

# Contagious Disruption: How CCP Influence and Radical Ideologies Threaten Critical Infrastructure and Campuses Across the United States

## Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Key Takeaways and Assessment: .....	2
Background: SID4P’s Emergence, Composition, and Modus Operandi.....	3
The Singham Network as a Vehicle for CCP Influence .....	8
The Singham Network’s Fiscal Footprint .....	10
The People’s Forum.....	10
The Justice and Education Fund.....	12
The United Community Fund .....	12
The Progress Unity Fund.....	13
Breakthrough Media .....	15
SID4P’s Social Media Mobilization and Amplification Strategy .....	15
BreakThrough Media and the Role of Alternative News Outlets .....	20
Radical Ties: SID4P’S Convenors and Terrorist Affiliations.....	28
Conclusion: Strengthening Democratic Resilience Against Internal Threats .....	30
Appendix .....	32
International People’s Assembly.....	33

**“When we defeat Israel and the U.S. Empire, we will... know how to dismantle capitalism here in the United States.”<sup>1</sup>**

– Manolo De Los Santos, Co-Executive Director of the People’s Forum

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<sup>1</sup> Peoplesforumnyc, *Instagram*, December 6, 2023, [instagram.com/p/C0hWpCJAFTK](https://www.instagram.com/p/C0hWpCJAFTK).

## Executive Summary

This report analyzes the activities and foreign connections of the Shut It Down for Palestine (SID4P) movement since its formation in October 2023. It examines SID4P's use of protests, direct-action initiatives, and sophisticated media campaigns to advance anti-America and anti-Israel narratives both online and offline. Additionally, it highlights the involvement of a network linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) that funds and supports both alternative anti-establishment media organizations promoting anti-American narratives, as well as seemingly grassroots activist movements, such as, and including, SID4P.

Due to its potential to exacerbate social unrest and influence institutional decision-making in the U.S., the Network Contagion Research Institute (NCRI) assesses that this network represents a significant concern to the internal stability of the United States.

## Key Takeaways and Assessment:

- 1. SID4P's Emergence:** Shut It Down for Palestine (SID4P) is an anti-capitalist, anti-police, and anti-government protest movement that emerged after October 7, 2023. It functions as a hybrid online/real-world network for mobilizing frequent demonstrations as well as gradually escalating direct-action campaigns targeting critical infrastructure and public spaces.
- 2. SID4P's ties to CCP-Linked Entities:** "Convenors," or organizations operating under the SID4P umbrella, are members of the 'Singham Network' donor portfolio. The Singham Network is a global web of nonprofits, fiscal sponsors, and alternative news sources tied to Neville Roy Singham, a known conduit for CCP geopolitical influence.<sup>2</sup>
- 3. SID4P's Funding:** The Singham Network exploits regulatory loopholes in the U.S. nonprofit system to facilitate the flow of an enormous sum of U.S. dollars to

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<sup>2</sup> Mara Hvistendahl, David A. Fahrenthold, Lynsey Chutel, Ishaan Jhaveri, "A Global Web of Chinese Propaganda Leads to a U.S. Tech Mogul," *New York Times*, August 10, 2023, [nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roy-singham-china-propaganda.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/05/world/europe/neville-roy-singham-china-propaganda.html); In 2023, Senator Rubio submitted a letter to Attorney General Garland calling on the Department of Justice to "immediately investigate" Singham linked organizations for potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).

organizations and movements that actively stoke social unrest at the grassroots level.

- 4. Alternative Media and Social Media Strategy:** Alternative media outlets associated with the Singham Network have played a central role in online mobilization and cross-platform social amplification for SID4P.
- 5. Ties to Extremist Groups:** SID4P has ties to extremist groups that embrace a violent, single-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. At least one SID4P Convener is linked to the extreme edge of pro-Palestinian groups operating in the U.S. that advance anti-American and anti-Jewish agendas.<sup>3</sup>

**Assessment:** The NCRI finds that the increase in direct-action, targeting infrastructure and public spaces, is in part driven by organizations connected to CCP foreign influence efforts. While nominally focused on Israel, the current protests can be better understood as a well-funded initiative driving a revolutionary, anti-government, and anti-capitalist agenda, with the leading organizations serving as versatile tools for foreign entities hostile to the U.S. The methods of these organizations exacerbate societal tensions, polarize the younger generation, and appear to seek the destabilization of American institutions. **NCRI assesses that these organizations will persist in inciting unrest throughout the summer of 2024 and in the lead-up to the U.S. Presidential election.**

## Background: SID4P's Emergence, Composition, and Modus Operandi

On the evening of April 30, 2024, over one hundred activists gathered at The People's Forum, a far-left nonprofit in Manhattan that describes itself as "a movement incubator for working class and marginalized communities," to discuss the ongoing Gaza encampments on university campuses. The activists called on the Columbia protesters to recreate the civil unrest associated with "the summer of 2020."<sup>4</sup> Hours later,

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<sup>3</sup> Charlotte Kates, who serves as the director of Samidoun in Canada, holds the position of Communications/Secretary officer on the National Board of al-Awda. As of April 12, 2024, Nerdeen Kiswani, director of Within Our Lifetime, was listed as the Youth Representative until her apparent removal from the board thereafter.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Simonson, "Anti-Israel Group Encouraged Columbia Protesters To Re-Create 'The Summer of 2020' Hours Before Students Stormed a Building," *The Washington Free Beacon*, May 1, 2024, [freebeacon.com/campus/anti-israel-group-encouraged-columbia-protesters-to-recreate-the-summer-of-](https://freebeacon.com/campus/anti-israel-group-encouraged-columbia-protesters-to-recreate-the-summer-of-2020/)

Columbia University's Hamilton Hall was forcibly occupied and barricaded. After the hall was subsequently cleared by law enforcement, the New York Police Department (NYPD) reported finding industrial-grade chains, "gas masks, ear plugs, helmets, goggles... hammers, knives, and ropes..."<sup>5</sup> Following processing, The Washington Post reported, per NYPD, that more than 25% of arrests at Columbia University and 60% at the City College of New York were not students.<sup>6</sup>

The protest takeover of Hamilton Hall is part of a trend that has seen movements advocating for social justice employ increasingly aggressive tactics to disrupt public order and push the boundaries of foundational, legal, and ethical norms. The events of April 29-30 were not isolated, and appear to be a manifestation of a broader, more coordinated campaign influenced by entities that have ties to foreign powers and foreign terrorist organizations.

These events set the stage for understanding the emergence and operations of the "Shut It Down for Palestine" (SID4P) movement, which represents a significant evolution in networked influence and coordinated direct-action aimed at disrupting critical infrastructure and inflaming protests both across the U.S. and across the globe.

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2020-hours-before-students-stormed-a-building; and "About," *The People's Forum*, [peoplesforum.org/about](https://peoplesforum.org/about).

<sup>5</sup> NYPDDaughtry, X, May 3, 2024, [x.com/NYPDDaughtry/status/1786449287359992179](https://x.com/NYPDDaughtry/status/1786449287359992179).

<sup>6</sup> Daniel Wu, "134 protesters arrested on 2 campuses had no connection to schools, NYPD says," *The Washington Post*, May 3, 2024, [washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/05/03/columbia-arrests-not-students-nypd](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/05/03/columbia-arrests-not-students-nypd/).



**Figure 1:** Top left: SID4P Protestors Outside Columbia University on April 17, Top Right: Protestors Blocking JFK Airport on December 26, Bottom Left: SID4P Poster for Shut Down of Democratic Party Event, Bottom Right: SID4P Protestors on the Brooklyn Bridge on January 8.

The origins of the “Shut It Down for Palestine” (SID4P) coalition trace back to the immediate aftermath of Hamas’ attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. On October 11, following a demonstration in support of Gaza in Times Square, the People’s Forum issued a statement praising the Palestinian “resistance”. It concluded with the following call to action: “We mobilize in the belly of the beast because we understand that we have a unique role to play in combating material support for Zionism and weakening the handmaiden of U.S. global imperialism.”<sup>7</sup> This statement, which laid the groundwork for SID4P, was endorsed by six of the seven groups that would soon formalize their alliance under the “Global Shutdown for Palestine” banner.

SID4P was established and structured against the backdrop of increased pro-Palestinian activism starting October 2023. On November 1, SID4P officially registered its domain, [shutitdown4palestine.org](https://shutitdown4palestine.org), and launched its site by November 6. By November 9, SID4P publicly listed its seven core organizations, referred to as “Convenors,” as well as numerous organization referred to as “Endorsers.” Reflecting

<sup>7</sup> “Statement on Times Square Palestine Protest Held on October 8, 2023,” *The People’s Forum*, October 11, 2024, [peoplesforum.org/blog\\_post/statement-on-times-square-palestine-protest-held-on-october-8-2023](https://peoplesforum.org/blog_post/statement-on-times-square-palestine-protest-held-on-october-8-2023).

the confluence of far-left and pro-Palestinian radical activism, the official SID4P Convenors include the following groups:

1. The People's Forum
2. ANSWER Coalition
3. International People's Assembly (IPA)
4. Al-Awda NY
5. National Students for Justice in Palestine (NSJP)
6. Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM)
7. Palestinian American Community Center NJ (PACC)

The seven Convenors of SID4P can be divided into two distinct groupings based on ideological affiliation and fiscal sponsorship. The coalition's far-left members, namely The People's Forum, IPA, and ANSWER Coalition, demonstrate significant financial, personnel, and operational overlap.<sup>8</sup> The remaining four Convenors are all pro-Palestinian activist organizations, with at least two, NSJP and Al-Awda, known to have ties to U.S.-designated terrorist organizations. In addition to NSJP and Al-Awda, among SID4P's Endorsers is Samidoun, which some Western intelligence services classify as a front for the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) which is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States, Germany, and Israel.<sup>9</sup>

In conjunction with its internal structuring, SID4P initiated an extensive cross-platform social media campaign aimed at expanding its reach and influence through the tactical deployment of digital activism to bolster its mobilization efforts. Since November, SID4P's organization and participation in near-weekly direct-action events have led to many disruptions to public order and critical infrastructure, resulting in numerous arrests for disorderly conduct. **The following timeline encapsulates the gradually escalating direct-action campaign initiated, directed, or aided by SID4P:**

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<sup>8</sup> The Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), although not designated as a SID4P Convener, shares considerable fiscal and personnel connections with SID4P's far-left Convenors.

