

GPCA Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 7, 2021 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

(1) Roll call: (5 minutes)

There are currently 16 CC committee members. This means quorum is a simple majority of 9.

CC Members: Doug Barnett, David Bond, June Brashares, Eric Brooks, Mica Daniel (alt. female Co-Co), Barry Hermanson, Tarik Kanaana, James Lauderdale, Mimi Newton (female Co-Co), Nassim Nouri, Karen Nyhus, Christine Pepin, Shannel Pittman, Nicole Raglin, Audra Walton, Laura Wells.

Quorum was achieved at 7:35 with 13 CC members present. Those who arrived after the quorum was called are noted below with a * and the time of their arrival on the call.

Present (15): Doug Barnett* (7:40 pm), David Bond* (7:40 pm), June Brashares, Eric Brooks, Mica Daniel, Barry Hermanson, Tarik Kanaana, James Lauderdale, Mimi Newton, Nassim Nouri, Karen Nyhus, Christine Pepin, Shannel Pittman, Audra Walton, and Laura Wells.

Absent (1): Nicole Raglin.

Treasurer Justin Richardson was also present.

(2) Roles (1 minute):

Facilitator: Nassim Nouri, Assisting Facilitator with Stack: June Brashares, Notetaker: Barry Hermanson, Timekeeper: Karen Nyhus, Vibes-watcher: Mimi Newton

(2a) July meetings

Facilitator: -, Assisting Facilitator with Stack: Karen Nyhus, -, Notetaker: -, Timekeeper: -, Vibes-watcher: -

(3) Approval of Agenda (3 minutes)

- We moved item 11 to the July meeting.
- We added a 5 minute discussion of problems with the web site at the end of the agenda.

Agenda was approved by consensus.

(3a) APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS

Listed here as Agenda Item (12) - Decision Item: Bylaws Interpretation regarding voting dates for current SGA

Listed here as Agenda Item (13) - Decision Item: Elect SGA Administrator(s)

Late items approved by consensus.

(4) Approval of draft May 2021 GPCA CC Meeting Minutes as posted by June Brashares, May 8, 2021 at 6:37 AM

Approved the minutes by consensus.

(5) Approval of draft (revised) GPCA CC meeting minutes from April 2021 as posted by Mimi Newton on June 5, 2021 at 1:54 PM

Approved the minutes by consensus.

(6) Consent Items (5 minutes)

Background and Purpose: The consent calendar is intended to pass non-controversial items or items consented prior to the actual meeting. Any item may be objected to and that item will be placed at the end of the evening's agenda.

Proposal: Accept the following committee reports for inclusion into the meeting minutes:

- Finance/Fundraising Committee - Appendix A
- Bylaws Committee Report - Appendix B
- GPCA Media Committee monthly report - Appendix C
- Clearinghouse Committee & GROW Joint Meeting Minutes. - Appendix D

The committee reports were accepted by consensus.

We will receive reports from the GPUS Delegation, Platform and IT in the near future.

(7) Updates on GPCA-related voting since the last meeting and Review of Action Items (30 minutes)

- Update on Voting since the last CC Meeting:

Results of 48-Hour CC Vote published June 6, 2021 to the CC.

Statement re: The Green Party of California stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and with their fight against the brutal apartheid regime of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

13 people voted and all were in favor. The statement passed.

The full statement is appended below at Appendix E.

- Action items carried over from previous months' minutes

- Recurring Action Items:

- send SC and WG monthly reports to the CC (Liaisons)

- update SGA webpages with vote results/items for upcoming vote. Done

- May: Added an update on the applications received from candidates for CC and GPUS Delegation and put that update as the last item on the agenda (See agenda item #9) done

- Previous to May 2021:

- Update CC tactics chart for review by EVERYBODY. (Karen volunteered to work on this, but will be letting it go.)

