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Militancy in the Mainstream: The DSA's Resolution, Radicalization Pathways, and Risks to Domestic Political Stability

Militancy in the Mainstream: The DSA's Anti-Zionist Resolution, Radicalization Pathways, and Risks to Domestic Political Stability

Bottom Line Up Front:

- The DSA, which counts Zohran Mamdani among its endorsed candidates, has been overtaken by a radical “anti-Zionist” resolution that seeks to delegitimize Judaism’s historical and religious connection to Israel while imposing exclusionary and discriminatory membership conditions.
- Its mainstreaming of rhetorical support for organizations or movements tied to armed action raises counterterrorism and counter-extremism concerns if discourse translates into material support networks.
- Heightened anti-Zionist posture could amplify foreign influence operations, particularly from adversarial actors who seek to exploit divisions on Middle East policy for strategic benefit.
- The resolution injects further polarization into already fraught domestic political debates over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, raising concerns about radicalization pathways and the securitization of domestic organizing.
- This ideological purge threatens to strain strategic relationships with elected officials and moderate allies aligned with the DSA or pressure them into adopting more extreme positions.

Overview

At its biennial national convention in Chicago (August 8-10, 2025), the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), which NYC Mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani is a longstanding and proud member of, passed Resolution 22, titled “For a Fighting Anti-Zionist DSA,” with a vote tally of 675 in favor to 524 opposed (~56.3% to 43.7%).

The resolution mandates that DSA members and endorsed elected officials may face expulsion if they:

- Oppose the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement.
- Are affiliated with lobbying groups they deem to be Zionist (specifically mentioning AIPAC, J Street, and the Democratic Majority for Israel).
- Express support for Israel’s right to defend itself.
- Knowingly provide Israel with material or financial aid.

It also “unequivocally affirms” the original principles put forth by the Palestinian National Council in 1977 known as “al-Thawabit,” the central tenet of which emphasizes [escalating armed struggle](#) and [resistance by any means necessary](#). This resolution draws a clear internal red line and signals intensifying ideological rigidity, intolerance, and radicalism around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within the DSA.

Sponsors

Among the authors of this resolution are Francesca Maria (Connecticut) and Ahmed Husain (New York), both of whom are listed as members of the DSA’s 25-person National Political Committee, its highest elected body.¹ The two are part of the “Springs of Revolution” slate, which claims to be “a rallying call to transform DSA into a bold, revolutionary, mass political organization capable of swiftly moving with the working class and fighting back when the moment demands it.”²



Originally from Bologna, Italy, Francesca Maria – whose legal name is Francesca Maviglia – is listed as a Postgraduate Research Associate at the Yale School of Medicine.³ Prior to her current position in the DSA, Francesca served as co-chair of its Connecticut chapter and also cofounded the Connecticut Palestine Solidarity Coalition. Outside of her advocacy for the decriminalization of drug paraphernalia, Francesca has a long history of supporting anti-Israel causes as detailed by her profile on Canary Mission.⁴⁵

¹ <https://www.dsausa.org/about-us/structure/>

² <https://cosmonautmag.com/2025/07/letter-introducing-springs-of-revolution/>

³ <https://medicine.yale.edu/profile/francesca-maviglia/>

⁴ <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/phdata/TMY/2022HB-05430-R000314-Maviglia,%20Francesca-TMY.PDF>

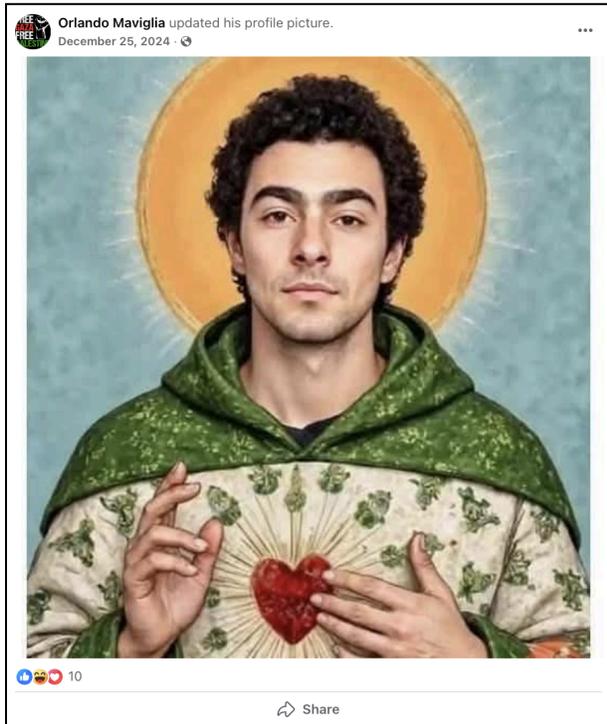
⁵ https://canarymission.org/individual/Francesca_Maviglia



Left: Francesca with CT DSA Co-Chair, Bryan Wong. Right: Francesca at what appears to be Yale's pro-Palestinian encampment.