<sup>9</sup> "About," *Shut it Down for Palestine*, [shutitdown4palestine.org/about](https://shutitdown4palestine.org/about); and Christoph Hasselbach, "Why Germany banned Hamas and pro-Palestinian group Samidoun," *Deutsche Welle*, November 11, 2024, [dw.com/en/why-germany-banned-hamas-and-pro-palestinian-group-samidoun/a-67546361](https://www.dw.com/en/why-germany-banned-hamas-and-pro-palestinian-group-samidoun/a-67546361).



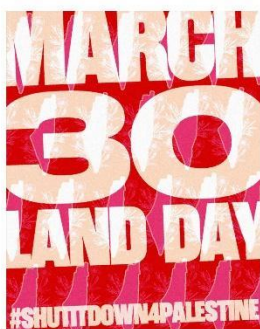


**NOV 9**  
Traffic was shut down in Midtown Manhattan by pro-Palestinian protesters chanting "Shut it down! and Free Palestine!"



**NOV 24**  
Pro-Palestinian activists storm outside Macy's in NY.

**DEC 26**  
Pro-Palestinian protesters block roads to JFK and LAX airports.



**MAR 2**  
Global Day of Direct Action for Rafah

**MAR 30**  
Disruptions and arrests nationwide on Land Day



**APR 17**  
SID4P joins the off-campus rally adjacent to the Columbia University Gaza Solidarity Encampment.

**NOV 9**  
Pro-Palestinian activists, carrying banners and chanting slogans, shut down BlackRock HQ in Manhattan.

**NOV 17**  
Protestors stormed News Corps Fox HQ.

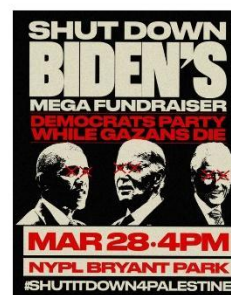


**DEC 8**  
Pro-Palestinian protestors mobilize to shut down Wall Street.

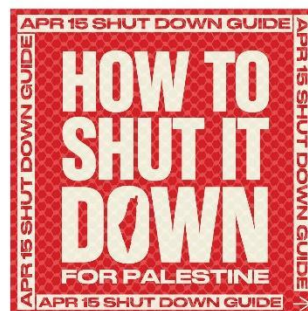


**JAN 8**  
Protestors block traffic on Brooklyn Bridge, Manhattan Bridge, and the Holland Tunnel.

**MAR 28**  
Disruption of Democratic Party Fundraising Event in NYC which Clinton, Obama, and Biden attended



**APR 15**  
General strike organized by SID4P on Global Day of Direct Action



## The Singham Network as a Vehicle for CCP Influence

The People's Forum, IPA, and ANSWER Coalition serve as the conduit through which CCP-affiliated entities have effectively co-opted pro-Palestinian activism in the U.S., advancing a broader anti-American, anti-democratic, and anti-capitalist agenda. These three far-left SID4P Convenors are part of a network linked by close financial, interpersonal, and ideological ties to Neville Roy Singham and his wife Jodie Evans, a power couple within the global far-left movement with close ties to the CCP.

The "Singham Network" comprises a wide range of nonprofits, alternative media outlets, and donor organizations that have been funneling undisclosed funds and disseminating CCP-supported agendas and narratives into the United States since at least 2017. As outlined above, this network has played an increasingly significant role in fueling a more radical pro-Palestinian activism.

Singham's association with far-left circles in the U.S. dates back to at least the 1970s. According to a document dated June 5, 1974, Singham was the subject of an FBI investigation into his ties to "groups engaged in activities inimical to U.S. [interests]."<sup>10</sup> Singham's connection with entities associated with the CCP is believed to have begun in the early 2000s. From 2001 to 2008, Singham served as a consultant for Huawei, a technology and telecommunications giant linked to the CCP that has been the subject of espionage investigations in Canada and the U.S.<sup>11</sup> He currently lives and works in Shanghai, where he shares premises with Shanghai Maku Cultural Communications Ltd., a Chinese propaganda firm focused on presenting a positive image of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the global south.<sup>12</sup>

According to an investigation conducted by the New York Times (NYT), Singham's "ties to the propaganda machine date back at least to 2019, when, corporate documents show, he started a consulting business with Chinese partners. Those partners are active

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<sup>10</sup> Roy Singham, "On the road from Detroit to South Africa: Black radical internationalist traditions," Black Agenda Report, November 23, 2021, [blackagendareport.com/road-detroit-south-africa-black-radical-internationalist-traditions](https://blackagendareport.com/road-detroit-south-africa-black-radical-internationalist-traditions).

<sup>11</sup> Alexander Reid Ross, Courtney Dobson, "The Big Business of Uyghur Genocide Denial," *New Lines Magazine*, January 18, 2022, [newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial](https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-big-business-of-uyghur-genocide-denial); and Noah Berman, Lindsay Maizland, Andrew Chatzky, "Is China's Huawei a Threat to U.S. National Security?," *Council on Foreign Relations*, February 8, 2024, [cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-huawei-threat-us-national-security](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-huawei-threat-us-national-security).

<sup>12</sup> "About Us," *Maku Group*, Captured by WayBack Machine June 19, 2023, [web.archive.org/web/20230619143607/maku.group/about-us](https://web.archive.org/web/20230619143607/maku.group/about-us).



in the propaganda apparatus.”<sup>13</sup> According to a report in *Newlines Magazine*, Singham is invested in at least two other major Chinese companies, underscoring the depth of his business interests in mainland China. In July 2023, Singham was photographed at a strategic communications workshop hosted by the CCP in Shanghai.<sup>14</sup> As recent as November 2023, India’s Enforcement Directorate summoned Singham for questioning regarding his Delhi-based news portal NewsClick, which was raided in 2021 for suspected acceptance of illegal funds from China to promote CCP propaganda deemed a threat to India’s national security.<sup>15</sup>

In 2017, Singham married Jodie Evans, whose CCP affiliations have similarly been covered by prior reporting. As a co-founder of CODEPINK, an anti-war movement established in 2003, Evans has been actively involved in American far-left activism for decades. Despite previously advocating for causes that would today acknowledge the Uyghur genocide, highlight China’s human rights abuses, and side with Taiwan in asserting its independence, following her marriage to Singham, Evans notably shifted her stance to openly support the CCP.<sup>16</sup>

Evans is set to release a book in January 2025 titled “China is Not Our Enemy,” which she co-authored with a researcher employed by the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research and Dongsheng News.<sup>17</sup> Both the Tricontinental Institute and Dongsheng News have ties to the CCP and have received funding from Singham, with the Tricontinental Institute also receiving partial funding from CODEPINK.<sup>18</sup> Finally, Evans serves on the boards of several other organizations within the Singham Network, and most notably the People’s Forum.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Mara Hvistendahl, David A. Fahrenthold, Lynsey Chutel, Ishaan Jhaveri, *New York Times*, Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Guo Han, “讲好中国故事需要找准“话语接口”，学者热议“全球文明倡议””, *Guancha.cn*, July 9, 2023, Captured by WayBack Machine July 18, 2023, [web.archive.org/web/20230718042926/guancha.cn/politics/2023\\_07\\_09\\_700215\\_s.shtml](https://web.archive.org/web/20230718042926/guancha.cn/politics/2023_07_09_700215_s.shtml).

<sup>15</sup> Zoya Mateen, “NewsClick: India police arrest journalists over China funding claims,” *BBC*, October 3, 2023, [bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-66909370](https://bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-66909370).

<sup>16</sup> CODEPINK, “China Is Not Our Enemy- A conversation with Jodie Evans and John Ross,” *YouTube*, August 12, 2020, [youtube.com/watch?v=KxI5Nm3p9wI](https://youtube.com/watch?v=KxI5Nm3p9wI); and CODEPINK “Jodie’s Experience in China,” *YouTube*, June 5, 2023, [youtube.com/watch?v=39kH8e8ao0w&t=3760s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=39kH8e8ao0w&t=3760s).

<sup>17</sup> “China is not our Enemy,” *Amazon*, [amazon.com/China-Not-Enemy-Jodie-Evans/dp/1682196100](https://amazon.com/China-Not-Enemy-Jodie-Evans/dp/1682196100).

<sup>18</sup> Notably, Roy Singham’s son, Nate Singham, is also employed by the Tricontinental Institute. For more, see: “Nate Singham,” *Truthout*, [truthout.org/authors/nate-singham](https://truthout.org/authors/nate-singham).

<sup>19</sup> Peoples Forum Inc, “Form 990 for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017,” *ProPublica*, [projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display\\_990/611844780/10\\_2018\\_prefixes\\_59-62%2F611844780\\_201712\\_990\\_2018101615799996](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/display_990/611844780/10_2018_prefixes_59-62%2F611844780_201712_990_2018101615799996).

Having established Singham's, Evans', and the Singham Network's connections with the CCP, the next section shifts to tracing the fiscal footprint of the Singham Network.