- We need a lead to plan and coordinate quarterly Co-Cos calls. (Volunteer?) (Note that Laura sent a message on 5/19 about saving the date: Friday, June 18, 7:30pm — we are scheduling a “GPCA Co-co Call” on Zoom for co-co’s, CC liaisons, and ex-officios. Please RSVP) (Laura appears to have volunteered for this role, at least she will take the lead on planning and coordinating for now.)- send a second letter for a call for applications Statewide Candidate Subcommittee - (there are still vacancies) (Mimi). * deferred

- review and update retreat notes that Nassim and Karen prepared— (Mimi). * done
- work on vision statement (different from Mission Statement in Bylaws (Nassim/Mimi) *deferred
- preparation of November GA minutes (June) *deferred
- GA Minutes Porterville, Tulare County, California, November 17-18, 2018 (Mimi) *pending

-- Preparation of June 2020 minutes (Nicole) *deferred

New Items/Requests:

- Nicole Castor via Forum: requests an update re: county delegates to the SGA; is curious about who is active and who are the current delegates.
- Peggy Koteen: Re: Upcoming SGA Voting: Requests the hyperlink for the candidates in the GA Agenda
- Tarik will send IT the content to add this to the GA agenda file, IT will update.
- A new web page will be available soon.

(8) Agenda item: Decision: Invitation to non-greens to attend the online General Assembly on June 19th and 20th. (5 min)

Sponsor: Tarik Kanaana (on behalf of the GA Planning Committee)

Background and purpose: According to Article XI of the CC Internal procedures, non-party individuals can attend a GA only if invited by the CC to do so. There are three items on the agenda which include participants who might or might not be Green Party members. We ask that the CC allow non-Green Party members to attend this GA.

Proposal: The Coordinating Committee Allows non-Green Party members to attend the June 19&20 2021 GA.

Approved by consensus.

(9) Agenda item: Discussion item: Call for GA/SGA delegate for 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022.

Sponsor: Tarik Kanaana

Background and purpose: The purpose is to make an action item and timeline to prepare and send out a call for delegates

Below is the GA/SGA delegate distribution for 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022. To see the spreadsheet and this year's (20-21) numbers go to

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13vAzH2CexckMSf9L4xZ3onYdTyHK-tcg2DoBY54gnAU/edit?usp=sharing>

Source: CA SOS Report of Registration - February 18, 2020

(<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/ror-odd-year-2021>)

2021-22 County delegates to GA/SGA

Source: CA SOS Report of Registration - February 18, 2020

(<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/report-registration/ror-odd-year-2021>)

2021-22 County delegates to GA/SGA					
County	# of Greens in county	% of statewide greens	proportional delegates	Automatic delegates	Total # of delegates
Alameda	5,215	6.076	6	1	7
Alpine	9	0.01	0	1	1
Amador	103	0.12	0	1	1
Butte	704	0.82	1	1	2
Calaveras	152	0.177	0	1	1
Colusa	22	0.026	0	1	1
Contra Costa	2,713	3.161	3	1	4
Del Norte	94	0.11	0	1	1
El Dorado	657	0.765	1	1	2
Fresno	1,498	1.745	2	1	3
Glenn	33	0.038	0	1	1
Humboldt	1,343	1.565	2	1	3
Imperial	242	0.282	0	1	1
Inyo	31	0.036	0	1	1
Kern	1,224	1.426	1	1	2
Kings	148	0.172	0	1	1
Lake	302	0.352	0	1	1
Lassen	55	0.064	0	1	1
Los Angeles	22,483	26.195	26	1	27
Madera	197	0.23	0	1	1
Marin	1,013	1.18	1	1	2
Mariposa	49	0.057	0	1	1
Mendocino	815	0.95	1	1	2
Merced	377	0.439	0	1	1
Modoc	14	0.016	0	1	1
Mono	58	0.068	0	1	1
Monterey	941	1.096	1	1	2

