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Declaration of Principles and Strategies of Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine

I, Tyler Albertario, the Founder of Students for Justice in Palestine, at the behest of the current membership, submit for ratification the following Declaration of Principles and Strategies of Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine to be considered at the inaugural meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year to take place on August 25, 2014.

The following constitutes a collection and elucidation of several resolutions and collective decisions formulated and approved by the membership of Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine, as derived from the recorded minutes of the accompanying meetings, for the purposes of preventing the re-litigation of old discussions and debates over similar issues and themes.

Be it resolved;

With Regards to SJP's Position on the State of the Struggle for Palestine

At the inaugural meeting of Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine on January 31, 2014, it was proposed that there take place a debate or discussion surrounding what SJP's position should be with regards to its preference for either a one-state or two-state solution to the question of Palestinian liberation. In accordance with the positions of hundreds of other campus chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine, it was decided via general consensus at that meeting to forego this proposed discussion in favor of a policy which encompasses any and all visions of Palestinian liberation.

Furthermore, Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine is a space which houses a wide range of viewpoints of how a fully liberated Palestine would manifest. As such, it is not the duty of the executive board nor the general membership to impose a certain vision of liberation upon the group as a whole. No matter what the vision, the liberation of the Palestinian people will never be accomplished without full and complete solidarity amongst those which share different viewpoints of how to best go about remedying the situation.

With Regards to SJP's Position on Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS)

At the inaugural meeting of Students for Justice in Palestine on January 31, 2014, it was decided via a unanimous vote that SJP would adopt as official policy the support and advocacy for the proposed program of Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against the State of Israel, as called for by more than 170 Palestinian civil society organizations on July 9, 2005.

Furthermore, Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine wholeheartedly supports and advocates for the policy of Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against the State of Israel for its continuing oppression of the Palestinian people. Even negating the existence of a vote on the subject, this position is intrinsically implied and should not be opposed by any person truly sincere about advocating for the cause of Palestinian liberation.

With Regards to SJP's Official Policy on Anti-Semitism

At the inaugural meeting of Students for Justice in Palestine on January 31, 2014, it was stated to the general membership by the provisional executive board that anti-semitism of any kind would never be tolerated in any capacity, whether through written or spoken word. A resolution echoing this sentiment was promptly and unanimously approved at the very same meeting.

Furthermore, it is the stated policy of Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine that the proliferation of anti-semitic sentiments, attitudes, or imagery by any individual SJP member of any stature will result in disciplinary action.

With Regards to SJP's Interaction with Zionist Student Organizations

At the inaugural meeting of Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine on January 31, 2014,, a unanimous vote was taken to prohibit the leadership of SJP from engaging in any form of official collaboration, cooperation, or event co-sponsorship with the following student organizations and groups, due to their unyielding support for the Apartheid State of Israel:

- Binghamton University Zionist Organization (BUZO)
- Bearcats for Israel
- CAMERA
- iNext
- Hillel- The Jewish Student Union

On April 4, 2014, following the egregious libel and slander included in a Pipe Dream article published that day entitled, "Letter to the Editor: Pro-Israel campus groups respond," a unanimous vote was taken to extend the reach of that initial resolution to include the following student groups whose presidents had co-signed the article in question:

- J Street U
- Chabad
- Maimonides
- Alpha Epsilon Pi

This resolution and related amendments remain in effect.

Furthermore, Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine shall in no manner engage in any form of official collaboration with any student group which actively opposes the cause of Palestinian liberation nor with groups which have aided and abetted Zionist student

organizations in the interest of undermining or denigrating the work of Students for Justice in Palestine, regardless of the content of the proposed collaborative effort.

In the interest of clarity, “aiding and abetting” shall be henceforth defined as officially collaborating with Zionist student groups on publications, discussions, or events which have been duly decided by a vote of the SJP membership to be directly at odds with the cause of Palestinian liberation or promoting the normalization of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

While this policy governs the manner in which the resources of SJP may be utilized in an official capacity, individual members of Students for Justice in Palestine may do as they please, given the condition that they do not presume to speak on behalf of Students for Justice in Palestine as a group while engaging in the aforementioned collaborative activities with adversarial student groups.

With Regards to Structural Organization and Division of Labor

At the final meeting of the Spring 2014 semester on May 9, 2014, it was decided via general consensus that, in order to improve the functioning of SJP as a group, the duties and responsibilities of managing the day-to-day operations of SJP’s activities should be divided into separate and distinct committees with set and defined responsibilities to perform. The respective committees and responsibilities were defined as such:

- Logistics Committee, which supervises managing the running and promotion of SJP events, via tabling, flyering, making appropriate reservations, and any other logistical actions deemed to fall under its purview.
- Research Committee, which conducts research into university and student group activities for the purposes of promoting Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions against the State of Israel.
- Finance Committee, which manages the revenue and expenditures of SJP. Has access to the official group bank account and, as agreed upon at the meeting of May 9, 2014, should include:
 - 1 faculty member
 - 1 graduate student member
 - 1 undergraduate student member
- Outreach Committee, which manages the public image of SJP as well as its official relationship and coordination with other student groups.
- Editorial Board, which manages the editing and submission of SJP-sponsored articles for publication in the media and enforcing SJP’s editorial policies.