## The Singham Network's Fiscal Footprint

The Singham-linked Convenors of SID4P exhibit overlapping fiscal and personal relationships, indicating substantial financial support and close inter-organizational connections. To better understand the fiscal footprint of the Singham Network, NCRI performed iterative electronic searches across a curated database. This included keyword searches followed by Employer Identification Number (EIN) searches and extraction of addresses from nearly six million IRS tax returns, converted into tabular form from Schedule I of 990 documents, along with data from the main body of 990 Private Foundation forms.

This section will focus on some of the financial operations of, and interplay between, key players in the Singham Network, such as The People's Forum, the Justice and Education Fund (JEF), the United Community Fund (UCF), The Progress Unity Fund (PUF), and BreakThrough Media (BT Media), among others.

### The People's Forum

The finances of The People's Forum shed light on the intricate and ambiguous nature of funding within the Singham Network. An examination of the evidence highlights the intertwined fiscal relationships among Singham Network entities, alongside a substantial influx of untraceable nine-digit USD grants facilitated through an anonymous donor fund administered by Goldman Sachs. Responding to allegations of its finances coming from "dark money" in December 2021, The People's Forum posted the following to Twitter:<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> PeoplesForumNYC, X, December 21, 2021, [x.com/PeoplesForumNYC/status/1473312812944531457](https://x.com/PeoplesForumNYC/status/1473312812944531457).



**Figure 2:** The People's Forum Acknowledges Fiscal Ties to Singham

The People's Forum's tacit admission of an ongoing fiscal relationship with Singham for at least "a few years" before 2021 aligns with NCRI's findings. As reported in November 2023 by the Free Beacon: "The source of the Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund's donations to the People's Forum is likely Neville Roy Singham... [who] is the single individual responsible for the group's operations."<sup>21</sup>

Between 2017 and 2022, the People's Forum received over \$20 million in grants from the GSPF, with \$12 million transferred in 2019 alone. As previous reporting has detailed, GSPF appears to function as a dark money clearinghouse, obscuring the identity of donors while facilitating the transfer of substantial sums to American non-profits.<sup>22</sup>

In November 2023, a Tax-Exempt Organization Complaint was filed with the IRS against The People's Forum, alleging that: "De Los Santos and the People's Forum Inc. have been advocating in support of the U.S. designated foreign terror organization Hamas in its war on Israel and Jews and also advocates for the overthrow of the United States."<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Joseph Simonson, "New York City Communists Pushing For a Gaza Ceasefire Took Millions From Goldman Sachs Charity," *The Washington Free Beacon*, November 21, 2023, [freebeacon.com/democrats/new-york-city-communists-pushing-for-a-gaza-ceasefire-took-millions-from-goldman-sachs](https://freebeacon.com/democrats/new-york-city-communists-pushing-for-a-gaza-ceasefire-took-millions-from-goldman-sachs).

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> StopAntisemites, X, January 17, 2024, [x.com/StopAntisemites/status/1747704695349510155/photo/1](https://x.com/StopAntisemites/status/1747704695349510155/photo/1).

## The Justice and Education Fund

The Justice and Education Fund (JEF) is an example of another 501(c)(3) organization that received over \$20 million through GSPF in just 2019 and 2020 alone. Records indicate a \$64,500 grant from JEF to the People's Forum in 2020. Beyond financial transactions, JEF's leadership is closely aligned with the Singham Network. JEF's board includes Manolo De Los Santos and David Sung Mo Chung, both of whom also hold positions as officers at the People's Forum and have been arrested by NYPD at SID4P-led direct-action events in recent months.<sup>24</sup>

Notably, JEF also appears to facilitate the transfer of funds to Singham-linked entities abroad. For example, in 2022, JEF paid NewsClick \$2.9 million and Maku Media \$2.3 million as independent contractors for the "production of online news programs."<sup>25</sup>

## The United Community Fund

The United Community Fund (UCF) plays a role similar to that of the JEF within the Singham Network. Notably, in 2019, the UCF received an \$8.33 million grant from the JEF.<sup>26</sup> Additionally, during the same year, it allocated over \$3 million in grants to the People's Forum and \$700,000 to the Tricontinental Institute. This underscores the intricate financial interplay between the People's Forum, JEF, and UCF.

The UCF's personnel roster exhibits significant overlap with individuals and organizations affiliated with Singham. For instance, in 2019, Tings Chak served as a Director and Secretary of the UCF.<sup>27</sup> Chak, a Beijing-based researcher, is associated with Dongsheng News, the Tricontinental Institute, and UCF. These three entities were named in an August 2023 letter by Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), urging the Department of Justice (DOJ) to investigate them for potential violations of the Foreign Agents

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<sup>24</sup> "David Chung," *Canary Mission*, Last Modified April 6, 2024, [canarymission.org/individual/David\\_Chung](https://canarymission.org/individual/David_Chung).

<sup>25</sup> Justice And Education Fund Inc, "Form 990 for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022," *ProPublica*, [projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202333179349301938/full](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/824975378/202333179349301938/full); As previously mentioned, NewsClick was labeled a pro-CCP propaganda outlet by the Indian government. This designation led to a raid and investigation prompted by concerns over its potential impact on Indian national security. Furthermore, an investigation conducted by The New York Times in August 2023 revealed that Singham shares office space in Shanghai with Maku, a strategic communications firm known for promoting pro-CCP media aimed at the global south.

<sup>26</sup> Alexander Reid Ross, Courtney Dobson, *New Lines Magazine*, January 18, 2022, *Ibid*.

<sup>27</sup> "United Community Fund," *ProPublica*, [projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/371913339](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/371913339).

Registration Act (FARA).<sup>28</sup> Finally, Chak's membership in the IPA's art and culture working group serves as an example of her association with a recognized SID4P Convenor.<sup>29</sup>

Like Chak, Renata Porto Bugni, listed as the UCF's Director and Treasurer as recently as 2022, is notably also listed as a researcher at Tricontinental.<sup>30</sup>

This brief overview of the People's Forum, JEF, UCF, and other related entities highlights the personnel crossover, complex financial ties, and connections between organizations in the Singham network, as well as their ties to the CCP.

### The Progress Unity Fund

In contrast to the People's Forum, the ANSWER Coalition operates under the fiscal sponsorship of the Progress Unity Fund (PUF) rather than being an IRS-registered entity itself.<sup>31</sup> As recently as 2019, ANSWER Coalition and PUF shared an address in San Francisco, which also served as a frequent venue for Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) activities, indicating a significant overlap between the three.<sup>32</sup> Public tax records reveal that PUF granted ANSWER Coalition approximately \$244,000 over the past five years. However, between 2019 and 2020, PUF experienced an unexplained contraction in revenue of over 90%, declining from \$1.9 million to \$126,000. This suggests a state of operational dormancy from 2022, despite PUF's continued fiscal sponsorship of ANSWER.

The PUF also functions as a fiscal sponsor for an organization known as "Pivot to Peace," which has ties to the CCP and operates within the United States. In May 2023, Pivot to Peace activist Henry Liang was arrested for FARA violations. According to a

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<sup>28</sup> Letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland, From Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), August 8, 2023, [rubio.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/08.08.23-SMR-Letter-to-DOJ-on-CCP-Influence.pdf](https://rubio.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/08.08.23-SMR-Letter-to-DOJ-on-CCP-Influence.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> "Tings Chak," *The Blackwood*, [blackwoodgallery.ca/graph/1aq4m2r8/tings-chak](https://blackwoodgallery.ca/graph/1aq4m2r8/tings-chak).

<sup>30</sup> "Renata Porto Bugni," *Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research*, [thetricontinental.org/pt-pt/brasil/olimpio-alves-dos-santos](https://thetricontinental.org/pt-pt/brasil/olimpio-alves-dos-santos).

<sup>31</sup> ANSWER Coalition is a SID4P Convener, as listed above; See "ANSWER Coalition," *Influence Watch*, [influencewatch.org/non-profit/answer-coalition/](https://influencewatch.org/non-profit/answer-coalition/).

<sup>32</sup> Progress Unity Fund, "Form 990 for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019," *ProPublica*, [projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943382208/202011789349301336/full](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/943382208/202011789349301336/full); and "Friday, July 2: PSL Film and Discussion: FTA (F\*\*\* the Army)," *The San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center (Indybay)*, [indybay.org/newsitems/2010/06/29/18652205.php](https://indybay.org/newsitems/2010/06/29/18652205.php).



Department of Justice press release, Liang was clandestinely working as an operative for the CCP while engaged in activities for Pivot to Peace:<sup>33</sup>

“...from in or around 2018 through at least 2022, Liang acted within the United States as an agent of the PRC government by allegedly providing PRC government officials with information on Boston-area individuals and organizations; organizing a counter-protest against pro-democracy dissidents; providing photographs of and information about dissidents to PRC government officials; and providing the names of potential recruits to the PRC’s Ministry of Public Security. At no point did Liang notify the U.S. Attorney General that he was acting as a PRC government agent.”<sup>34</sup>

Notwithstanding Liang’s arrest, PUF continues to serve as the fiscal sponsor for both ANSWER Coalition and Pivot to Peace at the present time.

Further analysis of the interconnected relationship between ANSWER, the PUF, and Pivot to Peace highlights the significant personnel overlap within Singham Network-affiliated organizations. Pivot to Peace’s co-founder, Sheila Xiao, is the chair of ANSWER Coalition’s Los Angeles Chapter, a former PSL “Organizer,” and frequent participant in panels and events hosted by Jodie Evans’ CODEPINK.<sup>35</sup> Xiao has also collaborated on research with Manolo De Los Santos, Executive Director of The People’s Forum, highlighting the engagement and collaboration between Singham Network organizations and SID4P Convenors.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> In the Press Release, the DOJ refers to China by its official name – the People’s Republic of China (PRC).

