

palestine perspectives

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credit: Sandra Turner Bond

In Solidarity with Palestine

UN Debates and the Palestine Problem



The United Nations, in its debates at the General Assembly recently, has again reaffirmed the inviolability and the central nature of the national rights of the Palestinian people. The United Nations, which represents a consensus of humanity, has called on Israel to evacuate its military occupation forces from the Palestinian territories conquered in the 1967 War and to hand them over to the representatives of the Palestinians, the Palestine Liberation Organization, a move to be completed by November this year.

Israeli occupation of the West Bank/Gaza and of one and a half million Palestinian inhabitants, is already one of the oldest military occupations in modern memory, as well as one of the most brutal in the impact it has had on the lives of human beings subjected to the rule of the gun. This occupation has been condemned by, literally, every nation in the world, including the United States and the European Economic Community. Recognized as a threat to peace, as illegal and as an inhuman onslaught on the rights of others, this occupation has been repeatedly condemned by virtually every international forum around the globe.

Israel, true to form, will be expected not to comply with this UN Resolution; indeed it will be expected to flaunt it—as evidenced by legislation approved in the “Knesset” recently defining Jerusalem as a totally Israeli city. This blatant defiance by Israel of the international community and of the human, political and national rights of the Palestinians is not new. The Israeli entity in Palestine has a long tradition behind it of defying the very international body that, in 1947, recommended its establishment.

Indeed, in 1948, following the signing of the so-called Louizanne Protocol, which formalized Israel’s admission into the United Nations as a member, Israel pledged, in the Protocol, to implement UN Resolution 194 which called for the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees of 1948 to their homes. In fact Israel’s admission to the UN was made conditional, as UN documents of 1948 show, on its pledges to respect Resolution 194. Hence, in many ways, with its renegeing on this document, Israel does not only stand in violation of the United Nations; its membership in the body is illegal.

Defying Resolution 194 was, however, to become the first of a series of confrontations with the United Nations, beginning with the murder by Israelis of the UN mediator in 1948, Count Folk Bernadotte, who was attempting to facilitate the repatriation of Palestinians to their homes, and end up with its disregard of UN resolutions calling on it to desist from further colonization practices in the West Bank/Gaza.

The tensions between the international community and Israel have already reached a breaking point. If Israel, through its *modus operandi* in Palestine, has become an outlaw state, standing in violation of internationally accepted tenets of law, then this outlaw state must be dealt with as such. The international community, through the agencies of the United Nations, must then adopt ways to curb Israel’s violations and curb its outrageously criminal activities in Palestine. Among the ways adopted will be Israel’s expulsion from the United Nations, economic sanctions as well as its isolation from the international family to which it has shown, through its barbaric practices, that it does not belong.

Interview with Karim Khalaf: Justice Must Come First

*Interview with Karim Khalaf, July 26, 1980
from his hospital in Houston, Texas*

- * What are your feelings now after this attempt on your life?

I feel that their attacks against us are trivial efforts. We are concerned with our struggle for peace and justice. This attack has only increased the intensity of the struggle for me and my people. The people are behind me and all Palestinians will continue to struggle even more vehemently.

- * Who is responsible for this attempt on your life?

The Zionist government, definitely. The Zionist government headed by Begin was behind the assault against myself and Mayor Shaka. It was done by them and under their instructions.

- * What forms of Israeli repression are occurring in the occupied West Bank?

