



## “The Invisible War” Aims to Make Military Rape Epidemic Visible

BY KRISTEN KING

Students of Brooklyn College, Kingsborough, and Medgar Evers filled the Jeffersons-Williams Lounge in the Student Center on Tuesday to watch the screening of “The Invisible War,” an investigative documentary on rape within the United States Military.

The BC Women’s Center, The Veteran’s Affairs and Counseling Center, and The Division of Student Affairs sponsored the screening, which was followed by a discussion led by a representative from the Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN).

The film, from Academy Award nominated director Kirby Dick, has won Best Documentary at the Independent Spirit Awards, the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, and was nominated for an Academy Award, and Best Feature by the International Documentary Association. “The Invisible War” focuses on the true stories of several women, including one man, who were raped during their tenure in the service along with their struggles to seek justice and restore their lives.

Women make up roughly 15 percent of the armed forces, according to records from the Department of Defense. According to annual reports by the DoD, there were a total of 3,158 reports of sexual assault in the military in 2010, and this number is believed to only represent 13.5 percent of total assaults. This would mean that the total number of rape and sexual assault in the military is actually in excess of 19,000. The Sexual Assault Prevention and



PHOTO/WikiMedia

Students watched “The Invisible War,” a documentary that exposes the prominence of rape among female soldiers

Response, an organization within the DoD that oversees sexual assault policy, reported that out of the 3,158 reports, only 529 went to trial. A more recent report from the DoD details that 3,192 reports of sexual assault were documented in 2011. Of these cases, only 489 were court-martialed.

The film begins with each of the victims describing their inspiration for joining the military. Most of the women found the prospect of the military inspiring, as an opportunity that they and their families could be proud of. They spoke of the camaraderie the military offered and the chance to “keep up with the guys,” said Jessica Hines, a victim and member of the U.S. Air

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## SJP’s “Israeli Apartheid Week” and Their Impact on the CLAS Election

BY BEATA SAMEL

Brooklyn College’s Students for Justice in Palestine displayed an “apartheid wall” in front of the college library last week as they took part in New York City’s “Israeli Apartheid Week.” Besides showcasing their apartheid wall, the SJP screened “5 Broken Cameras” on March 14 in SUBO. The documentary film compiles footage taken by a Palestinian during the course of six years in the West Bank. The SJP had planned to display the apartheid wall on Tuesday, but disruptive weather didn’t permit the early exhibition, which was only erected on Thursday. The wall was made from wooden boards that

displayed Israel and Palestine’s border struggles and quotes. Members of SJP lined up before the wall and held signs representing different situations in the West Bank, with depictions of a pregnant woman, a student, and a grandfather. Carlos Guzman, a Hunter student and member of SJP, said the wall was to “raise awareness about the apartheid wall in Palestine.” Others at Brooklyn College, like economics professor and Hillel board member Robert Cherry, have denounced the idea of an Israeli apartheid. Members of SJP who were present at the display had “keffiyeh” wrapped around their heads: a wrap that Guzman said is a “sym-

bol of Palestinian identity and resistance.” Brooklyn College students could be seen on campus wearing keffiyeh in solidarity with the movement. SJP’s apartheid week demonstration come a month after the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction panel composed of Palestinian activists Omar Barghouti and Judith Butler, came to Brooklyn College. The issues raised during the BDS controversy have become part of the CLAS presidential elections. These include academic freedom and department neutrality. While some members of the SJP were present at

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the debate between David Rosenberg, Paolo Cremidis, and Jamell Henderson on March 7 in SUBO, the club does not favor any candidate. Sundus Seif, the club’s president, said, “we’re kind of neutral. We’ll support whoever is fair...[and] treats us as other clubs.” SJP’s only role in the campaign, according to Rabia Ahsin Tarar, was to “encourage anyone to vote.” Although the Brooklyn College’s SJP club is not endorsing any candidate, they, as well as other CUNY SJP chapters, have made academic freedom a main issue. An event on the itinerary of Apartheid Week was titled “Freedom of Speech, Except When Criticizing Israel.” This was held at Hunter College on Wednesday. Brooklyn College’s Student for Justice in Palestine is separate from the Palestinian Club that ceased last year. Former Palestinian Club member Rabia Ahsin Tarar also said, “The Palestinian Club in previous years has never endorsed any specific party.” According to Tarar, the BDS controversy should be addressed during the election in terms



PHOTO: Brooklyn College SJP Facebook

The Students for Justice in Palestine hosted “Israeli Apartheid Week” at Brooklyn College Campus of academic freedom. The main issue discussed at the CLAS presidential debate was club funding and the Student Activity Fee. Remarks concerning the BDS controversy and Assemblyman Dov Hikind were made by Cremidis, who announced in his opening speech that he would “not attack politicians just so I can get into the news.” Assemblyman Hikind’s involvement in the BDS controversy has been criticized as inauthentic compared to the college’s pro-Israel community. Since the debate Cremidis, running under the Students Voice Coalition party, has switched to run for CLAS Speaker instead of president. Presidential candidate Jamell Henderson said he supports the SJP. “They are a very strong and bold student club,” Henderson wrote in an email. “I do commend them on the work they are doing to get the college community aware on what taking place [in the West Bank].” Henderson was present at both the BDS panel and at the apartheid wall Thursday. Henderson is running under the Students Helping Individuals Excel through Leadership and Diversity (SHIELD) party. Rosenberg, is running under the Progressive Hatikvah Downtown (PHD) party. Elections will be held April 22nd to April 24th via Brooklyn College’s WebCentral Portal.



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