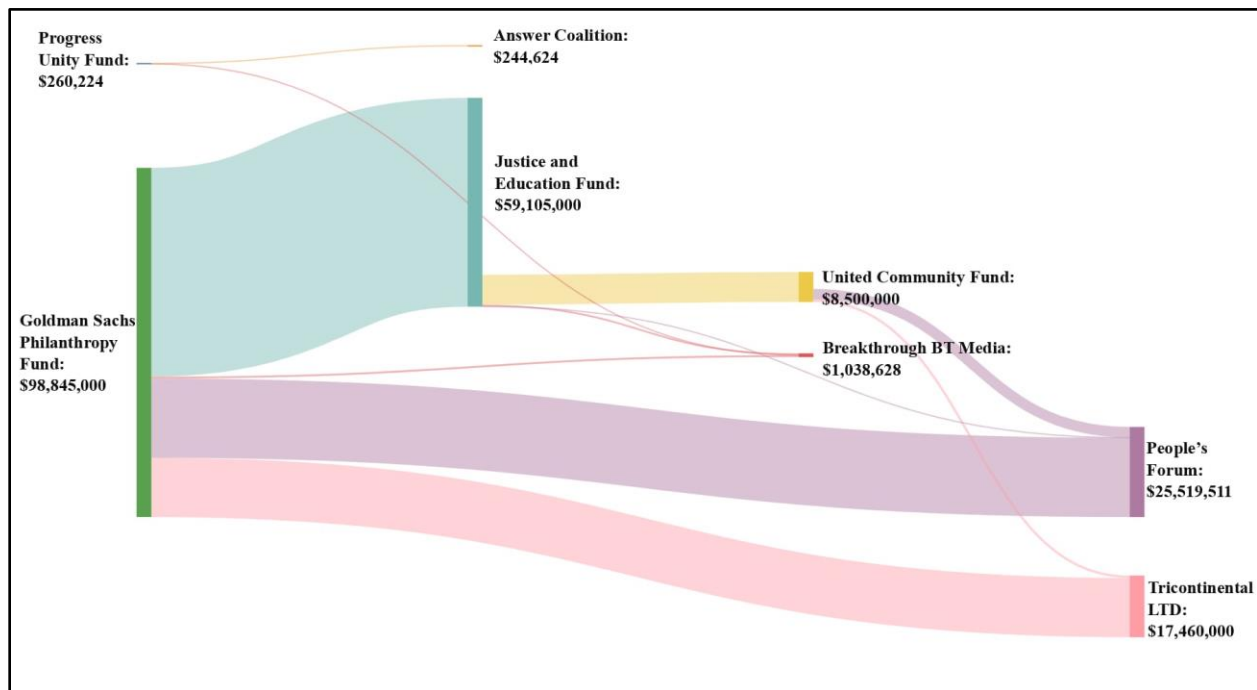
<sup>34</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, “Massachusetts Man Indicted for Acting as an Illegal Agent of the People’s Republic of China,” May 15, 2023, [justice.gov/opa/pr/massachusetts-man-indicted-acting-illegal-agent-people-s-republic-china](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/massachusetts-man-indicted-acting-illegal-agent-people-s-republic-china).

<sup>35</sup> “BOOK LAUNCH: China’s Revolution and the Quest for a Socialist Future w/ Ken Hammond & Sheila Xiao,” *The People’s Forum*, [peoplesforum.org/events/book-launch-chinas-revolution-and-the-quest-for-a-socialist-future-w-ken-hammond-sheila-xiao](https://peoplesforum.org/events/book-launch-chinas-revolution-and-the-quest-for-a-socialist-future-w-ken-hammond-sheila-xiao); and Party for Socialism and Liberation – PSL, “Live in Los Angeles: PSL member Sheila Xiao discusses the Coronavirus, the racist backlash against China and how the US healthcare system may be incredibly ill equipped to handle an impending epidemic,” *Facebook*, March 6, 2020, [facebook.com/pslweb/videos/1028721074176942](https://www.facebook.com/pslweb/videos/1028721074176942).

<sup>36</sup> “BOOK LAUNCH: China’s Revolution and the Quest for a Socialist Future w/ Ken Hammond & Sheila Xiao,” *The People’s Forum*, *Ibid.*; and Sheila Xiao, Manolo De Los Santos “People’s Summit for Democracy Offers Progressive Vision to Counter US Dominance,” *NewsClick*, May 27, 2022, [newsclick.in/peoples-summit-democracy-offers-progressive-vision-counter-us-dominance](https://www.newsclick.in/peoples-summit-democracy-offers-progressive-vision-counter-us-dominance).

## Breakthrough Media

Breakthrough Media (BT Media), known for promoting pro-CCP geopolitical interests through its outlet BreakThrough News (BT News), shares numerous fiscal and organizational connections with other core organizations of the Singham Network. According to its 2022 tax filings, as well as its donation portal, BT Media operated out of the same address as the People's Forum.<sup>37</sup> Moreover, the People's Forum provided grants to BT Media in 2021 and 2022, in addition to significant financial support that BT Media received from other Singham-linked entities. These include \$483,000 transferred from JEF, \$15,600 from PUF, and \$540,000 from GSPF since 2022. These grants account for a substantial portion of BT Media's revenue, which nearly doubled year-over-year from \$253,000 in 2020 to a total of \$951,000 in 2022.<sup>38</sup>



**Figure 3:** The Flow of Funds within the Singham Network. Note that these are Cash Grants.

## SID4P's Social Media Mobilization and Amplification Strategy

This section highlights the intricate dynamics at play within the #ShutItDown4Palestine campaign and its impact across various social media platforms. More specifically, it

<sup>37</sup> "Become a Member of Breakthrough News," *BreakThrough News*, [breakthroughnews.org/donate](https://breakthroughnews.org/donate).

<sup>38</sup> "Breakthrough Bt Media Inc," *ProPublica*, [projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/845071181](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/845071181).

identifies key stakeholders to reveal a coalition of far-left organizations and Singham Network-linked media outlets, such as BT News, which are shaping the online narrative around the war in Gaza and its ramifications for the U.S. The data highlights a coordinated effort by these groups to promote SID4P’s ideological agenda through extensive digital outreach and cross-network amplification.

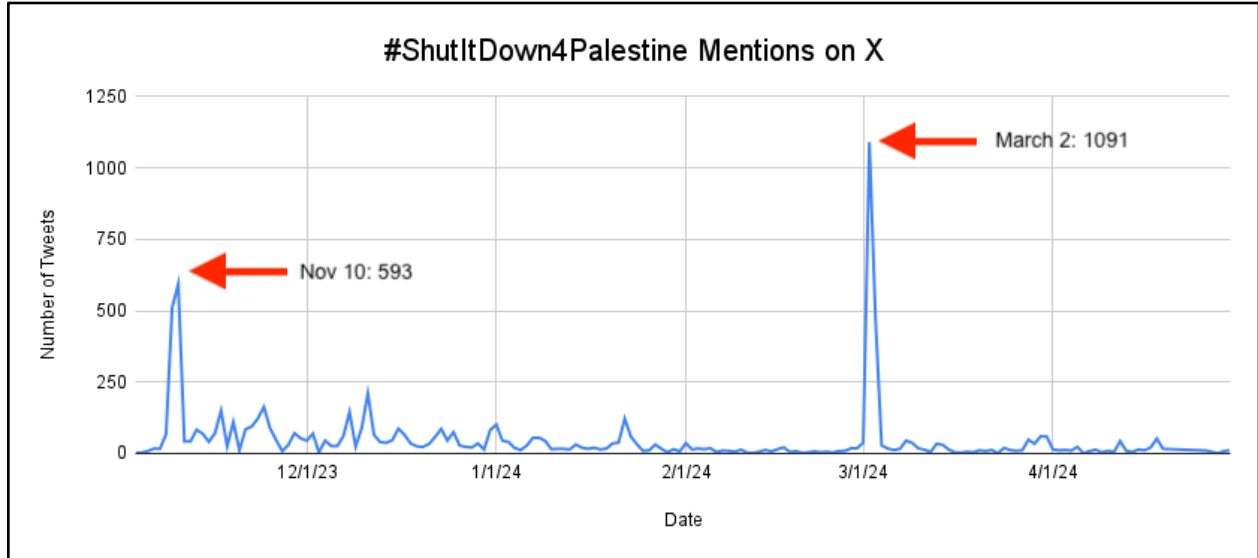
NCRI conducted an extensive examination of the digital footprint associated with the hashtag #ShutItDown4Palestine, which was launched by Manolo De Los Santos on X, formerly known as Twitter, accruing over 30,000 cross-platform mentions since its inception.

#ShutItDown4Palestine Across Social Media Platforms			
Instagram	Facebook	Twitter	TikTok
11,874 posts	9,200 posts	8,000 tweets	2,457 videos

A time series analysis of the #ShutItDown4Palestine hashtag campaign on X revealed two prominent outliers relative to the daily baseline average of  $\pm 92$  posts per day:

1. November 10 (593 posts)
2. March 2 (1091 posts)

November 9 and March 2 were both designated as “Global Shutdown/Action for Palestine” days, heavily promoted by SID4P. This correlation between the organized direct-action events by SID4P and the popularity of its associated hashtag campaign demonstrates the movement’s ability to mobilize both online and offline.