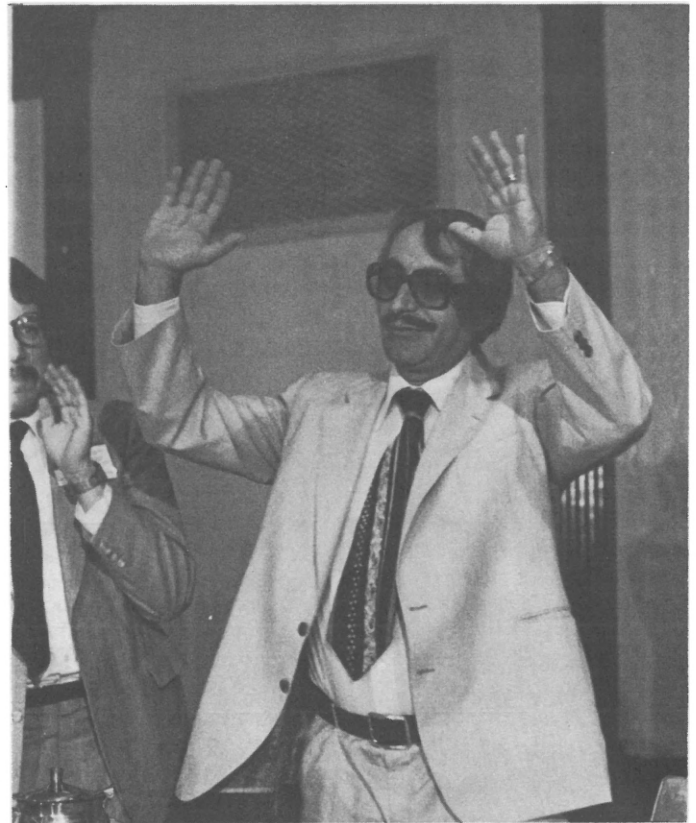
Israeli soldiers are consistently harassing the students at Bir Zeit University. Often they close down the University so as to retard the movement of Palestinian education. The bombs against the mayors were an attempt to silence us as well as our people. Also, the Israelis deport Palestinians and systematically torture Palestinians in their prisons. But it should be clear that they can not scare the people. We will never leave our land and our country.

- * You seem to imply that Israel does not want peace with the Palestinians but rather is carrying out a plan to remove all Palestinians from Palestine. Do you believe this is their aim?

Yes, that is their aim, exactly. If they were interested in living with us—would they have planted bombs for three West Bank mayors?

- * What are the Palestinian people's feelings about this attempt on your life?

First, many Palestinians expressed their sorrow over what had happened but in the context of the revolution, it only increased their struggle to free



Mayor Karim Khalaf

Palestine. The people of the West Bank were very supportive. As soon as it had happened, over a thousand students and people were trying to visit me in a show of solidarity.

- * What do you think Palestinians in the United States should do?

Palestinians in the United States have a very big and hard job. They should work day and night to tell the American people the truth about what is happening to the Palestinian people. In the American media there has been a blackout about the facts of our tragedy. Palestinians here must change that—they should contact organizations, associations and churches and explain to them our situation. Reagan has Israelis all around him, I would like to see some Palestinians telling Reagan the Palestinian side of the story. Thus, the main work Palestinians in America should concentrate on is informing the public. We should make the American people understand that their government planted Israel in our territory as a military base.

- * What is your advice to the American public?

My advice to the American people is simple: I would tell them not to be deceived by Zionist propaganda—justice must be first. Americans must be realistic—How can I respect a Polish

man (Begin) who takes my land and then asks for peace? If the American people really would like to help seek peace in the Middle East, they should seek a just and durable peace. That would entail understanding the Palestinian problem first and foremost.

- * How is your family?

They are in good moods and are in high spirits.

- * Did you bring your family with you because you feared they might be in danger if they had remained?

My family is with me because I needed them with me. But be sure had they remained they would have been harassed by the Israelis as all Palestinians are. They will not keep us from returning to Ramallah, however, for we will return as soon as possible. First, I am going to make a nationwide tour of the United States and inform the public of what has happened to us. Then I will return to Ramallah and to my people.

- * What do you see coming in the future for West Bank Palestinian Arabs?

I am so proud of our people because we are using stones that are being heard while the planes that Israelis use are remaining silent. That indicates that the future is a good future for my people. It is a good future but the struggle will be hard.

Who are the Moderates and Extremists in the Palestine Conflict?



Chairman Arafat with injured Mayor Shaka.

The news, disturbing but not unusual in the context of the Israeli occupation, keeps reaching the world. Recently, during a strike by Palestinian political prisoners in Ramleh prison, Israeli prison guards proceeded to force-feed the men—choking two of them to death. On American television, the mother of one of the murdered prisoners is outside the prison gate protesting the death of her son—being dragged away by her hair by an Israeli occupation soldier. And to cap it all, Israeli authorities keep repeating, like a litany, the idea they will never “return the West Bank/Gaza to the Palestinians” nor allow them the right to freedom, independence and self-determination. Polls conducted in Israel show horrendous figures of vast majorities of the public rejecting the return of the occupied territories of 1967 (a mere 18 per cent of original Palestine) to its native sons and daughters and approving of Israel’s colonization or continued occupation of the West Bank/Gaza.

