

# DISSENTERS

# 2022-2023

# REPORT

A report on our program highlights from the 2022-2023 school year, and how you can help us build power in 2023-2024.



# PRINCIPLE 1:

WE ARE  
WORKING TO  
END WAR AND  
MILITARISM



# DISSENTERS THEORY OF CHANGE: WE ARE IN PHASE 1

Dissenters is leading a new generation of young people to reclaim our resources from the war industry, reinvest in life-giving services, and repair collaborative relationships with the earth and people globally.

Dissenters' plan to win involves three phases:

**Phase 1:** Run campus campaigns to disrupt the war industry and develop hundreds of strong BIPOC leaders and organizers committed to anti-militarism. (3-5 years)

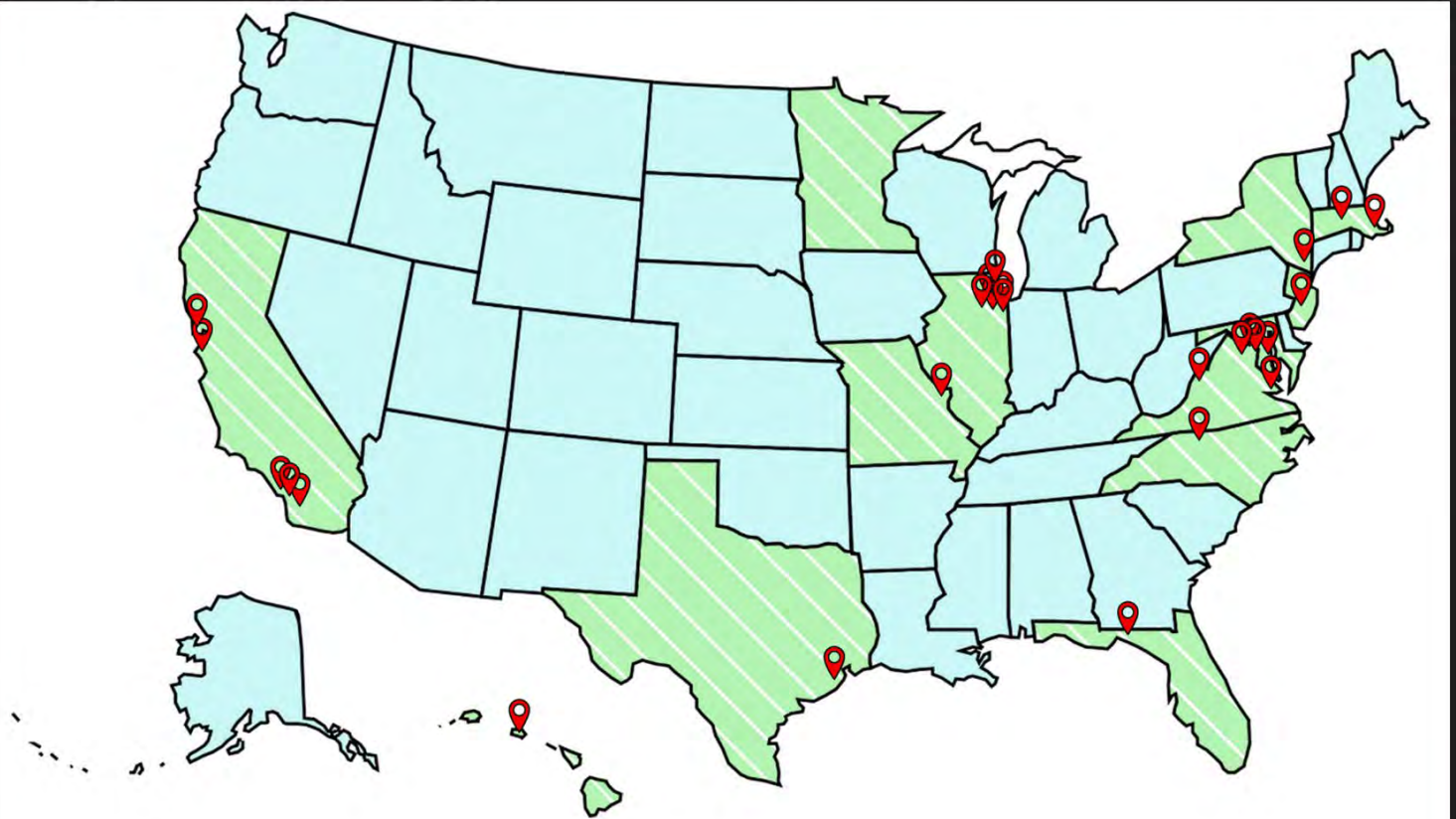
**Phase 2:** Run on and off campus campaigns nationally, to stigmatize war and pressure elected officials to take bold stances & divest from war profiteers. (3-5 years)

**Phase 3 :** Introduce sweeping legislation to divest from the Pentagon, and invest in our communities.

Dissenters launched in January of 2020, just two months before the COVID-19 pandemic would alter the world as we knew it. We have had to be adaptive, bold, and creative to build our movement, and are currently in the early stages of Phase 1 of our plan to win.