**Figure 4:** Time series analysis for mentions of #ShutItDown4Palestine on X

Another aspect of this investigation focused on quantifying the social influence and reach of various groups within the Singham Network that play significant roles in the SID4P movement. The findings are depicted in Figure 2 and detailed in Table 1, which presents the Eigenvector Centrality values for the X accounts of the SID4P Convenors.<sup>39</sup>

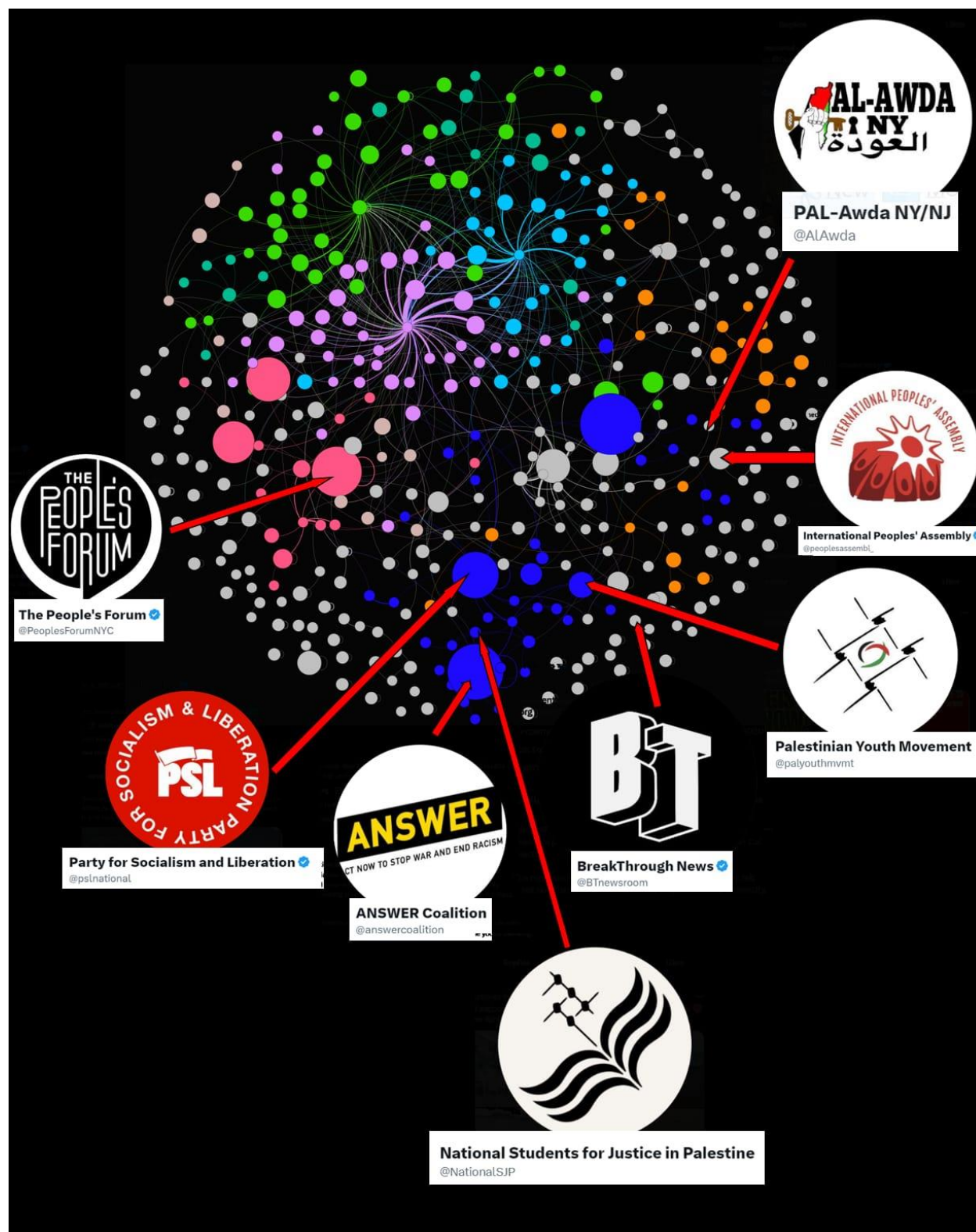
The results reveal that the far-left Convenors, particularly the ANSWER Coalition and The People's Forum, along with closely allied groups such as the PSL, were significantly more active and influential in promoting the hashtag compared to other SID4P Convenors, such as PYM, NSJP, and Al-Awda. This finding sheds light on the coordinated effort by Singham Network-linked organizations to dominate the social media narrative, thereby amplifying the movement's objectives and expanding its reach across the digital landscape.

<sup>39</sup> Eigenvector Centrality is a metric that measures the influence of a node within a network based on the quality of its connections.

X Eigenvector Centrality Values for SID4P Conveners	
Handle	Value
answercoalition	0.93393
psInational	0.86262
PeoplesForumNYC	0.72689
palyouthmvmt	0.35301
peoplesassembl_	0.28524
BTnewsroom	0.14069
NationalSJP	0.01701
AlAwda	0.00851

**Table 1:** Eigenvector centrality values of accounts for SID4P convening organizations for the #ShutItDown4Palestine hashtag social graph.





**Figure 5:** A social network graph of the #ShutItDown4Palestine hashtag shows active promotion and prominent connectivity between Singham Network-linked Conveners of the SID4P movement.<sup>40</sup>

This disproportionate influence highlights the central role these groups play within the SID4P movement in shaping and driving the movement's online presence, which is crucial for mobilizing support for its overarching geopolitical and ideological objectives.

Amidst the complex web of influences shaping SID4P's campaign, alternative media outlets, particularly those associated with the Singham Network, have played a pivotal role in the amplification of pro-Palestinian activism. These media entities, once marginal players in the landscape of international journalism, have undergone a significant transformation, pivoting towards a near-exclusive focus on Israel with suspicious growth in audience. This shift is exemplified by BT News, which entirely repurposed its editorial stance to serve as a tool to vilify Israel in order to opportunistically amplify revolutionary and violent protest in the U.S.

## BreakThrough Media and the Role of Alternative News Outlets

BT Media was founded in 2020 by Ben Becker, a founding member of PSL and a former national organizer for ANSWER Coalition. The key offices and editorial team of BT News are likewise dominated by PSL members, including:

1. Claudia De la Cruz – BT Media's Secretary and Director, as well as PSL's candidate for the 2024 Presidential election.
2. Karla Reyes – BT Media's Chair and Director and De la Cruz's 2024 PSL Presidential campaign running mate.
3. Yari Osorio – BT Media's Treasurer and Director and PSL's 2012 Vice-Presidential candidate.<sup>41</sup>

BT Media's Host and Producer, Eugene Puryear, was likewise a PSL Vice-Presidential candidate in 2008 and 2016. The degree of overlap between BT Media and PSL on their executive and editorial teams is so significant that one can easily conclude that the former is functionally serving as a mouthpiece for the latter.

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<sup>40</sup> X (formerly Twitter) post data (±8K posts) and associated metadata was obtained from Rapid API.

<sup>41</sup> Breakthrough Bt Media Inc, "Form 990 for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022," *ProPublica*, [projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/845071181/202343189349303964/full](https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/845071181/202343189349303964/full).

Up until approximately six months ago, BT News' reporting focused on a number of pro-CCP, far-left, and after the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, pro-Kremlin causes.<sup>42</sup> Rania Khalek, known for her pro-Syrian Regime stance, as well as her affiliation with Russia Today (RT), is listed as a Host and Producer for BT News.<sup>43</sup> Kei Pritsker, a journalist for BT News who has been the face of its coverage of SID4P, reported previously for the pro-Kremlin MintPress News and helped produce an anti-Ukraine segment for RT in 2018.<sup>44</sup>

In May 2023, BT News joined other Singham Network-linked media outlets in attendance at the Shanghai-based Global Communications Conference of the Global South. The conference was hosted by the School of Communications at the East China Normal University, a public institute funded by the CCP's Ministry of Education and the Shanghai Municipality. Speakers included Executive Director of the Tricontinental Institute Vijay Prashad, who was keynote speaker, and Tings Chak (see above).<sup>45</sup>

Since October 7, 2023, BT News' narrative focus has undergone a quantifiable shift away from other far-left causes and towards the war in Gaza. As shown in Table 2, in the six months prior to October 7, 2023, the top ten keywords in video descriptions for BT News' YouTube Channel included China (#4) and Russia (#9), both of which are cast in an overwhelmingly positive light (**Table 2**). Reference to conflicts in the Middle East or other foreign policy issues did not appear at all in the top ten keywords list for the pre-Gaza war time frame.

In stark contrast, from October 7 to April 30, 2024, nearly all of the top ten keywords used by the account in the six months after October 7 referenced the war in Gaza and associated protests. These findings demonstrate the extent to which BT News' coverage pivoted almost exclusively towards the war in Gaza in the wake of October 7.

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<sup>42</sup> William Bredderman, "U.S Tech Mogul Bankrolls Pro-Russia, Pro-China News Network," *The Daily Beast*, May 29, 2023, [thedailybeast.com/neville-singham-funded-breakthrough-news-is-pushing-moscow-beijing-propaganda](https://www.thedailybeast.com/neville-singham-funded-breakthrough-news-is-pushing-moscow-beijing-propaganda).

<sup>43</sup> RT is a media outlet controlled by the Russian state, broadcasting in English and several other languages; See "Rania Khalek," *Russia Today*, [rt.com/op-ed/authors/rania-khalek](https://rt.com/op-ed/authors/rania-khalek).

<sup>44</sup> "Kei Pritsker," *Canary Mission*, Last modified April 6, 2024, [canarymission.org/individual/Kei\\_Pritsker](https://canarymission.org/individual/Kei_Pritsker).