Yet, in recent months, because of the emergence of a group in Israel called “Peace Now,” a great many commentators in this country have begun to speak of the “moderate elements” in Israel—and berating the Palestinians for not “responding in kind.”

This is total nonsense. What does a Palestinian have to do to be defined, in the American media lexicon, “a moderate”? In 1967, when the Palestinian liberation movement re-emerged, it called for a humanist, liberating vision of the Palestine conflict. This was embodied in the concept of the “secular, democratic state” where all Palestinians, Moslems, Christians and Jews, could live together. What was the Israeli “moderate” response to that? In

1976, the Palestine National Council called for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank/Gaza? Where were Israeli “moderates” then (as now) to respond to this call? Around the same time, the P.L.O. accepted the idea of going to Geneva to reach a *peaceful* solution of the Palestine conflict and where were Israel’s “moderate” voices at that time?

These Israeli “moderates”, whom American media commentators are putting now on a pedestal and, worse, claiming they have no counterparts in the Palestinian community, emerged on the scene only when the Camp David Accords were signed. These moderate voices are calling for the implementation of an agreement between Israel and less than one half the Palestinian people that recognize their rights to run their post offices and traffic jams. Where are Israeli moderate voices that recognize the right of *all* the Palestinians to freedom, to statehood, to justice—in a meaningful and creative way, in a way reciprocal of the Palestinian voice that recognized the rights of all the people in Palestine, Jews, Moslems and Christians, to live in a secular and democratic state? Has there been a political program adopted by any Israeli moderate group that resembles, remotely, the humanist vision embodied in the concept of secularism and democracy called for by the Palestinians? Has there been any “moderate” Israeli group that called for *the right to freedom* by the Palestinians? If that is so, this group will find among the Palestinians countless individuals they can talk to. Unfortunately, so long as Israelis are still afflicted with a Zionist, messianic vision, moderation will continue to be accentric to the Israeli sensibility.

The Palestinian Olive Branch: An Open Letter to Columnist Nick Thimmesch



Chairman Arafat with Black-American supporters

This letter is a reply to your column in the *Washington Post* entitled “A Plea to the Palestinians.”

You know, that of all the people of the Middle East, Palestinians yearn for peace most. If there is a genuine peace movement in the Middle East, it is the Palestinians and the P.L.O. Examine the historical record and you will find that in the 1880’s Palestinians welcomed Jewish immigration to Palestine and the early Rothchild Kibbutzes coexisted with Palestinians. In the 1920’s, 30’s and 40’s as Zionism began its military fight for the establishment of an “exclusively Jewish home”, the Palestinian leaders attempted at peace conferences in Paris in 1919 and in London from 1922-46, to reach a peaceful settlement on the basis of coexistence between Jews, Christians and Muslims in a secular society in Palestine. This was rejected by militant Zionists who under the leadership of terrorists, such as Menachem Begin, committed massacres against innocent Palestinians to drive them out of their lands and villages. After 30 years Israel’s ex-Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, finally documented this fact in his memoirs when he wrote about the expulsion of 50 thousand Palestinians at gun point, from Lydda and Ramallah in May, 1948.

The Palestinians respect and revere Judaism as a religion of great spiritual values. That is why they find an affinity with the writings of humanitarian Jews such as Ahad Ha’am, Judeh Magnus and Martin Buber. They cooperated with those non-Zionist Jews for peace and coexistence—and in this tradition of goodwill, the P.L.O. talked, cooperated and extended a hand of friendship to such Israelis as lawyer, Felicia Langer, Dr. Israel Shahak and Matiyu Peled among others who recognized Palestinian national rights and called on Zionism to reconsider and end

its military occupation of Palestinian lands. The P.L.O., moreover, helped protect the besieged Jewish community during the civil war in Lebanon in 1976-77 and Chairman Arafat has personally met and written to many American and European Jews who extended a hand of friendship and support to the Palestinian people in their time of need.