Napa	459	0.535	1	1	2
Nevada	624	0.727	1	1	2
Orange	5,238	6.103	6	1	7
Placer	912	1.063	1	1	2
Plumas	57	0.066	0	1	1
Riverside	3,770	4.393	4	1	5
Sacramento	3,388	3.947	4	1	5
San Benito	128	0.149	0	1	1
San Bernardino	3,595	4.189	4	1	5
San Diego	6,909	8.05	8	1	9
San Francisco	2,639	3.075	3	1	4
San Joaquin	1,058	1.233	1	1	2
San Luis Obispo	940	1.095	1	1	2
San Mateo	1,723	2.008	2	1	3
Santa Barbara	1,057	1.232	1	1	2
Santa Clara	3,539	4.123	4	1	5
Santa Cruz	1,317	1.534	2	1	3
Shasta	391	0.456	0	1	1
Sierra	17	0.02	0	1	1
Siskiyou	178	0.207	0	1	1
Solano	987	1.15	1	1	2
Sonoma	2,132	2.484	2	1	3
Stanislaus	755	0.88	1	1	2
Sutter	126	0.147	0	1	1
Tehama	60	0.07	0	1	1
Trinity	82	0.096	0	1	1
Tulare	545	0.635	1	1	2
Tuolumne	143	0.167	0	1	1
Ventura	1,823	2.124	2	1	3
Yolo	589	0.686	1	1	2
Yuba	155	0.181	0	1	1
State Total	85,828	100	96	58	154

- deleted the following item as a duplicate of the previous item * (10) Agenda Item Discussion item: Call for GA/SGA delegate for 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022.

Sponsor: Tarik Kanaana
- moved to next month (11) Agenda Item

- Barry requested, if time permits — we discuss the thank you note attached to the Finance Committee Report sent by Mica on Sun, May 23, 2021 at 8:23 pm

New #10 – old (12) Late Item for the Agenda for CC Meeting on June 7, 2021
Decision Item: Bylaws Interpretation regarding voting dates for current SGA

(Justified because of the urgency, time sensitive and essential for GPCA functioning, need to clarify voting dates for current SGA and bylaws interpretation needs to be put on agenda for GA happening this month.)

Sponsor: June Brashares

Background:

The Standing General Assembly is currently in the discussion period. Under GPCA Bylaws (Section 7-6), the SGA discussion period is to be six weeks. The Bylaws also state (in Section 7-6.2) that for the election of the Coordinating Committee and GPUS Delegation the discussion period shall begin on the first Monday of May. The current SGA began on Monday May 10th so allowing a six weeks discussion period sets the voting period to be June 21st - 27th. (Had the SGA started on the first Monday of May, May 3rd, the voting period would be June 14th - 20th.) Since the Bylaws refer to the discussion starting on the first Monday of May and also prescribes six weeks of discussion time, the CC needs to clear up any ambiguity over when the voting period will be for the current SGA.

Proposal: Adopt Bylaws Interpretation to clarify the voting period for the current SGA will be June 21 - 27.

Bylaws Interpretation:

Whereas the SGA is currently in the discussion period (for the election of 12 seats on the Coordinating Committee, 9 GPUS Delegates & 8 Alternate Delegates, and the vote regarding the EcoSocialism Preamble Platform Amendment) See https://int-cagreens.nationbuilder.com/sga_vote_216_to_220_6_2021

Whereas Under GPCA Bylaws the discussion period for Proposals and Elections shall be six weeks.

Whereas the SGA discussion period began on May 10th, 2021, and includes a Platform Amendment Proposal as well as the Election of the Coordinating Committee and GPUS Delegation

Whereas candidates shall be given time to present themselves at the General Assembly happening June 19-20, 2021, and it would be beneficial for the SGA voting period to occur the week right after the GA (rather than having the vote start prior to the GA with the candidates GA presentations not occurring until the final two days of the voting period).

Whereas it is in the interest of the GPCA to have fully informed SGA Delegates' participation

Whereas the Bylaws state the voting period for Proposals and Elections shall commence immediately at the close of the discussion period, and shall be for one week beginning on a Monday at 12:01 am and ending on a Sunday at 11:59pm.

Therefore the CC finds that it is appropriate for the discussion period for the current SGA election to continue up to Sunday, June 20th at 11:59pm, and the voting period shall be for one week beginning on Monday, June 21 at 12:01am and end on Sunday, June 27 at 11:59pm.

References:

GPCA Bylaws: Section 7-6. Online Voting

7-6.2(a) The discussion period for Proposals and Elections shall be six weeks, beginning on a Monday at 12:01 am and ending on a Sunday at 11:59pm. The discussion period for Coordinating Committee and GPUS Delegation elections shall begin on the first Monday of May.

7-6.2(d) The voting period for Proposals and Elections shall commence immediately at the close of the discussion period, and shall be for one week beginning on a Monday at 12:01 am and ending on a Sunday at 11:59pm.