<sup>45</sup> Mauro Ramos, "Media organizations from Global South discuss solidarity and standing up to sanctions," *Peoples Dispatch*, May 8, 2023, [peoplesdispatch.org/2023/05/08/media-organizations-from-across-the-world-discuss-solidarity-and-standing-up-to-sanctions](https://peoplesdispatch.org/2023/05/08/media-organizations-from-across-the-world-discuss-solidarity-and-standing-up-to-sanctions); and Vijay Prashad, "Can the Global South Build a New World Information and Communication Order?: The Twentieth Newsletter (2023)," *Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research*, May 18, 2023, [thetricontinental.org/newsletterissue/new-world-information-and-communication-order](https://thetricontinental.org/newsletterissue/new-world-information-and-communication-order).

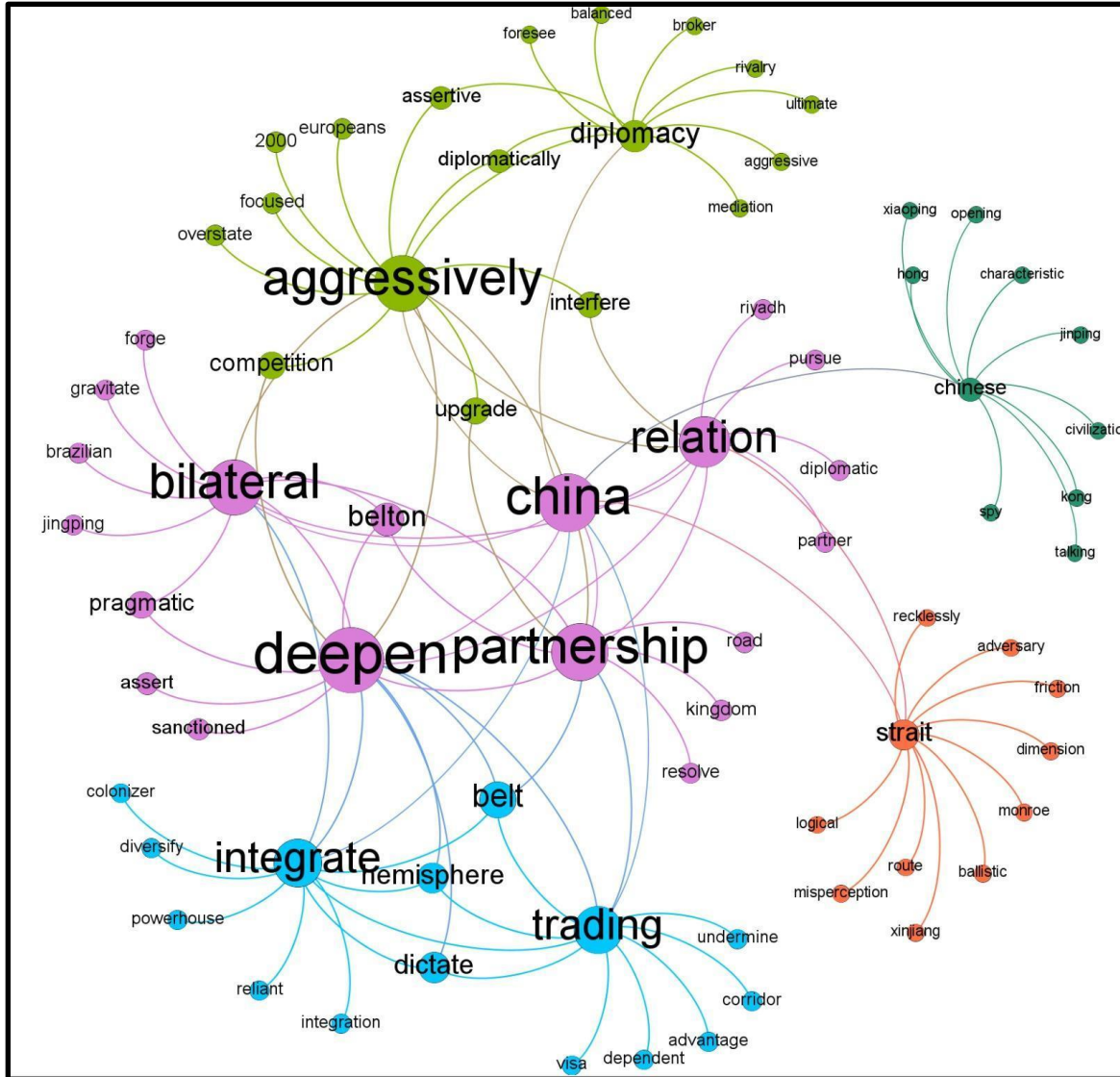
TOP 10 'BreakThroughNews' Terms Before and After Oct 7 on YouTube			
April 1, 2023 - October 6, 2023		October 7, 2023 - April 30, 2024	
Term	Count	Term	Count
People	3014	People	5394
War	1811	Israel	2874
Right	1667	Gaza	2018
China	1665	War	1932
World	1139	Palestinian	1615
Countries	1100	Israeli	1483
States	1099	Palestine	1357
United	1089	World	1256
Russia	1037	States	1244
Government	943	Against	1198

**Table 2:** Most frequent terms in BT News YouTube title transcripts before and after October 7, 2023, display an abrupt and complete change of focus to Israel-related topics.

Top 10 @btnewsroom Terms Before and After Oct 7 on TikTok			
April 1, 2023 – October 6, 2023		October 7, 2023 – April 30, 2024	
Term	Count	Term	Count
Cuba	44	Palestine	318
President	29	Gaza	192
Strike	28	Israel	159
New	27	freepalestine	85
People	26	Palestinian	68
Workers	24	standwithpalestine	65
War	24	Genocide	64
Against	23	Protestors	62
Sanctions	21	Ceasefire	62
Activists	18	gazaunderattack	57

**Table 3:** Top Keywords for @btnewsroom TikTok Account

NCRI conducted a detailed analysis of BT News' entire YouTube content, transcribing and examining each video to identify prevalent themes. This data formed the basis for a topic network analysis (**Figure 6**), which revealed a consistent portrayal of China in an overwhelmingly positive light, especially highlighting its innovative initiatives and global influence. YouTube videos produced by BT News' include segments on "How China Will Win: Capitalism Inherently Collapses," "China's Rise," and "Xi Aims for Common Prosperity." This pattern confirms how one of BT News' primary areas of coverage, i.e. the amplification of pro-CCP narratives, aligns with the geopolitical interests of its backers within the Singham Network.



**Figure 6:** A topic network on the seed term “China” from BT News’ YouTube channel depicts positive portrayals of China’s innovative initiatives and global influence.

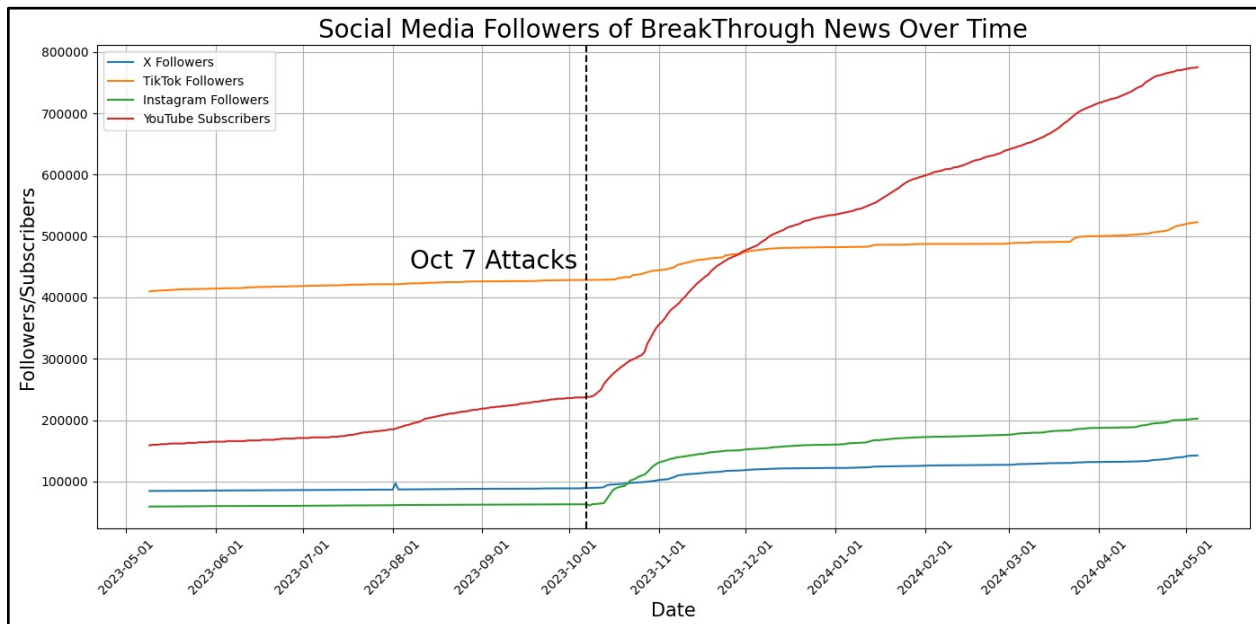




**Figure 7:** Examples of BT News segments featuring pro-Chinese government content.

The narrative shift to anti-Israel coverage was accompanied by an inexplicably explosive growth in its following across social media. Using data from Social Blade,

NCRI determined the following growth margins in total followers from October 6, 2023, to April 30, 2024: Twitter +46%, Instagram +217%, TikTok +21%, and YouTube +224%. These double and triple-digit growth margins are also clearly correlated to BT News' pro-Hamas coverage of the October 7 attack; the inflection points for follower/subscriber growth as well as likes/views can be clearly identified as the month of October, as illustrated in the charts below for its YouTube channel:



**Figure 8:** A time series analysis of monthly follower increases for BT News on several social media platforms.

On October 7, 2023, BT News' TikTok account's initial reporting on the ongoing Hamas attack was: "Palestinian resistance forces launched an unprecedented military action against Israel... Palestinians have captured several Israeli soldiers, spies and military vehicles and are destroying the literal infrastructure of the occupation."<sup>46</sup> Later on October 7, News' YouTube channel uploaded an interview held in Lebanon between host Rania Khaled (profiled below) and Marwan Abdul Al, a standing member of PFLP's politburo.<sup>47</sup> Three weeks later, BT News uploaded an interview of Leila Khaled, illustrating how the outlet provides a platform for veteran PFLP operatives and more broadly enjoys a particularly warm relationship with the terrorist organization.