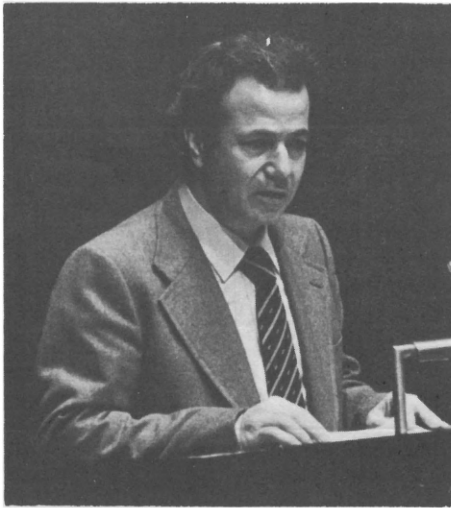
You know that the P.L.O., since 1970, has worked for peace. It has sent delegations to Europe, the U.S. and all international forums, including the United Nations, in search of peace. It has offered two models for peace; one, a secular society where Jews, Christians, and Muslims would coexist with equal rights in Palestine, and second; an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory where the Palestinians can exercise national independence and freedom. Both have been rejected by the Israeli Government. But the small Israeli Peace Movement you write about, came as a reaction to this Palestinian initiative. It agreed that Palestinians are entitled to self-determination and independence, but it found opposition from the Israeli government and not the P.L.O. If the Palestinians would have accepted exile and oppression, if they would have assimilated elsewhere and withered away, there would not have emerged an Israeli peace movement. Moreover, the Israeli peace movement is an internal reaction to Israeli government atrocities, repression and military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. They are the counterpart of a totally unarmed Palestinian civilian population in the West Bank and Gaza that have used non-violent and peaceful means of protest against the Israeli military occupation. You have heard, no doubt, of Palestinian school children shot dead in Nablus, Ramallah and Bethlahem, of thousands of Palestinian women and children arrested and tortured in Israeli prisons, of elected mayors bombed and maimed for life. Are those Palestinian children armed with American weapons, and do Palestinian mayors possess American-made tanks, bombs and military vehicles? Who are the real terrorists then? Is it the Palestinian farmer in Hebron who tried to defend his farm and house from armed Israeli settlers like the late Eli Hazeev (James Mahon Jr.) who carry guns and terrorize villagers and farmers to drive them out of their land?

You write “Zionism that seeks to live in peace with its neighbors”. Examine the record. Zionism has occupied all of Palestine, destroyed its people, turned two million of the people into refugees and put two million under a brutal military rule for thirteen years. Did Nazi occupation last that long? And didn’t Nazi occupation demolish houses, arrest citizens without trial, expell activists, and shoot people in the street? Examine what Dave Dellinger and Rev. Paul Meyers who both saw Nazi horrors in 1936-37, said after returning from the occupied West Bank and Gaza. “We have witnessed the same horrors, the demoralization of a whole people”. That’s why a peace movement began to emerge in Israel, in a futile attempt to redeem the Jewish values that Albert Einsten wrote about in 1936, of goodwill and cooperation with the Palestinian Arabs rather than the narrow nationalism of a Zionist Israel.

Finally, “killing and revenge” are not Palestinian traits, they were brought to Palestine in the 1930’s by British military colonialists and Zionist Irgun and Stern forces. The Palestinians lost because they did not know or possess the sophisticated technology of killing and conquest. Moreover, Palestinians have a right to struggle and fight for freedom. They have no peace today, so you tell Israel to end its military occupation of Palestinian lands, and to leave Palestinians to be free and then peace shall flourish.

You know Palestinians have and will continue to extend a hand of friendship, cooperation and goodwill to all Jewish and Israeli peace movements and individuals who recognize the Palestinian right to self determination and national independence, and who struggle with Palestinians to end Israeli military occupation and repression. In Upper Galilee for more than 32 years now, Palestinians and progressive, non-Zionist Israelis have worked together to defend Palestinian human and civil rights and to stop the Israeli government’s attempts to take over Palestinian farm lands. That struggle will continue until there is justice for Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land. The olive branch is the symbol of peace. It was Chairman Arafat who raised it in the U.N. in 1974 and said “peace shall begin in Palestine”. What has been Israel’s response since then?