Section 8-4. Elections

8-4.1 Elections shall be conducted each year by the Standing General Assembly by secret ballot, using Ranked Choice Voting with a No Other Candidate option, with the six week discussion period beginning on the first Monday of May and the one week voting period commencing immediately thereafter.

8-4.4 Candidates shall be given time to present themselves and respond to questions on a Standing General Assembly teleconference during the Standing General Assembly discussion period in 7-6.3. Where General Assemblies or Gatherings occur after the close of the submission date in 8-4.2, and before the close of the voting period in 7-6.3, candidates shall be given time to present themselves to any General Assembly or Gathering occurring this period.

Section 13-3 Bylaws Interpretation

In cases of ambiguity or procedural disagreement, the General Assembly shall decide for itself the meaning of its governing documents, the appropriate procedure to be followed and what amendments are necessary to resolve any further ambiguity or disagreement. Between General Assembly meetings, the Coordinating Committee shall decide these questions and the Bylaws Committee is charged with assisting with the Coordinating Committee in this process by providing analysis. Such Coordinating Committee determinations are subject to a 2/3 confirmation by the General Assembly. If the Coordinating Committee makes such a determination within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the Coordinating Committee shall place the vote on the draft agenda, and any agenda approved by the General Assembly must include the vote.

Implementation/Timeline:

Following CC adoption of the bylaws interpretation, it needs to be added to the draft agenda for the GA for confirmation. (The GPCA Bylaws state that if the CC has a Bylaws Interpretation within 60 days of a General Assembly, it is to be on the agenda of the GA and the agenda approved by the GA must include the vote.)

SGA Administrators need to be informed for implementation of the timing for the voting period.

Approved by consensus. We ask that this be added to the GA agenda as we are talking about the SOS

#11 - was (13) Late Item for CC Meeting Agenda for June 7, 2021 -- Decision Item: Elect SGA Administrator(s)

Sorry this is late, however this is urgent; new terms of SGA Vote Administrators start June 1 (so this is slightly overdue) and there is the need for Vote Administrators to help with current SGA.

Decision Item: Elect SGA Administrator(s)

Co-sponsors: June Brashares (& others welcome 😊)

Background and Purpose:

According to the IT Protocol, the CC is to elect the SGA Vote Administrators for terms that run from June 1 to May 31 beginning in odd-numbered years. In the past, there have been as many as 5 SGA Vote Administrators (3 Admins and 2 Alternates) serving simultaneous two-year terms. The IT Protocol says the CC should nominate at least 5 (with gender balance and from various counties).

SGA Vote Administrators need at least 3/5 approval by the CC to be elected.

Proposal: Nominate David Bond to serve as a SGA Vote Administrator. Accept additional nominations for additional SGA Vote Administrators.

Implementation/Timeline/Resources:

Elect SGA Vote Administrators to term in progress (June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2023).

New SGA Vote Admins will need access and guidance. Need to obtain and document training information.

References: IT Protocol Article V. Electronic Vote Administration, Section 5-1 Standing General Assembly (SGA) Vote Administrators (Updated May 6, 2019)

*** We approved David Bond as voting administrator by consensus**

David Bond nominated Audra Walton. See accepted and we approved by consensus.

This item will be brought back in future months until we identify up to 3 additional candidates.

Please nominate additional candidates.

*** #12 - recent problems with the web page - reporting David Bond**

We have run out of space on the web hosting platform. All list service activity has stopped.

We authorize IT to move forward and fix the problem.

APPENDIX A - Finance Committee Minutes on May 27, 2021

In Attendance: Mica Daniel CC Liaison, Frank Lambert, Laura Wells, Barry Hermanson, and Justin Richardson, Treasurer.

Absent: David Bond

Facilitator: Mica Daniel Note Taker: Frank Lambert

1. The April 2021 Minutes were approved by consensus.

2. Barry brought up listing GP candidates for the special election on June 27th. No candidates mentioned by name as of yet.

3. Treasurer's Report: It is pretty much the same as in April and Justin and Mica will update it along with the dollar amount left in paying the fine to the Secretary of State's office for the next meeting.