<sup>46</sup> Btnewsroom, *TikTok*, October 7, 2023, [tiktok.com/@btnewsroom/video/7287278292552535339](https://www.tiktok.com/@btnewsroom/video/7287278292552535339).

<sup>47</sup> BreakThrough News, "Exclusive Interview w/ Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Leader," *YouTube*, October 7, 2023, [youtube.com/watch?v=EqQUOYcJzds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqQUOYcJzds).

More recently, on May 3, BT News published a video interview with Al Mayadeen correspondent Ali Mortada on “Lebanese resistance to Israeli aggression,” conveying Hezbollah in a positive light.<sup>48</sup> Reuters has referred to Al Mayadeen as a pro-Iran, pro-Hezbollah Lebanese media outlet, and in 2019 Bellingcat documented Mortada’s role in launching a social media fundraising campaign for the Iranian proxy.<sup>49</sup>

Both the Khaled and Mortada interviews were marked as fundraisers, showing how BT News is platforming pro-Iran or pro-terrorism voices in order to generate revenue through social media platform monetization functionalities. In the months since October @btnewsroom’s “Palestine” playlist that contains 24 clips has accrued a total of nearly 2.5 million views, demonstrating the significant reach achieved by the outlet.



**Figure 9:** October 7, 2023: BT News host Rania Khalek interviews Marwan Abdul Al, a standing member of PFLP leadership, in Beirut.

<sup>48</sup> Btnewsroom, X, May 3, 2024, [x.com/BTnewsroom/status/1786425730731053385](https://x.com/BTnewsroom/status/1786425730731053385).

<sup>49</sup> Hector Martinez, “Hashtaggers For Hezbollah? How Social Media Fundraising Can Skirt The Rules,” *Bellingcat*, August 27, 2019, [bellingcat.com/news/2019/08/27/hashtaggers-for-hezbollah-how-social-media-fundraising-can-skirt-the-rules](https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2019/08/27/hashtaggers-for-hezbollah-how-social-media-fundraising-can-skirt-the-rules).



Figure 8: BT News interviews Leila Khaled, a senior PFLP terror-operative.



Figure 10: BT News interviews Ali Mortada, a host for the pro-Hezbollah mouthpiece al-Mayadeen.



BT News is just one of at least eight Singham Network-linked alternative news sources.<sup>50</sup> Nonetheless, its explosive growth on social media in recent months is a testament to the growing reach enjoyed by alternative media sources that compares to or even exceeds viewership metrics for mainstream media. BT News embodies this broader trend as it serves as a tool for the SID4P movement specifically, and the Singham Network more generally, to shape the online narrative around conflict in the Middle East and America's stance on it.

## Radical Ties: SID4P'S Convenors and Terrorist Affiliations

Two key Convenors of the SID4P movement, Al-Awda and NSJP, exhibit both historic and ongoing connections to designated terrorist organizations such as Hamas and the PFLP. Notably, SID4P's association with the PFLP is further reinforced through Samidoun's inclusion as an official Endorser of the movement, as is openly listed on SID4P's website.

These connections are not superficial. For instance, Charlotte Kates serves as the Communications Officer for Al-Awda. Kates is also listed in Canadian business records as a Director of the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.<sup>51</sup> On May 6, 2024, Kates spoke at an online event alongside Hamas politburo member Osama Hamdan.<sup>52</sup> She is married to Khalid Barakat, a known PFLP official.<sup>53</sup> This couple's involvement with PFLP leadership was on display during their 2012 visit to Gaza, where they met with PFLP deputy secretary general, Jamil Mezher.<sup>54</sup> Both Kates and Barakat actively promote a one-state solution and advocate for the violent dissolution of the state of Israel.

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<sup>50</sup> William Bredderman, "U.S Tech Mogul Bankrolls Pro-Russia, Pro-China News Network," *The Daily Beast*, May 29, 2023, Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> "National Board, Coordinating Committee," *Al-Awda*, [al-awdapalestine.org/about/our-aims-and-objectives/national-board](http://al-awdapalestine.org/about/our-aims-and-objectives/national-board).

<sup>52</sup> "Video: On the vision of the Resistance – Interview with Osama Hamdan of Hamas," *Palestinian Alternative Revolutionary Path Movement*, May 6, 2024, [masarbadil.org/en/2024/05/4686](http://masarbadil.org/en/2024/05/4686).

<sup>53</sup> "الوفد الكندي يختتم زيارته لغزة والشعبية تنظم حفل وداعي له," *Ma'an News Agency*, June 24, 2012, [maannews.net/news/498073.html](http://maannews.net/news/498073.html).

<sup>54</sup> "Jamil Mazhar," *European Council on Foreign Relations*, [cfr.eu/special/mapping\\_palestinian\\_politics/jamil-mezher](http://cfr.eu/special/mapping_palestinian_politics/jamil-mezher).



Until at least April 20, Nerdeen Kiswani was listed as the Youth Representative on Al-Awda's national board.<sup>55</sup> Kiswani is a veteran Palestinian activist who founded the New York chapter for Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and chairs Within our Lifetime (WOL). She is outspoken in her support for Palestinian militant actions and calls for the globalization of the Intifada. Kiswani's activities, including her arrests at SID4P-led protests, underscore her influential role in promoting a more militant approach toward pro-Palestinian activism in the New York area.<sup>56</sup>

Additionally, both SJP and PYM, another SID4P Convener, as noted above, are supported by the Westchester Peace Action Committee (WESPAC). WESPAC provides fiscal sponsorship to multiple advocacy groups within the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, including the Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and Kiswani's WOL. SJP's founder, Hatem Bazian, participated in fundraising activities for KindHearts, which is an organization that had its assets frozen by the U.S. Department of Treasury in 2006.<sup>57</sup> Per the U.S. Department of Treasury, KindHearts "officials and fundraisers have coordinated with Hamas leaders and made contributions to Hamas-affiliated organizations."<sup>58</sup> Bazian later helped establish American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), evolving from the Islamic Palestine Association co-founded by Musa Abu Marzuq of Hamas.<sup>59</sup>

Several other individuals previously investigated for ties to Hamas such as Saleh Sarsour and Osama Abu Irshaid currently serve alongside Bazian on AMP's National

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<sup>55</sup> "National Board, Coordinating Committee," *Al-Awda*, Captured by WayBack Machine April 20, 2024, [web.archive.org/web/20240420043200/al-awdapalestine.org/about/our-aims-and-objectives/national-board](https://web.archive.org/web/20240420043200/al-awdapalestine.org/about/our-aims-and-objectives/national-board).

<sup>56</sup> Center on Extremism, "Nerdeen Kiswani and Within Our Lifetime-United for Palestine: What You Need to Know," *Anti-Defamation League*, April 26, 2024, [adl.org/resources/blog/nerdeen-kiswani-and-within-our-lifetime-united-palestine-what-you-need-know](https://adl.org/resources/blog/nerdeen-kiswani-and-within-our-lifetime-united-palestine-what-you-need-know).

<sup>57</sup> Dr. Jonathan Schanzer, "From Ivory Towers to Dark Corners: Investigating the Nexus Between Antisemitism, Tax-Exempt Universities, and Terror Financing," *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, November 15, 2023, [gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Schanzer-Testimony.pdf](https://gop-waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Schanzer-Testimony.pdf); and "Former Treasury Official: Same Network That Funded Hamas in U.S. Backs Boycotts of Israel," *The Tower*, April 20, 2016, [thetower.org/3260oc-former-treasury-official-same-network-that-funded-hamas-in-u-s-backs-boycotts-of-israel](https://thetower.org/3260oc-former-treasury-official-same-network-that-funded-hamas-in-u-s-backs-boycotts-of-israel).

<sup>58</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Treasury Freezes Assets of Organization Tied to Hamas," February 19, 2006, [home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/js4058](https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/js4058).

<sup>59</sup> "Profile: American Muslims for Palestine," *Anti-Defamation League*, March 29, 2013, [adl.org/sites/default/files/american-muslims-for-palestine-2013-03-29-v4.pdf](https://adl.org/sites/default/files/american-muslims-for-palestine-2013-03-29-v4.pdf).

Board.<sup>60</sup> As recently as October 31, 2023, the Virginia Office of the Attorney General announced: “the Attorney General will investigate allegations that the organization [AMP] may have used funds raised for impermissible purposes under state law, including benefitting or providing support to terrorist organizations.”<sup>61</sup>

A lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court in Virginia by Greenberg Traurig in 2024 alleges that AMP and NSPJ are not merely independent activist groups, but actually “support and further the goals and directives of Hamas.”<sup>62</sup> The suit references an “NJSP Toolkit” that was distributed to students on October 8th, 2023, the day following Hamas’ attack. This toolkit included coordinated “resistance materials,” calls for mass mobilization, and celebrations of Hamas’ attack, which it referred to as a “historic win.”

## Conclusion: Strengthening Democratic Resilience Against Internal Threats

The emergence and activities of the “Shut It Down for Palestine” (SID4P) movement highlights a trend in which the instruments of democracy are being exploited to undermine its foundations. This report has demonstrated how SID4P, with its connections to, and backing from, foreign entities, and its affiliations with terrorist-linked organizations, has effectively exploited the U.S. non-profit system and institutions that are afforded democratic protections to propagate anti-democratic ideologies and disrupt societal norms. Its deployment of influence and action to target critical infrastructure and educational institutions exemplifies what appears to be a new wave of decentralized, network-driven disruption that poses national security concerns.

