically consist of calls-to-action such as emailing your elected officials or signing petitions. In 2020, we issued 12 action alerts with more than twelve thousand participants. These actions have centered around issues like annexation, our date boycott campaign, and Congressional letters supporting Palestinian rights addressed to the UN and State Department.



Protestors gather in front of the Israeli Embassy at the AMP National "All Out Against Annexation" protest in Washington, DC



Taher Herzallah of AMP leading chant at the Counter CUFI protest (2019).

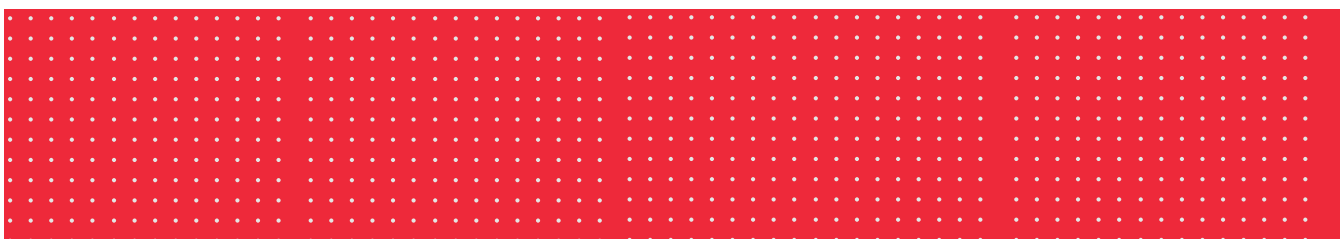
Education

- **First-Ever Virtual Palestine conference.** Our 13th Annual Convention was one of our most successful online endeavors yet. Every year, thousands of people from across the country join us for our annual convention in Chicago, IL. Very befitting of our theme, Against All Odds, our wonderful team of staff, board members, and chapters put together a virtual program to continue our long tradition of educational conferences. This year's conference, which took place on Thanksgiving weekend, aimed to celebrate our successes as a movement and look forward to the road ahead. More than 40 panelists joined us to discuss a wide range of topics, including the role of the Palestinian diaspora, US foreign policy, Jerusalem in the Islamic consciousness, global Muslim resistance to oppression, and Black-Palestinian solidarity. These rich discussions will propel us forward and inform our 2021 strategy.



- **Partnered with organizations around the world to co-host the Palestine Expo.** This year marked our first time partnering with the Palestine Expo. The conference is typically held in the UK and is used to celebrate Palestinian culture and history while also engaging in critical discussions related to Palestinian activism. AMP helped make this conference international by partnering with numerous organizations and broadcasting on our social media.

- **Conducted events around the country at mosques, colleges, and community centers before COVID-19.** In January and February 2020, AMP hosted 34 events in 20 cities and 14 states to educate communities and colleges about ways to engage in activism for Palestinian rights.
- **Webinars.** AMP has worked to make our essential educational programs more accessible by hosting them online. We have hosted various talks with renowned speakers such as Dr. Salman Abu Sitta, Dr. Rashid Khalidi, Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and others. These webinars have reached thousands of viewers nationwide.
- **Digital Media.** AMP used 2020 to increase our multimedia production on social media to educate a broad audience. We produced 53 videos this year, reaching hundreds of thousands of people, covering essential topics such as US-Israeli law enforcement exchanges, the Balfour Declaration, and more.
- **Yalla Y'all Video Series.** In 2020 we began producing the Yalla Y'all video series. This series was a product of our Black-Palestinian solidarity work and is a series of conversations that provide an intimate perspective of how and why activists working for Palestinian and Black liberation became the activists they have become. We'll be broadcasting these episodes online during Black History Month in February 2021.
- **Policy paper on the nexus between Zionist normalization and Jewish-Muslim interfaith work.** AMP commissioned the writing of a 60-page study, which provides an in-depth look into the various mechanisms that Zionist organizations utilize to promote Jewish-Muslim interfaith work as a means of tamping down advocacy for Palestinian rights within the Muslim community. This paper will serve as a useful handbook for the Muslim community to engage in forms of interfaith work with Jewish partner organizations to advance justice here and abroad without sacrificing our convictions about Palestine. AMP is currently in the process of finalizing the report for publication.



Organizing

- Engaged in anti-racism work in support of Black rights.** After the horrific killing of George Floyd sparked a national uprising to support Black Lives Matter, AMP took immediate action to support the movement and continue to build on the tradition of Black-Palestinian solidarity. AMP's Minnesota chapter led the efforts on the ground to deepen these ties of solidarity while, on the national level, AMP supported legislative efforts to end police brutality, initiated a monthly series of webinars to increase our community's understanding of anti-Black racism, and hired an experienced organizer as a consultant to increase Black-Palestinian solidarity work.



