Spring 2026

CFJ Dispatch

Annual Report



We are pleased to present the annual report of CFJ-Colorado covering our accomplishments over the past year. Founded in 2017, our mission is to support sustainable development in Beit Ummar, a rural town of 22,000 located in the Hebron District of the West Bank. Nestled in Areas
B and C under the control of the Israeli military and surrounded by six illegal settlements, Beit Ummar offers a pronounced example of the ethnic cleansing and daily violence perpetrated by the Israeli military and radical settlers throughout the West Bank. We use examples of life under occupation in Beit Ummar to educate the public and lobby our elected officials in Colorado to support Palestinian rights

Our Work in Colorado

Need for Congressional Investigation of Attacks on Beit Ummar and Citizens

CFJ-Colorado called for a Congressional Investigation into escalating violence in Beit Ummar and opening a formal inquiry under the Foreign Assistance Act and the Leahy Law -- citing threats to community projects, new roadblocks isolating the town, and a surge in settler attacks. An investigation would demonstrate a total lack of compliance with U.S. human rights obligations and the need to end US aid. Letters were sent along with phone calls to Colorado's entire Congressional delegation.

Key facts cited by CFJ–Colorado:

- Two Beit Ummar teenage boys killed by settlers from Karmei Tzur neighborhood, an illegal settlement established on Beit Ummar land in 1982.
- A sharp rise in land seizures, home demolitions, and resident arrests.
- New military roadblocks (now totaling eight) that prevent vehicular entry and exit and further isolate the town from the rest of the West Bank
- Collapse of Beit Ummar 's economy as crops rot in the fields without market access. Mobile homes appear on
- seized land north of the city, signaling moves toward a new settlement in addition to six surrounding illegal settlements that complete the town's encirclement

- Increased international reporting on attacks, including from the French newspaper Le Monde which characterized them as "a reign of terror." Many of the settler attacks are led by American citizens.
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These developments parallel patterns seen across the West Bank and are part of Israel's policy of ethnic cleansing and annexation. This reflects on-the-ground reports from residents in Beit Ummar and calls for Congressional oversight to determine if the U.S. is complicit through its aid or assistance to Israel.

The Conversation



Beginning in May 2025 a play has been performed by a local cast including CFJ-Colorado member Julia Halaby titled The Conversation, a dramatization of a facilitated conversation about Israel and Palestine. The show was well received and has been performed 28 times including shows in Boulder, Denver, Paonia, Seattle, and soon in Santa Fe, NM.

Palestinian Refugees in Egypt



On August 16, members and supporters gathered for a lovely potluck and talk provided by Sergio Atallah of CFJ-Colorado about his recent trip to Egypt. Atallah shared photos and information about the condition of Palestinian refugees displaced to Egypt in the wake of the genocide. Atallah met with various organizations supporting the challenges displaced Palestinians are facing.

Black America & Palestine: Different Histories, Same Fight!

African-Americans, Jews, and Palestinians in the Shadow of the Gaza Genocide

On Saturday, September 27, at the First Unitarian Society of Denver (FUSD), CFJ-Colorado hosted a lively panel discussion entitled "Black America & Palestine: Different Histories, Same Fight! African-Americans, Jews, and Palestinians in the Shadow of the Gaza Genocide." Suggested by CFJ-Colorado member Hermon George, Jr., who moderated, panelists included Julia Halaby,
Rob Prince (both CFJ-Colorado members), and George. The event was co-sponsored by CFJColorado, Denver/Boulder JVP, and the Middle East Justice Project at FUSD, with about 75 people in attendance.



Audiance at First Unitarian



Hermon, Julia, & Rob



Joe, Nancy, Kelly, & Gary

Celebrating Palestine

In Fort Collins, on April 18, 2026, more than 20 organizations from Northern Colorado hosted a Palestinian cultural event titled *Celebrating Palestine*. The program featured speakers addressing the current situation in Palestine, along with a drum circle, dabke dancing, henna art, and a tatreez workshop. At the center of the event was Julia Halaby's remarkable museum exhibition, *Rooted in Palestine: A Material History.*



Event Flyer



Photographs and Antiques



Tatreez & Thobes

Our Work in Beit Ummar

Ramadan Food Drive

With the support of more than $3,000 raised by CFJ-Colorado, a Ramadan Food Basket distribution initiative was successfully implemented in Beit Ummar.

This project targeted vulnerable families experiencing severe economic hardship due to ongoing closure policies. Through this effort, 58 families benefited from the distribution. Each household consists of approximately five members, meaning the project supported an estimated 290 individuals during the holy month of Ramadan.



Contents of Food Baskets

The initiative provided essential food supplies, helping to ease financial strain and ensure families were able to observe Ramadan with greater dignity and stability.

Sustaining Agriculture in Beit Ummar

On April 3, 2026 settler violence, road closures, arrests, and destruction of livelihoods prompted CFJ, in partnership with Sons of Abraham, to launch a joint initiative supporting agricultural resilience.

The effort focused on preparing a safe production site, promoting hygiene and safety standards, and engaging Palestinian, Israeli, and international participants. With over 40 individuals involved, the initiative strengthened cooperation, improved facility readiness, increased awareness of safety practices, and enhanced documentation and advocacy efforts, all demonstrating the importance of coordinated action in sustaining livelihoods under difficult conditions.

Art as Healing: Supporting Children in Beit Ummar

A gathering of peace activists in Beit Ummar brought children together for a day of painting, dancing, and creative activities designed to support their emotional well-being. Living under difficult conditions, many of these children experience fear, stress, and a sense of injustice due to ongoing violence in their surroundings. The workshop provided a safe and supportive environment where they could express themselves freely, using art as a tool to release emotions and cope with trauma. Through these activities, the children were able to reconnect with a sense of normalcy and briefly step away from the pressures of daily life.





The presence of peace activists helped create a space where children could feel secure and simply enjoy being children again—playing, drawing, and interacting without fear. These moments are critical in helping them rebuild confidence, strengthen their resilience, and regain a sense of safety within their community. Initiatives like this highlight the importance of recreational and creative outlets in supporting children through challenging circumstances. Special thanks to CFJ for making this meaningful workshop possible.

Laying the Foundation for the Future: Kindergarten Project Progress

Despite the complexity of the past months and the risks surrounding implementation, the kindergarten project remains a vital educational and human development initiative. Following an extensive assessment, CFJ was able to proceed with construction and complete the final structural phase, including roofing at the end of April 2026. They are now preparing to move into the next stage, which includes equipping and designing the interior. We are proud they have been able to have reach this level of progress under such challenging conditions.

The kindergarten project aims to establish a distinguished educational institution that delivers high-quality learning in a safe, modern environment, meeting the highest educational and technological standards.

Support CFJ-Colorado's Mission

CFJ-Colorado is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. If you would like to make a donation, your support is fully tax-deductible and goes directly toward sustaining and expanding our work.

Every contribution makes a meaningful difference—thank you for your support.

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