Furthermore, these committees shall be responsible for maintaining the operational health and well-being of Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine. Individual members may participate in the operation of as many committees as they so please, and the membership is free to establish new committees or alter the structure and responsibilities of existing ones as they see fit, given that such changes are agreed to by a majority vote of the general membership.

With Regards to SJP's Editorial Policies

At the meeting dated April 4, 2014, in a bid to alleviate persistent difficulties stemming from the haphazard and disorganized previous attempts to edit proposed editorials to be submitted to the Binghamton University Pipe Dream for consideration, the parameters for a set, defined editorial policy were agreed upon by a consensus of SJP's membership at its weekly meeting. The voting members of the group entrusted several core SJP members with creating a written editorial policy based on these agreed-upon conditions and guidelines. That written policy was presented online to the general membership on April 6, 2014, and is as follows:

1. The Role of Authors in the Publication Process
 - a. Per article there shall only be two authors at the maximum.
 - b. If the two authors decide to use additional content/editorial input from a third party their own names as authors shall still apply to the article.
 - c. If one of the authors does not want their name listed as an author on the article they shall have the lead editor substitute his/her name for them (more on the lead editor position below).
2. The Role of The Lead Editors in the Publication Process
 - a. After the article is finished it should be sent to the position of Lead Editors of our group.
 - b. The Lead Editors are the final word on the documents revision before it is sent out for publication. No member shall overrule the authority of the Lead Editors during the editorial process. All complaints/concerns regarding the editorial line among others must be directed after the fact during the SJP meeting sessions or on the listserv.
 - c. The Lead Editors shall serve as the firewall between the original authors and the publication outlet. If the article is returned with demand for revisions the Lead Editors decide whether to make further edits or pursue other avenues for publication.
 - d. This position shall have no more than two elected persons maximum, though, one person may be sufficient. Furthermore, the two Lead Editors have the right to appoint additional help in their task from other members as they see fit. Members of SJP are obligated to respond to such a call. A new election shall be required for this position for every academic year.

At the meeting of April 4, 2014 a preliminary election was held for the position of Lead Editor, at which Jon Lohnes and Mahmoud Zaidan were elected to the position to complete the Spring 2014 term. It was also decided that new elections for this position should follow every successive academic calendar year.

Furthermore, in the interests of streamlining the process of publishing editorials in Binghamton University Pipe Dream and other news publications, the aforementioned policies shall serve to govern the process of authoring, editing and submitting such articles for publication.

With Regards to Tactics and Strategies Used to Counter Zionist Normalization Efforts

At the meeting dated May 2, 2014, for the purposes of maintaining a definitive position on what tactics are to be used at a designated opportunity when countering an event or speaker seeking to promote the normalization of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, it was decided via general consensus that, depending on the attendance levels of individual SJP members at such events, the following tactics would be most appropriate:

- 1-5 SJP members in attendance- Conducting preparatory research for potential response articles and/or tabling/flyering outside the event..
- 6-10 SJP members in attendance- Tabling/flyering outside the event, engaging in political theater to protest the event, or engaging in a non-violent disruption of the event in question.
- 11-20 SJP members in attendance- Political theater to protest the event, engaging in non-violent disruption of the event, or any other tactic deemed appropriate by the attending members not including violence.
- More than 20 SJP members in attendance- Any non-violent tactic deemed appropriate by the attending members.

Furthermore, while these ranges and corresponding tactics are intended as strong suggestions to individual SJP members they are not binding and individual members are free to do as they please given the condition the tactics they employ in their pursuits are within the bounds of what is not widely considered to be legally reprehensible.

As the founder of Students for Justice in Palestine, it has been one of the great privileges of my life to see what started as a vague idea in December of 2013 blossom into the fully functioning and fully funded student organization it has become today. Witnessing the zeal and dedication demonstrated by all members of SJP in pursuing the cause of Palestinian liberation has been a truly humbling experience, and allows me to rest easier knowing that, because of this, the group will continue to fight the righteous battle against the forces of racism and Zionist normalization at Binghamton University, the Greater Binghamton Area, and the nation as a whole. The future of Students for Justice in Palestine continues to shine bright, and it is my sincere hope as your Founder that your adoption of this document will serve to ease SJP's transition into the 2014-2015 academic year and beyond. I wish you all the best and hope to see you all again very soon.

In Solidarity,

Tyler Albertario '14

Founder, Binghamton University Students for Justice in Palestine