# DISSENTERS CHAPTERS

Since our founding, we've developed 30 chapters across Turtle Island. The pins on this map show our current distribution of chapters.



Digital supporters
  Chapters
  Supporters + Chapters

## EAST COAST + SOUTH

American University  
 Florida State University  
 George Washington University  
 Hampton University  
 Howard University  
 John Hopkins University  
 New York University  
 Princeton University  
 Tufts University  
 University of Houston, UH Divest  
 University of Massachusetts Amherst  
 University of Virginia



## MIDWEST

Chicago, Boeing Arms Genocide  
 DePaul University  
 Loyola Dissenters  
 Northwestern University  
 University of Chicago  
 University of Illinois Chicago  
 Washington University  
 Dissenters, Resist WashU



## CALIFORNIA + HAWAI'I

California State University Northridge  
 California State University Los Angeles  
 Hawai'i Dissenters  
 Stanford University  
 University of California Berkeley  
 University of California Riverside



# DISSENTERS CAMPAIGNS

Our members are running hard-hitting campaigns to disrupt business as usual on their campuses, and stigmatize war & militarism. All of the campaigns we're running use one of the following frameworks:

## Divest From Death

A campaign to pressure colleges and universities to cut ties and/or divest from the Top 5 U.S. companies profiting from war: Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing, Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics.

## Recruiters off Campus

A campaign to drive war recruiters off campus, including both Department of Defense and private corporations seeking to hire graduating students to advance war & militarism

## Cops off Campus

A campaign to disarm and disband campus police departments which frequently patrol and harass local communities in addition to upholding racism and repression on campuses.



# PRINCIPLE 5: WE LEAD BY SUPPORTING NEW LEADERS



# OUR YOUNG LEADERS

**34** young people who are Black, Indigenous, and otherwise impacted by militarism have completed our rigorous Demilitarize Organizing Fellowship program, helping to launch chapters and campaigns on their campuses across Turtle Island. Another 20 fellows will make up our next cohort this fall.



**200+** people have attended an in-person Dissenters gathering, to learn about campaign strategy, get grounded in Dissenters principles, and build relationships with others in the movement.

**600+** young people have been trained in Dissenters DNA to date, through online and in person trainings led by our training team and campus organizers.

**800+**

young people have participated in a Dissenters action on their campus or in their city.

**PRINCIPLE 6:**  
**WE UPLIFT THE**  
**VOICES AND**  
**LEADERSHIP OF**  
**THOSE MOST**  
**OFTEN AT THE**  
**MARGINS**





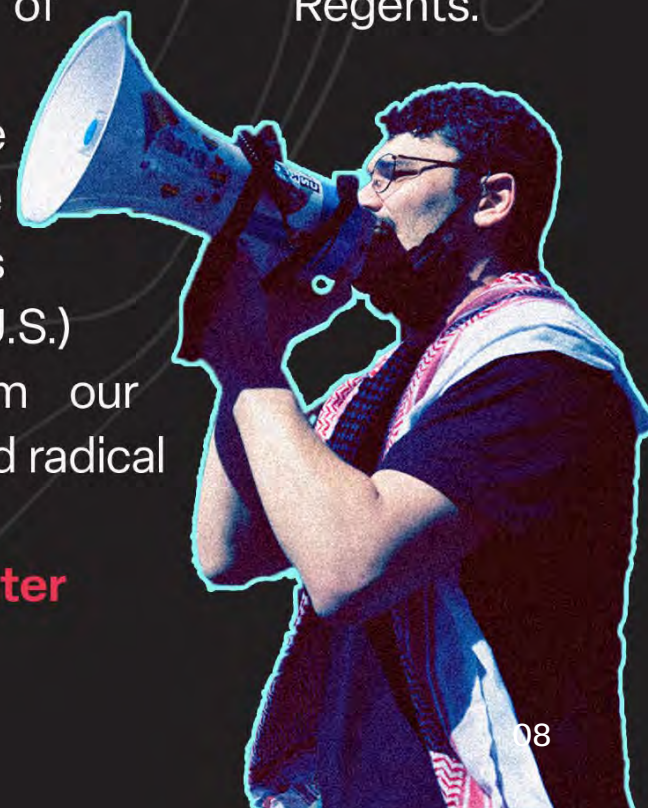
# ANTI-MILITARIST ORGANIZING FELLOWSHIP

Dissenters' Anti-Militarist Organizing Fellowship is a 12-week stipended program that trains US-based BIPOC college students on the fundamentals of anti-militarist organizing, and provides deep leadership development, coaching, and community to a dedicated cohort of student organizers.

