

RESISTANCE

IS

JUSTIFIED

**WHEN PEOPLE
ARE**

OCCUPIED!!!

**Palestine & Systems of
Oppression**

PT 2

23,968+ dead 1% of Gazas total population

10,000+ children killed

1.9 million+ displaced

160,800+ buildings destroyed 55.9% of total buildings in Gaza

70% of homes in Gaza destroyed

20 out of 22 total hospitals damaged or destroyed

Only 6 ambulances are still operational



Condemnation of Antisemitism and Islamophobia

The Student Socialist Alliance stands unequivocally against bigotry and oppression. We condemn anyone who uses the actions of either side of the conflict to justify hatred. Although antisemitism and islamophobia have been on the rise for years, we acknowledge that there has been an uptick in anti semitic and islamophobic attacks since October 7th, and we wholeheartedly condemn this behavior.

Terrorism

"The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims." - Oxford Languages

By this definition the US military and police are terrorist organizations, so is the state of Israel and the IDF. The scale of these organizations' terrorism is far greater than that of organizations like Hamas.¹ The use of the word terrorist is inherently political and biased. However, the cultural narrative on terrorist groups is often dominated by American groups, or groups that act in the interest of the US. In the American cultural context it is often used to mean any group or person that goes against American interests. Post 9/11 the term terrorist has developed a racial connotation through its use as justification for illegal US military action abroad, or otherwise put US terrorism abroad. Populations under illegal occupation have a right to self defense under international law.²

Populations which have exhausted peaceful means of ending

1. For example America has been at war for 92% of its existence (2023), using violence to impose its economic and political aims on various populations. The US police use violence to maintain the political and economic status quo of the US e.g the BLM movement. The IDF uses the murder of Palestinians to support the Israeli settler colonial project.

brutal systemic oppression have a legal and moral right to self defense. Violence for the sake of the continued oppression of a population is not morally or legally equal to violence for the sake of liberation, and ending the systemic violence of the oppressor.

“Violence is initiated by those who oppress, who exploit, who fail to recognize others as people” - Paulo Freire

Desensitization to violence

Violence takes many forms. Violence doesn't mean only immediate grievous bodily harm, violence can be inbuilt into societies. To deny someone access to food, water, housing, healthcare, the basic necessities for life are violent acts. Violence is so inbuilt into our society that we do not recognize the violence of the ruling class towards the working class as violent. When you see an unhoused person on the street understand that they are the victim of a society and a ruling class violent towards the working class and the poor.

Why Does the US support Israel?

Israel functions as a crucial economic and strategic outpost for american imperialism. Israel is a vital trade route in the middle east and crucial trading partner of the US. When the trade route is under US control the US can control and influence prices and benefit more from unequal exchange. This is a tactic Israel uses within Palestine, Israel creates widespread unemployment by destruction of infrastructure and the economic sector in order to depress the price of

3 2. The 1949 additional protocol I to the Geneva convention as well as the 1982 UNGA resolution 37/43 affirms the rights of occupied peoples use of force and armed struggle against occupiers as legitimate and legal, especially when facing imminent danger.

Palestinian labour which is widely used in Israel.³ This allows Israel to produce its products and infrastructure at a lower cost. However unequal exchange is not the only economic benefit the US derives from Israel, as in much of the middle east the land is rich in resources and oil. Oil is a highly profitable commodity for US companies and markets. Gaza specifically is very rich in oil, so much so that Israel has already granted new gas exploration licences to 6 companies and has approved the development of an offshore gas field off Gaza's coast. Israel also functions as an important military base for the US allowing the US to exert its control over the region.

“Were there not an Israel the United States of America would have to invent an Israel to protect her interests in the region” - Joe Biden



3. The unemployment rate in Gaza stands at around 45.3% (PCBS 2022) with 66% of employment lost in Gaza since October 7th according to the ILO and PCBS. The percentage of Palestinians working in Israel is around 18.8% of the total Palestinian workforce (PCBS 2021), however there is a disproportionate amount of Palestinians employed in certain sectors of Israeli industry. For example construction: 61% of Palestinians working in Israel work in construction (INSS 2022) making up around 54% of the total Israeli construction labour force. Furthermore, the wage for a Gazan employed in Israel is on average 6 times higher than one employed in Gaza (INSS 2022).

Movements across the globe!

Palestine solidarity campaign

Palestinian youth movement

Students for justice in Palestine (SJP)

Jewish Voice For Peace (JVP)

Workers for a free Palestine

Combatants for peace

Boycott Divestment Sanctions movement (BDS)

Halting arms shipments!

- In Oakland California protesters have blocked ships with weapons bound for israel from docking
- In the UK coordinated efforts created a blockade to stop the shipment of jet parts to israel.
- In Canada 4 arms factories were shut down.

Workers unions have been pivotal in stopping shipments and creating blockades which reflects the strength that workers have when they unionize

Israel is NOT a Jewish state

"The antisemites will become our most dependable friends, the antisemitic countries our allies." - Theodor Herzl, founder of Zionism

Many Jewish people from varying belief systems are against Zionism. Orthodox Jewish people have opposed the creation of Israel on the basis that it preempts the Messiah, and argue that it goes about nationalism in a secular way. Many Leftist Jewish people have opposed Zionism on the basis of anti-nationalism, arguing that they feel no more allegiance to a Jewish state than to any country they are citizens of. Furthermore Zionism suggests that Jewish people require an ethno-state to maintain their culture, many Jewish people believe that Jews should not have to be confined to a single small piece of land but rather true safety and equality comes through solidarity with other oppressed groups not oppression of them.

