



US Campaign to  
**End the Israeli Occupation**

"We aim to change those US policies that both sustain Israel's 42-year occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and deny equal rights for all."

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Organizers' Conference**  
**Chicago, IL, September 12-13, 2009**

**Draft Conference Agenda**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

**8:00A-9:00A: Registration**

**9:00A-10:00A: Member Group Report-Back**

*Facilitators: Omar Masri, National Membership and Outreach Coordinator; David Hosey, National Media Coordinator*

Delegates from member groups will give a brief report back on what they have been doing in the past year and discuss their challenges, obstacles, and successes.

**10:00A-12:00P: Presentation of Annual Report; Election Committee Nomination**

*Facilitators: Amie Fishman and David Wildman, Co-Chairs, Steering Committee*

*Nominees for Election Committee: To Be Announced & Elected*

The co-chairs will present the 2008-2009 Annual Report. Delegates will be divided into groups to discuss the different components of our programmatic work.

Delegates will then come back to the larger group to present their evaluations of the work of the US Campaign and make suggestions for improvement.

Voting delegates will also elect an Elections Committee to administer the election to the Steering Committee.

**12:00P-1:30P: Lunch (& Member Group Networking/Meetings)**

**1:30P Deadline for Steering Committee Nominations**

**1:30P-3:30P: Policy/Legislative Discussion**

**1:30P-2:15P: Policy Analysis**

*Presenters: Phyllis Bennis, Institute for Policy Studies & US Campaign Steering Committee & Nadia Hijab, Senior Fellow Institute for Palestine Studies & US Campaign Advisory Board*

Presentations covering an overview of the political situation and where our opportunities are for policy change.

**2:15P-3:30P Proposals**

*Facilitators: Judith LeBlanc, Steering Committee Member & Josh Ruebner,*



*National Advocacy Director*

Delegates will hear presentations on proposals submitted for strategies to advance the coalition's policy/legislative work. Delegates will discuss and debate the proposals and rank them.

**3:30P-4:00P: Coffee Break**

**4:00P-5:00P: Discussion of Current BDS Work**

*Presenters: NYCBI on Motorola & CAAP on Caterpillar*

*Facilitator: Katherine Fuchs, National Organizer*

Presenters will discuss their local and national Motorola and CAT BDS work over the previous years.

Member groups then break into small thematic discussion groups to devise strategy and tactics on how to move forward on advancing the US Campaign's existing BDS work and to assess where we are with this work. They will then bring themes back to larger group.

**5:00P-6:00P Gaza Freedom March**

*Presenter: CodePink Women for Peace*

*Facilitator: Nadia, Hijab, Senior Fellow Institute for Palestine Studies & US Campaign Advisory Board*

After presenting the plans for the Gaza Freedom March (January 2010), delegates will discuss and vote on whether to endorse it and if so how the US Campaign and its member groups can contribute to its success by adding in a U.S. policy-based component to the event.

**6:00p-6:30P: Candidate Introduction**

Candidates for election to the Steering Committee will introduce themselves to the plenary.

**7:00P-10:00P: Fundraiser, Key Note Speakers & Dinner:**

**Location:** First United Methodist Church, Chicago Temple, [77 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602](#)

Dinner, entertainment and keynote speeches by Professor Rashid Khalidi, director of the Middle East Institute and professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia University and Omar Barghouti, Palestinian political commentator and human rights activist. Nadia Hijab, Senior Fellow Institute for Palestine Studies & US Campaign Advisory Board and Barbara Ransby, US Campaign Advisory Board will be emceeing the event. The US Campaign is also delighted to announce our program will also include a special message from Fr. Miguel d'Escoto, President of the United Nations General Assembly, on the last night of his term of office. Father Miguel has raised his voice and used his platform to defend human rights and international law in Palestine, and played a particularly important role during the tumultuous United Nations debates over the Israeli assault on Gaza at the beginning of this year.

Tentative Times & Schedule:

7:00P-8:00P:	Dinner & Welcome by Senior Pastor, Rev. Phillip L. Blackwell, UMC-Chicago Temple
8:00P-8:10P:	Special message by Fr. Miguel d'Escoto, President of the United Nations General Assembly
8:10P-8:40P:	Prof. Rashid Khalidi
8:40P-9:10P:	Entertainment: Tala Abu Rahmeh, spoken word
9:10P-9:40P:	Omar Barghouti
9:40P-10:00P:	Discussion

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13:**

**8:30A-9:00A: Deadline for Steering Committee Ballots**

**9:00A-11:00A: Expanding BDS Targets**

**9:00A-10:00A:** Cultural & Academic Boycotts

*Presenters: Omar Barghouti, Palestinian political commentator and human rights activist & Nada Elia, US Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel*

*Facilitator: David Wildman, US Campaign Steering Committee*

9:00A-9:30A Panel Discussion with Omar Barghouti & Nada Elia

Omar Barghouti & Nada Elia will present the rationale for engaging in cultural and academic boycotts.

9:30A-10:00A Discussion and vote on endorsing cultural and academic boycotts

In plenary, delegates will discuss whether the US Campaign should endorse the principle of cultural and academic boycotts.

**10:00A-11:00A** Expanding BDS Targets to Include Israeli and Other Non-U.S. Corporations

*Presenters: CodePink Women for Peace*

*Facilitator: David Wildman, US Campaign Steering Committee*

Ahead of the conference, the US Campaign will solicit proposals from member groups for including new targets and/or strategies for our nationally-coordinated BDS work. These new targets/strategies may focus on Israeli or non-U.S. corporations that profit from occupation and/or apartheid. Organizations making proposals will have an opportunity to present their BDS proposals during this time.

In plenary, delegates will discuss the proposed BDS strategies/targets and vote on whether to add an Israeli corporation to the list of corporations that we are currently targeting for BDS campaigns.

**11:00A-3:15P: Grassroots Training Institute**

The US Campaign will hold a grassroots training institute to build the skills-set of activists and provide them with trainings to become more effective advocates in their communities.

**11:00A-12:15P: Training Slot A [4 Workshops]**

<b>Room:</b>	<b>Workshop:</b>	<b>Trainer(s):</b>
The Lake Room	Fundraising 101	Lynn Pollack, JVP - Chicago
The Arts Room	Media 101	Jake Pace, Interfaith Peace-Builders & David Hosey, US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
The Loop Room	Speaker Training: Education Your Communities About Palestine	Anna Baltzer
The River Room	Boycott & Divestment on Campus	Katherine Fuchs, US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation & David J. Rosenthal, SJP Purdue

**12:15P-2:00P: Lunch/Closing Session and Evaluation, SC Election Announcement**

Facilitators: Amie Fishman and David Wildman, Co-Chairs, Steering Committee

In plenary, the results for the election to the Steering Committee will be announced. The US Campaign will summarize the conference and major decisions made. Delegates will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the conference.

**2:00P-3:15P: Training Slot B [4 Workshops]**

<b>Room:</b>	<b>Workshop:</b>	<b>Trainer(s):</b>
The Lake Room	Campaigning 101	Katherine Fuchs, US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
The Arts Room	Organizing Faith Communities	David Wildman, General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC & Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, AFSC – Pacific Mountain Region
The Loop Room	Lobbying 101	Josh Ruebner, US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation
The River Room	Cultural and Academic Boycott: If not now, when... so let's figure out how!	Nada Elia, US Campaign for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel

**3:30P: New Steering Committee meets**