- Revitalized and expanded campaign to boycott Israeli dates.** AMP updated and expanded its campaign this Ramadan to boycott Israeli dates, many of which are grown and/or packaged in illegal Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley and which exploit Palestinian land and labor. It did so by producing a detailed research paper, creating a hard-hitting video, and publishing a high-profile op-ed in Al Jazeera, all of which led to greater awareness among Muslim-American communities of the need to avoid purchasing Israeli dates for Ramadan.

○ **#DroptheADL Project.**

AMP participated in a coalition of 100 Black, Latino, Indigenous, Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Arab organizations to launch a letter and campaign to drop the Anti-Defamation League from progressive circles in the US. The initiative culminated in a website droptheadl.org and a primer that explains in

detail the full breadth of the ADL's history of smear campaigns against progressive organizations in the US. This is by far the largest and most deliberate effort to counter one of America's largest pro-Israel groups.

**THE ADL IS NOT
AN ALLY TO
OUR MOVEMENTS.**

#DROPTHEADL

[DROPTHEADL.ORG](https://droptheadl.org)



Congresswoman Betty McCollum of Minnesota poses for a photo with an AMP delegation

Chapter Work

Like everyone, our chapters were also limited by the Covid-19 pandemic. In response, our chapters increased their virtual work and their promotion of AMP's national projects. AMP chapters contributed to AMP's overall success by taking leading roles in our Date Boycott Campaign, V-PAD, and our educational webinars.

📍 **AMP-Bay Area** increased its educational programming in 2020. The chapter launched a monthly webinar series focused on topics such as the Deadly Exchange between US police and Israeli security, Kashmir/Palestine connections, and political engagement. The team also helped bring in one of the largest contingents to our V-PAD.

📍 **AMP- Chicago** initiated and drafted an educational curriculum for high school students on the history of Palestine and Palestine activism, which is set to be one of AMP's largest educational initiatives. They led a local coalition of a dozen like-minded groups in political action by meeting with elected officials in the Chicagoland area on issues pertaining to Palestine. They also initiated a flagship youth program, Yalla Shabab, which brings together nearly 100 high school-age youth to discuss identity, politics, history, and culture every month.

📍 **AMP-Dallas** continued to grow this year and tackled important local community issues by working with partner organizations. They participated in local community events such as food festivals, the Palestine festival, and meal distributions to local workers. Our Dallas chapter increased their solidarity work and helped organize protests during the summer to support Black Lives Matter. Dallas also hosted multiple press conferences on important issues like the West Bank's annexation and the 'deal of the century.' And when the normalization agreements were announced, AMP-Dallas hosted a caravan protest to show their community's stance on the issue.



Protestors marching the streets of North Bergen, NJ in a local AMP Chapter protest against the annexation

📍 **AMP-Minnesota** worked hard to grow their educational programming and make it more exciting and accessible for their community. They hosted a virtual movie night viewing of *The Hurdle*, hosted online webinars, and created infographics and videos on the Nakba. They grew their monthly Palestine book club and completed 12 books. In February, they held their first-ever local Imams meeting to discuss normalization. They convened a conference with representatives from 13 local Palestine solidarity organizations with over 30 attendees. They hosted online webinars covering topics like the Sabra & Shatila massacre and the Balfour Declaration.

Our MN team also hired an intern to lead efforts to build support for House Resolution 2407, introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN). They continued engaging with the State Board of Investments in an effort to hold them accountable to human rights standards. AMP MN also joined a coalition campaign to Boycott Pillsbury products until General Mills closes their illegal factory in an Israeli settlement. Through this campaign, the team led the #BakeforPalestine challenge to help raise awareness.

AMP-MN was on the ground during the protests for George Floyd. The team led AMP's response in Minneapolis and helped start our national solidarity efforts.

📍 **AMP-Missouri** continued to grow their local advocacy work this year. In 2020 they hosted their first-ever state-level Palestine Advocacy Day in Jefferson City, MO. The program had dozens of attendees and focused on opposing a state bill that would criminalize BDS. This marked the first-ever local Palestine Advocacy Day. Through these efforts, they were able to defeat this anti-BDS bill in the state legislature. Our Missouri team also held an in-person gala in February, hosting Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib.