“During the fellowship I learned important base building, organizational, and campaign-development skills and gained a community of young people who are just as committed to ending U.S. imperialism and endless war as I am...After four inspiring months with the Dissenters Fellowship, we organized a major campaign targeting 5 of the biggest arms manufacturers in the world, successfully passing our resolution through Student Government and taking this momentum all the way to the Board of Regents.

Students have always been leaders in the movement for social justice– the Dissenters Fellowship helps students across occupied Turtle Island (so-called U.S.) build upon this legacy and transform our campuses into bases of political power and radical imagination.”

**- Alex, University of Houston Dissenter**



**Rosario**, a student at the University of Florida, shared that, “The overall strengths of this program would be the support and how they help us stay grounded, connected, and inspired with future events! I feel equipped to continue growing my chapter within my campus. I feel confident in my ability to recruit more people!”

*“I feel equipped to continue growing my chapter within my campus. I feel confident in my ability to recruit more people!”*

She not only is building her chapter, but helping shape national discourse on the centrality of student organizing to progressive social movements. Rosario recently spoke on a national panel on the threat of far right movements, given her experiences organizing on campus in Tallahassee with Dissenters.



# TIDALWAVE CONVERGENCE: CHICAGO

We hosted our inaugural national convening, the Dissenters Tidalwave Convergence, from September 9-11, 2022 in Chicago, Illinois. Over 80 people attended, including 60 new student members, and a training team of 12 Dissenters student alumni who led workshops like Dissenters' Plan to Win, the State of the Empire, Winning the Story & Campus Narrative Strategy, Campaigns & Organizing 101, Building Healthy Groups, and more.

The convening was an absolutely central tool in laying the foundations for a powerful year of anti-militarist organizing across campuses. On the last day, attendees participated in a demonstration coordinated by our only off-campus campaign 'Boeing Arms Genocide.'

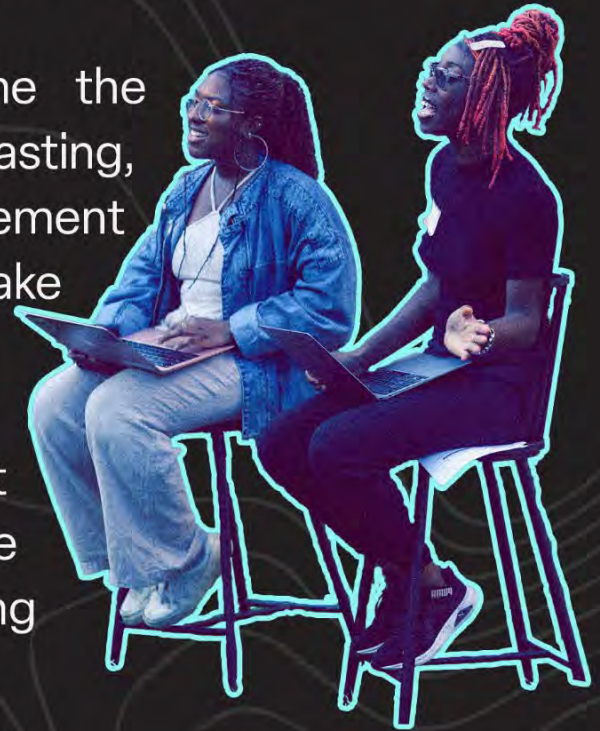
**Elias**, a Dissenter from Stanford, shared that attending Tidalwave **“was a radically transformative experience.”** He said, “I left so energized to organize against war and militarism on my campus, including shutting down a CIA Recruitment Event, countering a reactionary “Academic Freedom” conference on campus, and creating a coalition of student organizations to create more effective campaigns for a politically-agitated 2023.”



# TRAINING COMMITTEE

Our Dissenters Training committee works to lead our national workshops and our in-person gatherings. This team works hard to skill-up our student leaders and dedicates time and energy to curriculum development and training practice.

“Training with Dissenters has given me the opportunity to not only build long-lasting, meaningful connections across our movement but also grow skills and knowledge that make me a better overall organizer. At every training and gathering I am re-energized by the connections I get to make with brilliant student organizers and re-grounded in the powerful movement we are building together.” -**Sidney**, Dissenters Trainer



# STORYTELLING COMMITTEE

A team of Dissenters student alumni that meet regularly to support with the creation of digital content, op eds, and other communications needs to further Dissenters’ reach and vision.