Account Balances as of 5/23/2021

Travis Credit Union (savings) Federal account: \$1,606.55

Travis Credit Union (checking) State account: \$12,632.08

Main PayPal: \$57.42

Old PayPal: \$0

Expenses (4/22 - 5/23/21)

Liquid Web Wired Tree: \$106.00

Call Centric: \$10.45

ISP: \$200.00 (for April and May)

Reimbursement to Ruscal for fines paid to SoS: \$1,400.00

Upcoming Expenses for May - Treasurer Stipend: \$200

Upcoming Expenses for June/July - USPS Business Reply Account renewal: \$245.00

4. On the USPS Business Reply Account - Justin will find out more details on the viability of it before the Mid-July date where the renewal fees are due and whether or not we should keep this added expense.

5. Frank drafted a Fundraising Letter which is receiving input from the Committee Members, and edited and be finished for distribution by the first week of June.

6. Laura discussed the state budget and discontinuing services paid for but not utilized. It's being tabled for the June meeting.

7. Barry had suggested a Thank You Card with pictures for financial donors to the state GP.

8. The Committee is still discussing ways to recruit new members to the California Green Party and it was tabled for the June Meeting.

9. Laura suggested we limit the Finance Committee Meeting to 1 hour. It was agreed on by consensus.

10. Next Finance Committee Meeting will be between 6:00-7:00 pm on June 24, 2021.

APPENDIX B - Monthly Bylaws Committee Report to the GPCA Coordinating Committee – May 2021

From: The GPCA By-Laws Committee

To: The GPCA Coordinating Committee

Date: MAY 09, 2021

Submitted By: James Lauderdale, Co-Co By-Laws Committee

Date of the last By-Laws Committee Meeting: Saturday, April 11, 2012 at 12:00 pm

Present: Mimi Newton (Marin), James Lauderdale (Los Angeles), June Brashares (Sonoma)

Date of the next By-Laws Committee Meeting: Sunday, June 11, 2021 at 12:30 pm

Any significant actions the Committee is taking:

The Committee with June present discussed several suggestions for the revisions to the GPCA By Laws by June Brashares.

New Items:

1) Amendments to the By Laws to change voting rights to be reserved for members that have attended two meetings in 6 (six) months

2) Amendments to the By Laws Elevating the status of the Campaign and Candidates Working Group to the status of a Standing Committee.

3) Amendments to the By Laws to reduces the SGA discussion and vote from 6 (six) weeks to 4 (four).

Solicit other suggested amendments from Working Groups to be considered at the June By Laws Cttee. meeting

These suggestions would be targeted for fall action by the GA.

Discussion: Continued work by the Bylaws Committee will include:

1. By Laws item by item review.

APPENDIX C - GPCA Media Committee monthly call

Monday, May 17, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

1. Roll Call, members: Laura Wells (Co-coordinator, Alameda County), Susan Lamont (Sonoma County), Thomas Leavitt (LA County)
2. Volunteers present: Nassim Nouri (Santa Clara County), Barry Hermanson (SF)
3. Roles: Facilitator Nassim, Notetaker Laura
4. Build and approve agenda: Amended and approved
5. Social Media: Passwords are still needed so that the GPCA has access to all assets.
 - (a) Laura will confirm that we have the current password(s) for YouTube, which has not had recent postings.
 - (b) Laura will contact CC Co-coordinator Mimi Newton to see if she can obtain passwords/access to Facebook and Twitter, which are both being well-managed currently.
6. Podcasts by Jarred Booth: Jarred has been producing podcasts which the Media Committee will review to see if the content is a fit for the GPCA YouTube channel.
7. Media Release: Palestine draft media release. Aiming to get it out this week, Wednesday morning, focusing specifically on what's happening now in Palestine, and do a second release soon, focused on the military industrial complex, budget, and hypocrisy of CA and the U.S. government, including new Democratic administration and "progressives" like Barbara Lee. Could add to current release: population changes of Palestinians and Israelis, increasing number of organizations opposing Zionism.
 - (a) People will email their suggested re-writes and re-ordering of what goes in which release. By Tuesday 2pm please, (Monday night even better so we can ask Cres if he can distribute). Aiming for Wednesday morning release; otherwise it gets too late in the week.
8. General Discussion on Media Releases: we covered many important areas, including:
 - producing media releases; important to get on a roll
 - link them to California and to how Green Party values would change things (that's what we bring to the table)
 - some media outlets will eventually pick them up, especially when they see them regularly
 - GPCA can use them in blasts to Greens and on website
 - rewrite as articles and submit to CounterPunch etc.
 - know the difference between a statement and news release
 - keep releases focused, concise, with a current news hook
9. Healthcare Media Release: Barry writes a regular column for SF BayView, which published our recent press release. <https://sfbayview.com/2021/05/green-party-of-california-condemns-democratic-party-betrayal-for-shelving-of-guaranteed-health-care-for-all-act-ab-1400/>
10. Media outlet lists: Thomas started a list including independent media contacts, especially those we have establish relationships with, or been covered by. Media Committee will develop the list. See Thomas' email "Strategic Thoughts" on 4/28/21.
11. Next meeting: Monday meeting, planning to use Santa Clara County's zoom account, June 21, 2021, 2-3pm.