📍 **AMP-New Jersey** had an active 2020. The team increased their work by hosting numerous webinars with notable speakers such as Golbarg Bashi and Rashid Khalidi. They partnered with Jewish Voice for Peace to conduct an education seminar in Central New Jersey on Gaza. The team also partnered with other organizations for Palestinian flag raisings.

Our NJ team led multiple essential campaigns in the state. They led a local response to a national boycott of Israeli dates by going store to store and getting commitments from dozens of retailers to drop Israeli date brands. The team also expanded their Nakba campaign by conducting a social media campaign. They partnered with other local organizations to call for the release of Palestinian-American Ubai Aboudi, who was abducted by Israeli forces and held for months without charge or trial. AMP-NJ also expanded their solidarity work by partnering with local groups to combat issues of racism in ICE detention centers in the state.

FINANCIAL REPORT

STARTING BALANCE

\$ 152,792.49

REVENUE

DONATIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS & SPONSORSHIPS	\$ 843,864.79
LOANS & PPP	\$ 223,420.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,067,284.79

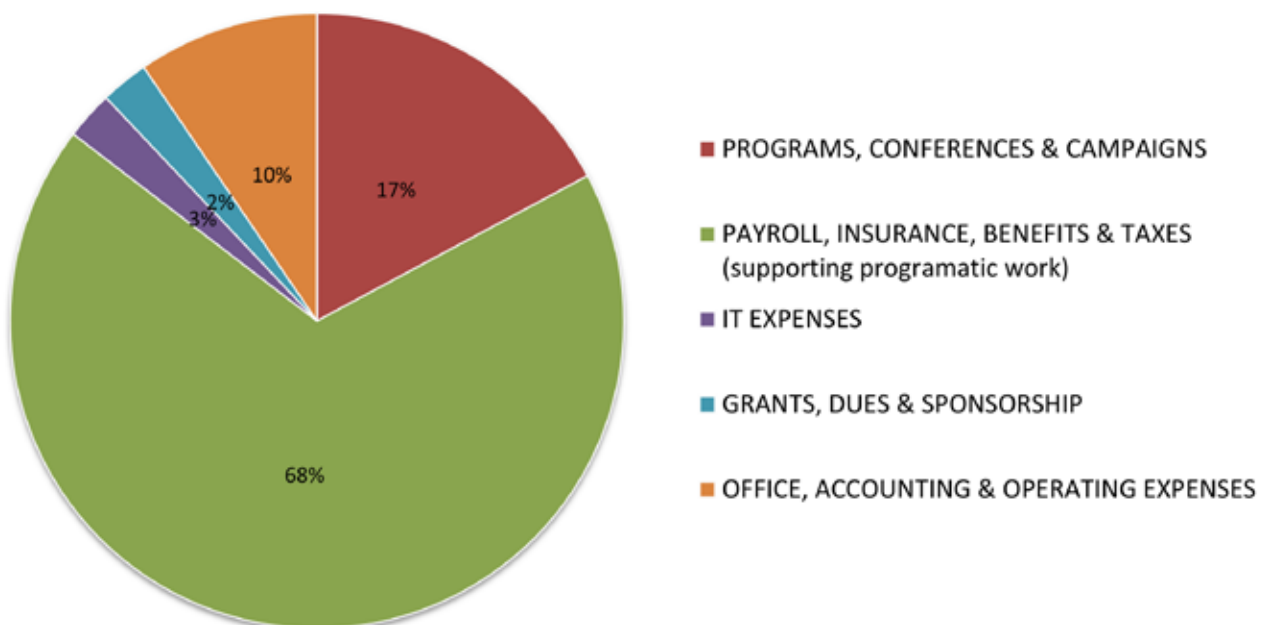
EXPENSES

PROGRAMS, CONFERENCES & CAMPAIGNS	\$ 155,274.87
PAYROLL, INSURANCE, BENEFITS & TAXES	\$ 616,701.39
IT EXPENSES	\$ 22,931.96
GRANTS, DUES & SPONSORSHIP	\$ 22,714.15
OFFICE, ACCOUNTING & OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 86,348.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$903,970.77

DEFICIT / SURPLUS	\$ 163,314.02
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ENDING BALANCE

\$ 316,106.51





American Muslims for Palestine

THANK YOU!

We knew that 2020 would be an important year and full of challenges but no one could have expected the obstacles we faced. Thanks to supporters like you, AMP has met all these challenges head on and has been successful every step of the way!

Thank you for supporting AMP and our work for Palestine in the U.S. We look forward to updating you on all the future accomplishments we hope to achieve this year.

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