As the United States approaches a presidential election, the potential for these movements to catalyze further unrest is not only likely but could even escalate into a scenario where electoral processes are disrupted by widespread riots and protests. Given the explicitly anti-American and anti-capitalist ideology of the SID4P movement,

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<sup>60</sup> Dr. Jonathan Schanzer, “From Ivory Towers to Dark Corners: Investigating the Nexus Between Antisemitism, Tax-Exempt Universities, and Terror Financing,” *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Commonwealth of Virginia – Office of the Attorney General, “Attorney General’s Office Opens Investigation Into American Muslims for Palestine Nonprofit,” October 31, 2023, [oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/2630-october-31-2023-attorney-generals-office-opens-investigation-into-american-muslims-for-palestine-nonprofit](https://oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/2630-october-31-2023-attorney-generals-office-opens-investigation-into-american-muslims-for-palestine-nonprofit).

<sup>62</sup> *Parizer v. AJP Educ. Found. Inc.*, E.D. Va., No. 1:24-cv-00724, filed May 1, 2024, [carolinajournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/palestine-1-050124.pdf](https://carolinajournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/palestine-1-050124.pdf).

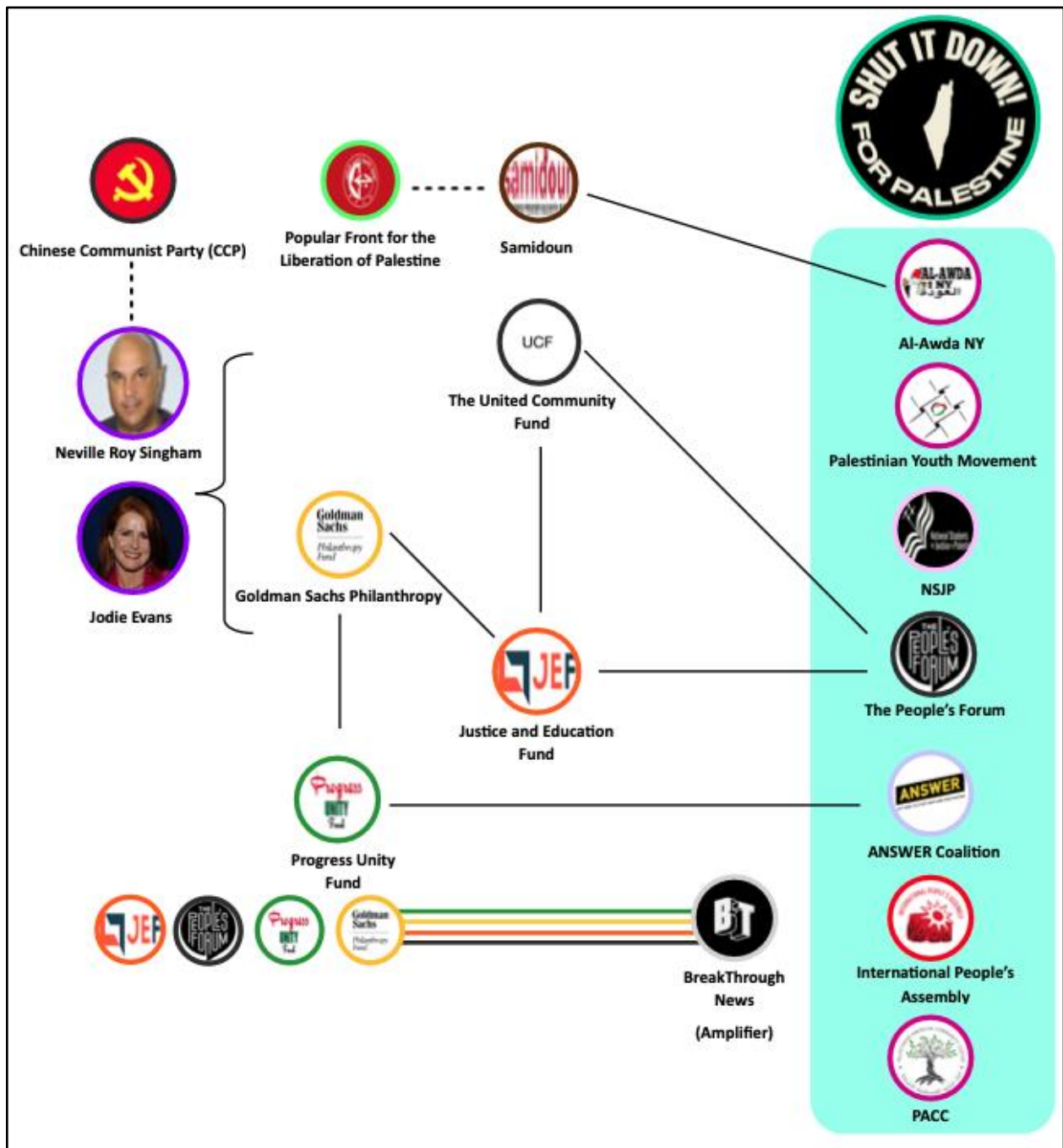
its deployment of social unrest and information warfare represents a hybrid threat that requires a robust response.

To counteract these threats, it is imperative for democratic institutions to develop robust mechanisms of transparency and oversight. Specifically, there is a critical need for more accountability from entities that enjoy nonprofit status and other fiscal privileges to ensure that they are not exploiting these protections to support terrorist activities or enhance the agendas of potentially foreign powers that are hostile to the United States. The current protections and benefits afforded to such institutions, for instance the fiscal confidentiality enjoyed by donors to 501(c)s, need more robust measures in place to prevent the type of misuse that threatens the social fabric of American society, and through that, its institutions and internal stability.

Additionally, as recommended by Senator Rubio to Attorney General Garland in 2023, it is imperative to investigate whether entities associated with Mr. Singham may be in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), which was enacted in 1938 to counter Nazi propaganda. This Act requires specific agents representing foreign principals and involved in political activities or other related activities to periodically disclose their relationship with these foreign principals, along with their activities, receipts, and disbursements in support of those activities. While FARA does not prohibit lobbying or promoting foreign interests, it is intended to promote transparency with respect to foreign influence over American public opinion.

By recognizing these movements as threats to national stability rather than as isolated incidents of civil unrest, we can better protect the democratic values and structural integrity of American society and its democratic institutions.

## Appendix



**Figure 11:** A graphic depicting the relationships between entities in the Singham Network and the SID4P movement.

## International People's Assembly

The International People's Assembly (IPA) is the least visible of the Singham-linked SID4P Convenors. IPA's official social media accounts were opened in 2021 and its Instagram profile states that the account is based in Brazil.<sup>63</sup> Many of its audio-visual and textual productions appear in Spanish and Portuguese alongside English, facilitating conveyance of its target narratives to Latin America and Latino activist circles within the US.

Notwithstanding its apparent focus on Latin America, IPA has far-reaching global interests. According to investigative reporting performed by South Africa's *AmaBhungane*, the IPA is, "a sort of umbrella organization for trade unions, political parties and social movements... Singham is directly involved in the IPA, and it appears to play an important coordinating role in his network of influence."<sup>64</sup> Tricontinental is listed as an official partner of the IPA, and CODEPINK is designated a member of its coordinating committee. Another coordinating committee member is the Palestine Workers Party, which is part of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

IPA's activities across the global south, particularly in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, warrant further analysis that is beyond the scope of this report. That said, IPA serves as a platform for both pro-CCP and pro-terrorism voices. For example, on October 13, 2023, IPA hosted a conference titled "Dilemmas in Humanity" in South Africa where speakers featured Leila Khaled, a PFLP terrorist, as well as Claudia De la Cruz of the People's Forum and PSL.<sup>65</sup> Tings Chak, discussed previously for her connections to other Singham entities, likewise identifies as a member of IPA.<sup>66</sup>

Notwithstanding its clear Singham connections, IPA's tactical role in the SID4P coalition is more tangential than either the People's Forum or ANSWER Coalition, given its relatively low mobilization capacity on U.S. streets and campuses. Instead, IPA enjoys working relationships with socialist, Marxist, and pro-CCP movements worldwide and can be seen as a bridge between US-based and global pro-terror activism. Its employment of official social media accounts in attaching the #ShutItDown4Palestine

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<sup>63</sup> Peoples.assembly, *Instagram*, [instagram.com/peoples.assembly](https://www.instagram.com/peoples.assembly).

<sup>64</sup> Micah Reddy, Sam Sole, "Who Killed New Frame?", *AmaBhungane*, July 27, 2022, [amabhungane.org/220727-who-killed-new-frame](https://amabhungane.org/220727-who-killed-new-frame).

<sup>65</sup> Dilemmas for Humanity, "South Africa prepares to host historic conference on dialogues towards socialism," October 13, 2023, [dilemmasofhumanity.org/dilemmas-south-africa](https://dilemmasofhumanity.org/dilemmas-south-africa).

<sup>66</sup> T\_ings, X, October 2, 2021, [twitter.com/t\\_ings/status/1444249212074430470](https://twitter.com/t_ings/status/1444249212074430470).

hashtag to footage of pro-Palestine demonstrations outside the U.S. point to attempts at globalizing the SID4P initiative.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Peoplesassembl\_, X,  
[twitter.com/search?q=from%3A%40peoplesassembl\\_%20%23ShutItDown4Palestine](https://twitter.com/search?q=from%3A%40peoplesassembl_%20%23ShutItDown4Palestine)