“Putting on workshops, passing knowledge and resources between all of us in the movement to hone our skills in storytelling,...and to share connections and get people’s art out there,” has been the most meaningful part of the storytelling committee for **Anousha**, Storytelling Committee Member.

# INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

The International Solidarity Committee works to support international relationship building between Dissenters and politically aligned activists and movements globally, coordinate political education efforts to deepen the internationalist analysis and politic of Dissenters' base, and mobilize in response to international events as is aligned with Dissenters DNA and points of unity.

In 2022, Dissenters leaders joined a delegation to Cuba with other leftist organizations from across Turtle Island.

“Being a part of Dissenters inaugural delegation allowed me to deepen my understanding of internationalism, articulate our vision for anti-militarism and made me so proud to say I am a Dissenter. Ending empire begins with building empathy, building connections and communicating across forced enemy lines to embrace our generation's role in building a new world.” -**Yaira**, International Solidarity Committee member

Throughout the summer of 2022, this team led a virtual political education series on Black Internationalism, featuring prominent organizers discussing solidarity and self-determination in Sudan, West Papua and Ecuador.



**PRINCIPLE 7:**  
**WE EMBRACE**  
**EXPERIMENTATION,**  
**REFLECTION, AND**  
**GROWTH**



# REGIONAL GATHERINGS

This spring, Dissenters hosted two multi-day gatherings, with students in the Midwest in February, and the East Coast/South in March. Forty students attended each of the gatherings, where they received training in campaign strategies, recruiting techniques, and developed relationships with other Dissenters members from schools in their region.

*I feel more connected with my chapter but also the Midwest. [I] built more community and have something to work off of.” -  
**Rubi, Loyola University Chicago Dissenters***

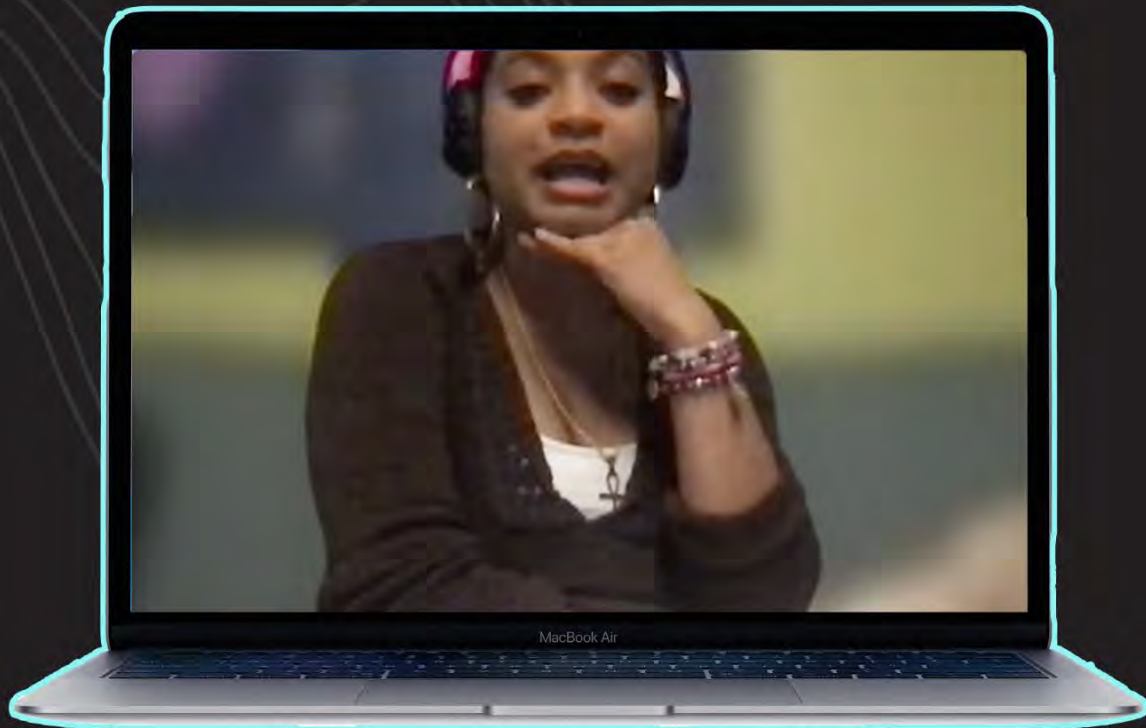
*“Learning about the Dissenters principles & types of power were particularly helpful for thinking about how we’re engaging with organizing in meaningful and sustainable ways.” -  
**Sanya, University of Chicago Dissenters***

“I think me and the other people from our chapter came back to UMass with a reminder of what we’re fighting for at the front of our minds. It definitely made a big impact because we felt the support and energy from national dissenters and the other chapters which was dope. Also we got to see how y’all organized a protest with all the different protest groups and we literally split into those exact same groups when we got back on campus in preparation for our protest!”