Israel is Not a "Safe Haven" For All Jewish People

Although Israel is a Zionist state, they do not treat all Jewish people equally. For example, a disproportionate amount of Jewish people who hail from Arab states are in transit camps and poor neighborhoods, and there are repeated instances of Arab Jews getting discriminated against for "resembling the enemy". Between 2018 and 2020, criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Jews were double the size of their population (4.3 for minors).⁴ Over-policing of Ethiopian Jews is a major problem in Israel, and further shows that the Israeli government isn't really concerned with Jewish rights or equality, but simply with maintaining dominance over the region.

4. Association of Ethiopian Jews. iaej.co.il/language/en/association-of-ethiopian-jews/. Accessed 14 Jan. 2024.

Indigeneity

- Many groups are historically indigenous to the land of Palestine
- Religious harmony did exist in Palestine before Israel's establishment.
- Palestine is not a monolith it is culturally diverse, many groups inhabit the land, it's not and was never just Jewish or just Muslim
- Not only are Muslims persecuted against in Israel but also Ethiopian Jews, and armenians, essentially those who are not white
- Israel as a settler colonial project advocates for a solely Jewish land which inherently denies equal rights for the other inhabitants of the land
- Israel uses racist justifications and apartheid to further their settler colonial project and continued destruction and theft of Palestinian land

However, indigeneity is a relation as well as a cultural, historical, and material connection to the land of a certain place. The idea of indigeneity only comes about through a colonial framework and occupation. For example without US colonialism native americans in the Triangle would just be Occaneechi (or whatever other tribe) they wouldn't have to be abstracted to the idea of "indigenous" or "native american"

Yemeni blockade of Israel and Ansar Allah military action

Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthis are an Iranian-backed Shiite militia group that controls much of Yemen. As an act of solidarity with Gaza, they have begun a blockade of Israeli linked ships and have started attacking ships in the Suez Canal that are bound for Israel. It's important to mention that the attacks by the Houthis have caused no casualties but rather have disrupted trade. 12% of all global trade passes through the Suez Canal, so this action severely disrupted trade. Because this went against the economic interests of capitalist western powers, the United States and Great Britain began bombing Yemen on January 11th. Since the attacks began, Ansar Allah has seen an upsurge in support. It's important to note that while the United States has given massive amounts of economic and military aid to the Israeli government to fight against Palestinian resistance, it has only interfered militarily when it's economic interests are being directly threatened. The recent developments have made it abundantly clear that the United States prioritizes global trade over human lives.

**Oppose US intervention in
Yemen! Oppose US
Imperialism! Oppose Israels
genocide of Palestine!**

Israel-US police training

The US and Israel don't only benefit each other monetarily they benefit each other militarily. The US funds Israel and supplies them with large amounts of weaponry. US police departments and Israel have had long standing foreign exchange training programs. Programs where they share military and policing strategies with each other. They share and learn strategies and techniques of oppression with each other, strategies the IDF develops oppressing Palestinians and strategies the US police develop oppressing African Americans, other minorities, and the poor.

Stop Cop City

The cop city project is a planned development of a massive \$90 million police training facility in the Weelaunee forest in Atlanta. It is planned to be a massive replica city in order to practice urban warfare techniques. Weelaunee forest is the largest green space in Atlanta and its planned destruction would cause intense environmental damage. The US and Israel plan to do further police exchange/training programs at cop city. Cop city is planned to be a hub for these programs, not just for the IDF but for other international police and military forces. Police function as an armed wing of the state used in order to oppress and maintain the status quo. In this way, they serve the same purpose in maintaining the inherent oppression of the system in the United States, as the IDF does in Israel. Ideological justifications for colonialism are composed of racism and fascism. We must fight against those who uphold unjust systems, both at home and abroad.

Statement From Our Jewish Editors

Antisemitism is unfortunately all too common. We must learn from our experiences as religious minorities, and fight against all forms of religious and ethnic oppression. True safety can only come through equality and solidarity with other religious minorities and oppressed groups. We must stand together, against fear and hate, and for peace, equality, and justice.

Resources:

- Decolonizepalestine.com
- Bdsmovement.net
- Shutitdown4palestine.org
- Indigenousofpalestine.org
- Eye on Palestine (instagram)
- First Thought News (youtube)
- The question of Palestine - Edward Said (book)
- The Wretched of the Earth - Frantz Fanon (book)
- The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017 - Rashid Khalidi (book)
- The ethnic cleansing of Palestine - Ilan Pappé (book)

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” - Martin Luther King Jr

Our struggles for justice around the world are all linked

ZineyBaby x Student Socialist Alliance

"BEING PRO PALESTINE
AND AGAINST
ANTI-SEMITISM GO
HAND IN HAND,

BECAUSE ALL SYSTEMS
OF OPPRESSION
REINFORCE ONE ANOTHER
AND NONE CAN BE
FOUGHT IN ISOLATION"

Questions?

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