A Facebook profile linked to Francesca's under the name Orlando Maviglia – also from Bologna, Italy, and likely a relative – features numerous far-left posts:





Additionally, Orlando Maviglia signed a solidarity statement in 2013 as part of Italy's representation in the International Executive Committee of the International Marxist Tendency (IMT), now known as the Revolutionary Communist International (RCI).⁶



Despite holding a high-ranking leadership role within the DSA – an American political organization – Francesca appears to openly self-identify as a communist and may not even hold U.S. citizenship. Her involvement in far-left causes is nonetheless consistently prevalent since she arrived in the country to attend Yale.

Francesca's Tumblr account

Ahmed Husain, meanwhile, describes himself on the Springs of Revolution site as an “immigrant [who] began organizing during the Arab Spring.”⁷ In June of 2024, he authored an article published by Partisan Magazine – an outlet of the DSA's communist caucus called Emerge – in which he refers to Bernie Sanders and Jamaal Bowman as “enablers of Israel's genocide,” calls to reject AOC, and urges the DSA to “pass the national Anti-Zionist resolution (which he helped

⁶ <https://marxist.com/imt-call-in-solidarity-with-fiat-pomigliano-workers-struggle.htm>

⁷ <https://sordsa.org/npc/>

produce) and begin making amends with the Palestine Solidarity movement.”⁸ Concerningly, his aspirations for the DSA include the creation of a more “militant” base, contextualized by the “brave resistance of Gaza [that] breaks the will of the world’s most powerful armies on the frontlines.”⁹ He also asserts that “the Zionist entity is not invulnerable and it can be defeated militarily.”¹⁰

Ahmed also serves as an NPC liaison for the DSA’s National Political Education committee, a group that in part designs lesson plans for political educators to “help foster the growth of a new generation of socialists.”¹¹ Additionally, he is a DSA Denver chapter co-chair, coordinator of multiple national BDS initiatives, and a member of the DSA’s Palestine Solidarity Working Group, which explicitly supports “all forms of Palestinian resistance” and the right to “resist by any means necessary.”¹²

In June, Ahmed, along with fellow DSA representative Anlin Wang, spoke at a NYC reception that aimed “to build peace and solidarity with China” while welcoming a Chinese delegation from the Guizhou Province.¹³ In a short Instagram clip of Ahmed speaking at the event, he states that the DSA tries to “push socialism into the masses of America” and that “China is an incredible, positive vision on socialism for everyone around the world.”¹⁴

Both Francesca and Ahmed demonstrate that the DSA is currently being led by foreign, self-identifying communists with histories of activism tied to fringe movements, including those that explicitly condone violence as a legitimate political instrument. Their sponsorship of this anti-Zionism resolution underscores the organization’s trajectory toward greater radicalization and hostility, moving beyond traditional leftist advocacy into ideologically rigid and exclusionary territory. Furthermore, in addition to its formal endorsement of Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani, DSA’s New York chapters have actively mobilized members to support his campaign operations, highlighting the group’s capacity to fuse militant ideological positions with direct electoral influence.

Conclusion

Under the provisions of this new resolution, Mamdani’s DSA endorsement is now contingent upon strict adherence to its outlined principles. These include, but are not limited to: opposing

⁸ <https://partisanmag.com/against-cowardice-dsa-palestine/>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ <https://dsa-education.pubpub.org/about-the-curriculum>

¹² <https://palestineswg.org/>

¹³ <https://www.instagram.com/p/DKi3wz5O1uz/>

¹⁴ Ibid.

any official adoption of a redefinition of antisemitism (e.g., the IHRA definition); supporting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement; refusing to cooperate with federal law enforcement or troops in the policing and surveillance of protests; refraining from affirming that “Israel has a right to defend itself”; and rejecting any statements or legislation that equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism.¹⁵ By virtue of his longstanding affiliation with the DSA, Mamdani is thereby bound to positions that endorse armed resistance and define Zionism as “a racist, imperialist, settler-colonial project.”¹⁶ These developments warrant close monitoring, both for their implications on NYC’s electoral landscape and their potential role in mainstreaming antisemitic or extremist ideological frameworks within U.S. political discourse.

¹⁵

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uVRuqCw1UKgNmurmCWvswerswEHHmkJ4UyXo8zvCVaM/edit?tab=t.1434oz5dc0io>

¹⁶ Ibid.