**-Ayva, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (U Mass) Dissenters**



# NATIONAL CALLS



Our monthly National Calls offer political education and cross-chapter collaboration opportunities for our students.

In April, we spotlighted our Hampton University chapter for their creative base-building and recruitment tactics.

In May, we collaborated with Dr. Ather Zia of Stand With Kashmir for a teach-in on India's occupation of Kashmir and organizing efforts ahead of the global G20 summit there.

Previous calls have covered topics including: a Cuba Delegation report-back, conversations on what it means to be in Principled Struggle with one another, and skillshares on grassroots fundraising.



# BOEING ARMS GENOCIDE

The #BoeingArmsGenocide (BAG) campaign in Chicago is our first experiment with off-campus campaigns. Alumni from our founding student chapters launched BAG in the summer of 2021, after Israel's brutal bombing of Gaza and Palestinian civil society's call to stop a \$700 million sale of Boeing weapons to Israel.

## CAMPAIGN VICTORY

In the first year (2021), BAG targeted Chicago's tax subsidies for the Boeing Corporate Headquarters in Chicago, demanding public dollars not go to this war profiteer.





Ahead of the end of Boeing's 20 year contract with the city, organizers met with the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and City Council Members to ensure there would be no secret extension of the contract.

As a result of OIG and FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) inquiries regarding Boeing's tax reimbursements, the campaign **successfully blocked the world's second largest war profiteer from receiving its final payment from the city** - a victory of nearly \$2 million.

Now, the organizers are focused on stopping the construction of a drone manufacturing facility in central Illinois that is slated to receive \$9 million in tax subsidies from Governor JB Pritzker and open in 2025.

In May of 2023, the campaign **shut down a panel featuring the Melisa Orme, Vice President of Boeing's operations overseeing drone manufacturing** at the Rapid + TCT conference in Chicago. the first protest in the history of additive manufacturing, revealing the massive role that 3D printing engineers are playing in the war industry.

# PRINCIPLE 4: WE GROW OUR POWER BY TALKING TO NEW PEOPLE



# DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

As a youth-focused organization, we know that social media is an essential part of how we advance our narrative, shift popular opinion, and bring more people into our movement. Over the past year, we've grown our online presence and are dedicated to continuing to refine our digital communications strategy.

