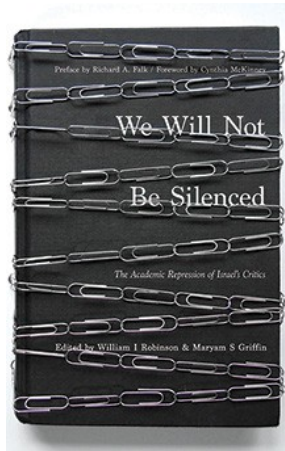


"A stunning portrait of the extent to which the forces that suppress free speech and academic freedom are at work in the US university system" — Bishop Desmond Tutu

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[We Will Not Be Silenced: The Academic Repression of Israel's Critics](#)

Edited by William I. Robinson and Maryam S. Griffin

Preface by Richard A. Falk

Foreword by Cynthia McKinney

April 11, 2017

"It is perhaps no surprise that as Israel drifts towards repression and reaction within, and becomes increasingly isolated internationally, its informal lobby in the US becomes more desperate to stifle free and open discussion of the state they seek to protect. Efforts of the kind sampled here . . . are as deplorable as they are predictable, and should be dismissed with contempt, and strongly opposed." —**Noam Chomsky**

As criticism mounts over Israel's violation of Palestinian human rights and international law, campaigns to silence and repress those who speak out against Israeli apartheid and US complicity have grown alarmingly. Scholars have been denied jobs, refused tenure and promotion, rejected for funding, and expelled from institutions, while student organizations have faced harassment and sanctions. *We Will Not Be Silenced* offers thirteen powerful, firsthand testimonials from scholars and students whose struggle to defend their academic freedom and free speech has garnered widespread public and international attention.

Includes chapters by **David Theo Goldberg and Saree Makdisi, Terri Ginsberg, William I. Robinson, The Irvine 11, Kristofer J. Petersen-Overton, Rabab Abdulhadi, David Delgado Shorter, Persis Karim, Joseph Massad, David Klein, Nadia Abu Al-Hajj, Max Geller, Lisa Rofel, and Steven Salaita.**

"These testimonials provide a stunning and all too familiar portrait of the extent to which the forces that suppress free speech and academic freedom are at work in the US university system to stifle those who would call for social justice in Palestine. . . . These voices must be heard." — **Bishop Desmond Tutu**

"The insightful and captivating testimonials in this book are...not just about challenging the 'Israel Exception to Free Speech'; they are also about protecting civil liberties and democratic rights at large against the ominous rise of McCarthyism 2.0." — **Omar Barghouti, scholar and co-founder of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS) and the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel**

William I. Robinson is professor of sociology, global and international studies, and Latin American studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Maryam S. Griffin is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Davis.

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From the introduction by William I. Robinson and Maryam S. Griffin:

A worldwide campaign in support of the Palestinian freedom struggle has taken off in recent years, spurred on in this age of global digital media by omnipresent images of Israeli brutality against the Palestinians and the everyday humiliations of its occupation of Palestinian lands, now in its fifth decade. As awareness has grown over Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights and of international law, as well as US government and transnational corporate complicity in these violations, so too has the movement in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Ground zero for this movement in the United States is college and university campuses. Some 25 years after the fall of apartheid in South Africa, the movement to end apartheid and settler colonialism in Israel/ Palestine has spread among a new generation of campus activists. The issue has inflamed passions and engulfed students, faculty, administrators, and even government officials in conflicts over free speech and academic freedom. At the core of these conflicts is the attempt by what we will call here the Israel lobby to intimidate those on and off campus who have the courage to take a stand for Palestinian freedom...

In a shocking and deeply disturbing expose of the inner workings of this Coalition (see Chapter 1 of this anthology) University of California professors Goldberg and Makdisi document how the lobby monitors campus political life and mounts coordinated campaigns of harassment and repression against their designated targets, employing "character assassinations, selective misquotation, the willful distortion of the record, the fabrication of falsehoods, and an utter disregard for the truth." The targets of such censorship campaigns, as they show and as become clear in the 14 testimonials we publish here, are students and faculty who criticize Israel or support Palestinian freedom in and out of the classroom, but also university administrators and local and state politicians. Administrators are pressured and sometimes even blackmailed with a cutoff of financial donations by wealthy pro-Zionist donors to censor and discipline the offending party, while politicians are lobbied to apply pressure on university officials – although it must be observed that pro-Zionist academics, administrators, and politicians are often themselves a part of these campaigns...

Rather than duplicate what is already available, this book seeks to provide a special window, through *first-hand testimonial accounts*, into how the Israel lobby has worked on US campuses to suppress free speech and academic freedom. These testimonials tell the story of academics, scholars, and students who have been victim to the repression of the Israel lobby in the United States. Some of these cases of persecution have been aired publicly – in the press and social media – while other cases have gone poorly publicized, if at all, often as a result of an intentional blackout. Academics who become targets of the lobby's aggressive tactics are affected unevenly. This makes it difficult for certain kinds of stories to get attention even in the absence of a media blackout because it may be difficult for targeted individuals to come forward without fear of reprisals. As we shall see in these testimonials, the tactics of Israel advocacy organizations vary, from calls for outright institutional sanction to more subtle aggressions that nonetheless have a cumulative effect of creating a hostile work environment or career-long stress. Even the exact same tactics take different tolls depending on the status of the targeted individual. Instructors with precarious appointments such as single term lecturers and graduate students are far more vulnerable than tenured faculty, as are individual students over student groups that may draw on collective resources. The impacts of persecutions are similarly felt differentially across race, gender, and other social categories, with Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and other racially or ethnically oppressed groups – and especially women from these groups – often placed in particularly vulnerable situations, so that fight-back can often place additional pressures on those that are already the most overburdened.

***We Will Not Be Silenced* is available for excerpt**

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[We Will Not Be Silenced](#)

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