APPENDIX D - Clearinghouse Committee & GROW Joint Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 7:30 – 8:30 pm

- Roll Call - CH: Nassim Nouri, Mica Daniel; GROW: Laura Wells, Rick Greenblatt, Richard Gomez, Barry Hermanson
- Roles - Facilitator: Mica, Notes: Nassim, Timekeeper: --
- Build and approve agenda - approved as is
- GPCA General Assembly will be June 19-20, next planning meeting will be May 1
- Laura will try to coordinate a Committee/WG Coordinators Friday evening meeting – she will email the current list soon.
- Agenda is filling up with some great speakers, Rick asked about registration page, Nassim noted Tarik was planning on the GA registration page going up 5/24.
- Clearinghouse reports - Nassim reported
- Two email/newsletter out in April, one will be sent in mid-May.
- received a large set of GP-US volunteer referrals in March and April (a backlog of many from Dec) Nassim is trying to contact to engage each in addition to forwarding to counties, and has identified 3 new volunteers and engaged them.
- Nassim is still not receiving Volunteer notifications from our own website(?) she has sent IT a request to investigate
- There was a Fundraising campaign planned for April and June, but they did not materialize as Fundraising Coordinator has stepped back.
- County Voter Registration Plan, ex-registrants project - Rick reported
- It appears that we got 200 registrants after the first email was sent, this is a moderate success and as Rick had predicted.
- Alameda County GP ran a contact-ex-Greens project that required large resources and were not impressed with results.
- Other county GPs can be engaged and get help from Rick who will present details at his GA presentation
- Rick shared Poll results (see his email 5/11, 2:33 pm)
- Growing GPCA with Expanded Improved Medicare for All - Barry reported
- AB1400 has been tabled by CA Leg and might be back later in the year or next year
- Barry wrote a piece on this and will share, he believes this issue will be decided at the ballot box, as a proposition. He will ask if Healthy CA Now will engage with a voter ballot prop project.
- l- Nassim reported on the new Ro Khanna State-Based Universal Health Care Act, and may propose GPCA endorse it.
- Mica asked if there are campaigning strategies we can use? Laura noted that the entire GP slate for 2022 could likely run on M4A
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 8th @ 7:30 pm - Adjourned at 8:30 pm

APPENDIX E - GPCA Statement in solidarity with the Palestinian people and with their fight against the brutal apartheid regime of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

The Green Party of California stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and with their fight against the brutal apartheid regime of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The 11-day carpet bombing of the Gaza Strip by the Israeli military from May 10 to May 21, 2021, killed 248 Palestinians, including 66 children, and injured over 1,700 people < https://www.democracynow.org/2021/5/24/israel_gaza_jerusalem_ceasefire_tension>. More than 1,000 buildings, schools, hospitals, businesses and roads have been destroyed by devastating airstrikes leaving at least 6,000 residents homeless, displacing tens of thousands, and depriving almost half of the population of Gaza of access to water and electricity in the midst of a raging pandemic and without the protection of a vaccine.

Despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas brokered by Egyptian mediators on May 21, Israeli forces and settlers have since attacked the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem multiple times and continued to evict Israeli Arabs from their homes after building a blockade in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. Operation "Law and Order" < <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/24/a-war-declaration-palestinians-in-israel-decry-mass-arrests>> is currently targeting over 500 Palestinian citizens of Israel in retaliation for their participation in demonstrations against the occupation and the settlers' violence. "The occupation is the root cause of the violence," Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki explained. < https://www.democracynow.org/2021/5/21/israeli_hamas_ceasefire_gaza>

These war crimes follow the hallmarks of genocide that Israel is perpetuating against Palestinians living under its rule in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The ongoing destruction of Palestinian homes, villages and whole communities is not new: it started 73 years ago and continues to this day. The mass exodus of at least 750,000 Arabs from Palestine, the "Nakba" (the catastrophe), was followed by the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967. Then came the Israeli wars on Gaza of 2008, 2012, and 2014 - during which over 2,000 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli forces < <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/04/israel-50-years-occupation-abuses#>>, among them 1,220 children.

The ongoing Nakba is made possible by U.S.'s financial, technological and military assistance, using U.S. taxpayer money, which makes our country a consistent and willing accomplice of Israel in crimes against humanity. The U.S. government gives \$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel every year < <https://www.bbc.com/news/57170576>> as part of a 10-year agreement made under the Obama administration in 2016. The U.S. has repeatedly vetoed the United Nations Security Council resolutions < <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/17/no-us-action-after-third-unscc-meeting-on-israel-palestine>> to condemn Israel's military response and to call for a ceasefire. Even today, President Biden refuses to hold the Israeli government led by the current Prime Minister Netanyahu accountable for the continuous violation of Palestinian rights and security, and falsely claims Israel is exercising its "right to defend itself" instead. In the midst of Israeli aggressions against Palestinians, the Biden administration approved the sale of precision-guided weapons to Israel < <https://thehill.com/policy/defense/553878-biden-approves-735m-weapons-sale-to-israel-report>> while Israel was bombing Gaza and killing civilians, in direct violation of human rights and international law. And on June 3, 2021, less than two weeks after the ceasefire, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz arrived in Washington, D.C., to ask for \$1 billion more to replenish Israel's "Iron Dome" and to purchase additional precision-guided missiles. Meanwhile, President Biden is merely allocating \$110 million to rebuild Palestinian homes that he contributed to annihilate... Even though a few Democrats have recently called out Biden for his unconditional support of Israel, their opposition remains slow and weak. On May 20, 2021, almost two weeks after the start of the recent conflict, Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib and Senator Bernie Sanders introduced sister resolutions to block the Biden administration's \$735 million arms sale to Israel < <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/may/20/bernie-sanders-israel-weapons-sale>>

resolution> while Congress was informed about the arms sale on May 5. They then quickly dropped their joint effort after hearing that the sale had been approved.

Democrats and Republicans alike usually do not question our nation's backing of Israel's institutionalized discrimination and disproportionate use of violence against Palestinians. "My Congressperson is Barbara Lee," said Laura Wells, Green Party of California spokesperson and 2018 Green Party candidate for Congress in California's District 13 opposing Barbara Lee. "She has played it extremely safe. She has indicated that she is supportive in theory, but at best she has signed onto a few noncontroversial positions such as ending military detention of Palestinian children. Meanwhile, she has taken campaign contributions from Lockheed Martin, the largest arms-producing company in the world."

Ajamu Baraka, the national organizer of the Black Alliance for Peace and 2016 Green Party candidate for vice president wrote "In the alternative world of Western liberalism, some lives are more equal and more valuable than others," noting "the colonial/capitalist West is prepared to sacrifice everything and everyone in order to maintain its global dominance, even if it means destroying the planet and everyone on it." < <https://blackagenda.com/palestine-colombia-end-white-world-colonialcapitalist-project>>

The Green Party of California calls for:

- An immediate end to economic and political colonialism worldwide.
- An immediate end to U.S. weapons sales and all military aid to Israel.
- An end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, and the restoration of the right of Palestinian people to self-determination < <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-187651/>> as stipulated in multiple U.N. resolutions and included in our platform < <https://www.gp.org/democracy#Palestine>>.
- Full support for the right of return of over seven million displaced Palestinian refugees, and for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement led by Palestinians < <https://bdsmovement.net/>> and inspired by the South-African anti-apartheid movement.

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