## facebook

Q1 PAGE VISITS

↑156.9%

## Instagram

Q1 PAGE REACH

21.2 K

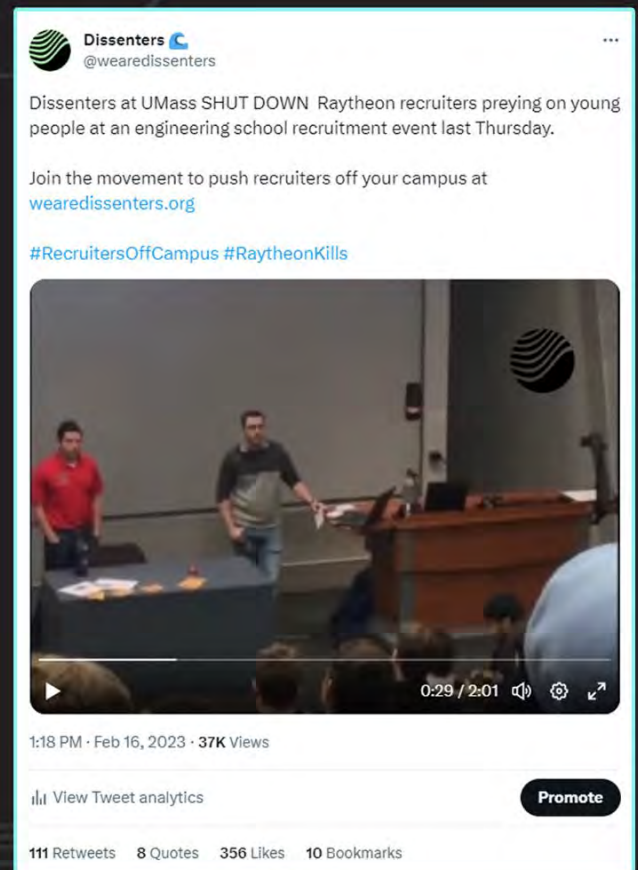
## twitter

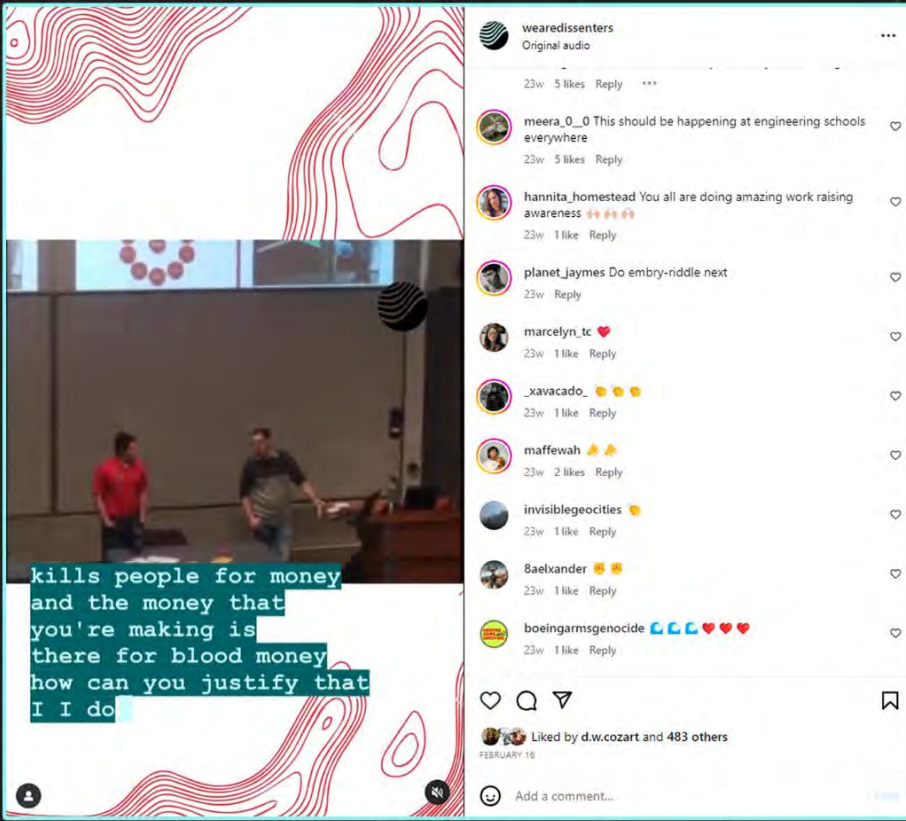
Q1 TOTAL IMPRESSIONS

109.6 K

Q1 DAILY IMPRESSIONS

↑6,329%

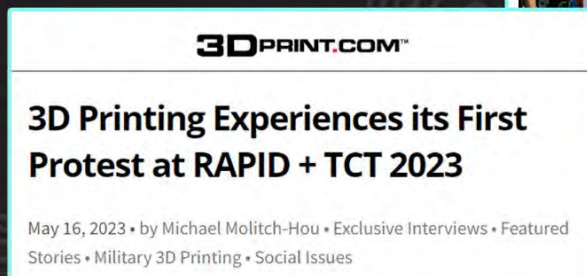
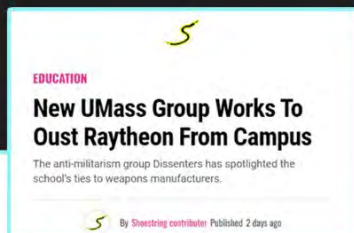




We're continuing to experiment with digital methods for telling our stories and inviting people to take action with us to divest from war and militarism. In the coming year, we'll be strengthening our Tik-Tok and Action Network strategies. In the coming year, we seek to garner national press coverage to advance our movement. Stay tuned.

