

The Palestine Exception to Free Speech

PALESTINE
LEGAL

center for
constitutional
rights



Photo Credit: Wellesley Students for Justice in Palestine

292 Incidents

**Responded to from
Jan 2014-June 2015**

What is the Palestine Exception?

Israel advocacy organizations leverage their significant resources and lobbying power to pressure universities and government actors to censor or punish advocacy in support of Palestinian rights by employing a variety of tactics.

9 Tactics of Suppression

1. False Accusations of Antisemitism and Terrorism
2. Official Denunciations
3. Bureaucratic Barriers
4. Administrative Sanctions
5. Cancellations and Alterations of Events
6. Threats to Academic Freedom
7. Lawsuits and Legal Threats
8. Legislation
9. Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions

85%

of incidents target
students or scholars

How do these tactics play out? Here are some examples:

False Accusations of Antisemitism and Terrorism

159

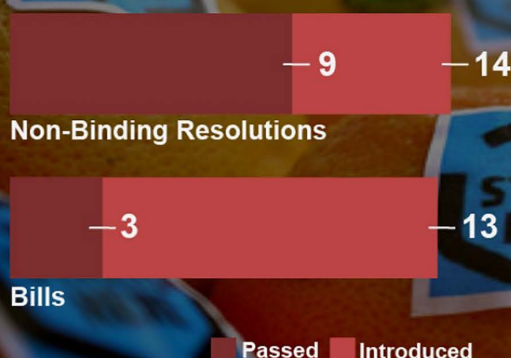
Number of incidents Palestine Legal responded to involving false accusations of antisemitism, based solely on criticism of Israeli policy

61

Number of incidents Palestine Legal responded to involving false accusations of terrorism

Legislation

Legislation Aimed at Suppressing Palestine Activism 2014-2015



Lawsuits and Legal Threats

- A food co-op's board members were sued for voting to support a boycott of Israeli products; the case has dragged on since 2011 even though it's meritless.
- Six complaints have been brought under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; none have been found to have merit.

Threats to Academic Freedom

Prof. Steven Salaita was fired from his tenured position because of his tweets critical of Israel's 2014 attack on Gaza.

Administrative Sanctions

Student organizers and groups have been subjected to probation, bans on holding leadership positions, fines, investigations and even suspension.

TAKE ACTION BY:

- ★ Documenting incidents of censorship or discriminatory treatment
- ★ Sharing your experiences with fellow activists, media, and elected officials
- ★ Sharing our report and video

- ★ Publicly opposing efforts to suppress advocacy for Palestinian rights
- ★ Urging universities to protect speech rights of students and academics who speak out

Go to: palestinelegal.org/the-palestine-exception or ccrjustice.org/the-palestine-exception