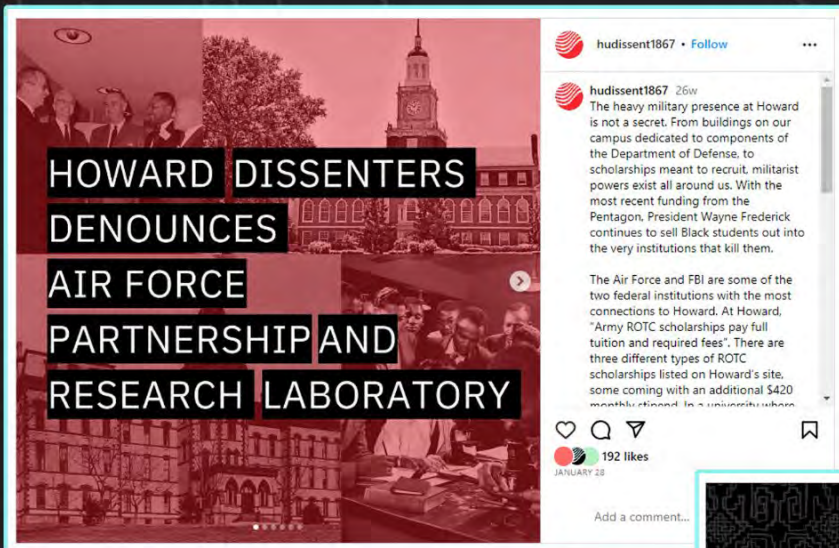
# DISSENTERS IN THE NEWS

Our campaigns are being covered by campus and local outlets, independent media, and industry specific outlets. We're forcing conversations about the harms of the weapons industry where there would otherwise be silence. And our members are speaking boldly to the need to divest from militarism and invest in our communities instead.



# CHAPTERS EXCELLING AT DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Our youth leaders are paving the way for ensuring that our movement's demands are clear and that our strategy is uplifted. We're constantly reaching and absorbing new people. Here are a few chapters that excelled at communications in their campaigns last year:



**HOWARD DISSENTERS DENOUNCES AIR FORCE PARTNERSHIP AND RESEARCH LABORATORY**

**hudissent1867** • Follow

**hudissent1867** 26w  
The heavy military presence at Howard is not a secret. From buildings on our campus dedicated to components of the Department of Defense, to scholarships meant to recruit, militarist powers exist all around us. With the most recent funding from the Pentagon, President Wayne Frederick continues to sell Black students out into the very institutions that kill them.

The Air Force and FBI are some of the two federal institutions with the most connections to Howard. At Howard, "Army ROTC scholarships pay full tuition and required fees". There are three different types of ROTC scholarships listed on Howard's site, some coming with an additional \$420 monthly stipend. In a university where

192 likes  
JANUARY 28

Add a comment...



**umassdissenters** • Following

**umassdissenters** Edited • 43w  
UMASS AMHERST FUELS WAR AND DEATH WORLDWIDE 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸  
No longer will we accept our money going towards war and destruction!!!

JOIN DISSENTERS TO FIGHT TO REINVEST IN LIFE OVER DEATH 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

Our meetings are on Thursdays at 5:30 in Machmer Hall Room W-32. show up!!!!

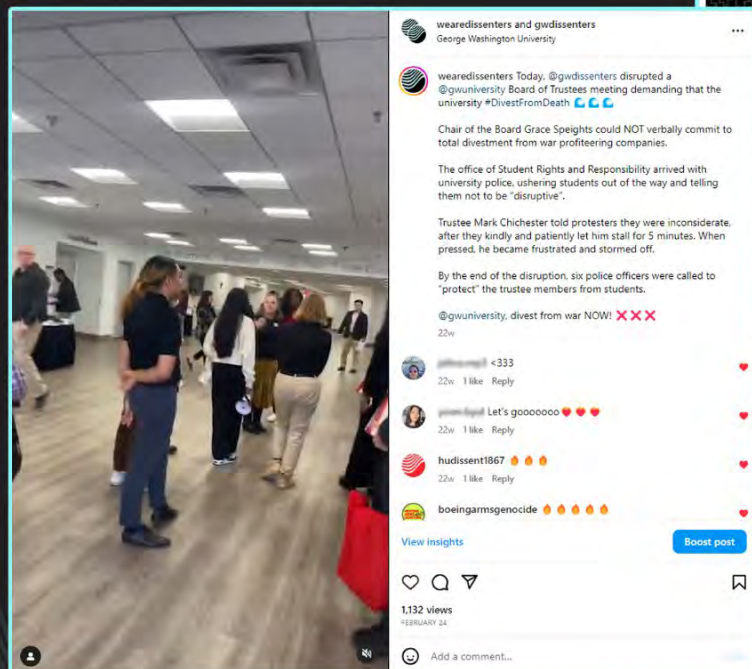
**Westphamhiggins** 39w  
Reply

240 likes  
OCTOBER 3, 2022

Add a comment...

**3 WAYS UMass AMHERST FUELS WAR**

UMASS DISSENTERS



**wearedissenters and gwdissenters**  
George Washington University

**wearedissenters** Today, @gwdissenters disrupted a @gwuniversity Board of Trustees meeting demanding that the university #DivestFromDeath 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

Chair of the Board Grace Speights could NOT verbally commit to total divestment from war profiteering companies.

The office of Student Rights and Responsibility arrived with university police, ushering students out of the way and telling them not to be "disruptive".

Trustee Mark Chichester told protesters they were inconsiderate, after they kindly and patiently let him stall for 5 minutes. When pressed, he became frustrated and stormed off.

By the end of the disruption, six police officers were called to "protect" the trustee members from students.

@gwuniversity, divest from war NOW! 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

22w

**gwdissenters** < 333  
22w 1 like Reply

**greenlight** Let's goooooo 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸  
22w 1 like Reply

**hudissent1867** 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸  
22w 1 like Reply

**boeingarmsgenocide** 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

View insights Boost post

1,132 views  
FEBRUARY 24

Add a comment...

# PRINCIPLE 3: WE BELIEVE EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY



# VOLUNTEER SUPPORT COMMITTEES

At Dissenters, we know that to build a strong movement we need all hands on deck. Countless volunteers hold leadership positions across Dissenters, including the members of the following teams who provide ongoing support to our staff team and student organizers:

**Coaching Network:** A resource for Dissenters campus organizers to connect, build relationships, and talk shop with experienced organizers. The network also facilitates meaningful intergenerational connections, passing on important lessons learned from one generation of community organizers to the next!

**Fundraising Committee:** A team of Dissenters volunteers that help identify new donors and supporters of our work, ensuring we have the resources needed to scale-up our work.

**Safety through Practice & Accountability (SPA Team) :** A team that provides trainings and rapid response support for instances of harm and sexual violence within Dissenters.



# ADVISORY TEAM

The Dissenters Advisory Team ensures alignment with our long-term organizational and political goals, by carrying the DNA, Dissenters history, and a birds-eye view of the organization in order to suggest reevaluations of the long term vision, and shifts needed to ensure organizational health & development.

Since 2020, our Advisory Team has included: Timmy Chau, Khury Petersen-Smith, Brittany Ramos DeBarros, Yuni Chang, Paola Del Toro, Apoorva Krishnan, and Dean Spade

Our newest Advisory Team members, joining in the summer of 2023, are: Shirien Damra, Leena Odeh, Devin Anderson, Hoda Katebi, Michél Legendre, Eva Nagao, and Alicia Hurtado

Former Advisory Team members include: Farah Erzouki, Maira Khwaja, Trina Reynolds Tyler, Jasson Perez, and Debbie Southourn

Dissenters Founders: Byul Yoon, Nash Alam, and Timmy Chau

Dissenters Front-loading team: Byul Yoon, Nash Alam, Timmy Chau, Tweak Gee, Yuni Chang, Debbie Southorn, Nance Suaceda, and Farah Erzouki.

# STAFF TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND NEW HIRES

Our first ever Communications Manager - **Peyton Wilson** brings the talent, aesthetics, and sharp narrative strategy to this role that Dissenters has been dreaming of. Our part-time Training & development Coordinator, **Joana Chai-Chang Azterbaum**, ensures our trainings are effective & helps cultivate resources for our work.

Based on feedback from our student organizers that individual + group coaching and campus visits were the most effective ways to support their organizing, we expanded our Field Organizing Team. **Josue Sican** & **Khalid Kaldi** are our field organizers, and we are excited to bring on **Angel Parker** as our newest member of the organizing team!

Our team of Co-Directors are bringing discipline, rigor, vision and commitment to their role building out Dissenters work and teams: **Alex Yijia Ding**, **Ren Encinas** & **Debbie Southorn**.

We have so much appreciation to our former full-time staff team members, **Asha Ransby-Sporn** (Co-Director of Organizing), **Nadine Darwish** (Co-Director of Resources) and **Brian Young Jr.** (Field Organizer).



**PRINCIPLE 8:**  
**WE RECOGNIZE**  
**OUR WAVE IS JUST**  
**ONE PART OF A**  
**GROWING**  
**MOVEMENT**



# COALITION BUILDING

We work in a variety of partnerships with movement-building organizations committed to ending racial capitalism and militarized state violence across Turtle Island. And at the local level, many of our chapters are building robust coalitions with other student organizations on their campuses. Some of our national partners on events, strategy development, and campaigns include:



As we look to the 2023-2024 school year, we are eager to **strengthen our Anti-Militarist Organizing Fellowship** by refining strategic assignments for student participants, encouraging **more group coaching sessions**, and offering additional media and press training. Over the next year, we are confident we will **grow our membership of active students, increase the number of campaigns** we're running and deepen their impact, and continue to **engage Dissenters alumni leaders** in our growing national apparatus.

With your support, we will grow our movement to the scale we know is possible and necessary to turn the tides against endless war.

Dissenters