Palestine Liberation Organization Appeal



Kaddoumi at UN General Assembly

Statement by Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, Head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization, at the Emergency Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on July 22, 1980, New York.

"The Palestinian people and the P.L.O. have carried both the olive branch and the gun. In spite of the lessons learned from over fifty years of experience that what was taken by force could be regained only by force; in spite of the continued attempts to make us despair of political and diplomatic struggle; and in spite of the oppression, terror and genocide we face in our homeland and in involuntary exile, we have not let the olive branch fall from our hand.

Therefore, we are here not to reaffirm our intentions and our aspirations to peace and stability in our homeland and in the region as a whole, but rather to call upon you to mobilize in an effort to realize that noble, human goal.

We rejected the Camp David Accords and the separate peace treaty between the Egyptian regime and the government of the terrorist, Menachem Begin, which was brought into being under the auspices and with the participation of the United States. We had the support of all the Arab peoples and the overwhelming majority of the Arab states. We rejected the Camp David Accords and the separate peace treaty because we could see ahead of time that they constituted a conspiracy by virtue of our experience in struggle. At the time there were those people who could not appreciate our position and chose to wait for the outcome.

Today the outcome is obvious. We need not provide further evidence of the

bankruptcy of the Camp David Policy. Rather, we must examine the dangers it has produced which are more serious than the previous ones. The sole benefit of the Camp David Accords is that they have revealed for all to see the nature and real intentions of our Zionist enemy, a racist, expansionist, and aggressive settler-colonial base.

The two parties to the Camp David conspiracy in our region are left with only the trivial theatrics of the so-called "autonomy" talks. The third party is now busy with presidential elections, concerned about nothing of the problems of this world but the return to the White House.

Let us now leave aside the cause of justice which they ignored at Camp David, for we did not expect from them otherwise. Yet we ask: where is the peace they promise to humankind?

You may recall references by the parties of the Camp David Accords to the presence of a Palestinian negotiator to participate in the so-called autonomy talks. In their attempt to remove the P.L.O. from its position of leadership as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, those parties have repeatedly stated that there are Palestinians ready to negotiate.

Some of those parties hypothesized that the West Bank mayors would be the alternative leaders to the P.L.O. We challenged that position out of confidence in our people and our sons. Where are the mayors now? They are either in hospitals, undergoing treatment after the attempts on their lives, or are exiled far from their families and homes, or under house arrest. They are all threatened not to participate in political activity, subject to punishment; they could serve three years if they express an opinion or make a statement rejecting occupation, defending the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people or supporting the P.L.O.

Methodical terrorism has threatened the lives of the symbols of our people in the occupied territories. You can imagine what is happening to the average Palestinian in those territories; 250,000 such Palestinians have been interrogated and/or detained. You certainly know that no international commission was allowed to enter occupied Palestine to review Nazi-like treatment of Palestinian prisoners, thousands of whom have recently staged a hunger strike to defend their simplest human rights.

A look at the situation in the Middle East today clearly shows the ramifications of the question of Palestine on the entire region.

The ramifications should constitute a forewarning of what may happen. The new policy of alliance between the Egyptian regime, Israel, and the United States, which emanated from Camp David, constitutes today a grave threat to the region and has created hotbeds of tension in several areas, any one of which may erupt in horrible flames. The continual psychological war against the Arab states, the creation of decisive and disintegrating factors within the Arab world, and the banding together of neighboring states against the Arab countries will lead to the immediate collapse of all the possibilities of preventing the explosion of the region in view of its strategic importance, militarily and oil-wise. The continual U.S. threats of intervention by rapid deployment forces constitute the consummation of that psychological war which is aimed at maintaining tension. The question of Palestine is the fulcrum of the Middle East crisis around which the various forces meet; thus, it must be the key to the resolution of those contradictions. Hence, the gravity of the explosive situation in the Middle East as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The present administration in Washington spoke at the beginning of its term of a homeland for the Palestinians. Soon it retreated from that position in confusion and lack of clear political vision. Then the American president attempted to acknowledge part of the truth by stating that the P.L.O. represented a substantial part of the Palestinian people. Then again the U.S. government retreated when the National Security advisor declared: "Bye-bye, P.L.O."

Still later the U.S. expressed a commitment to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in the joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. communique of October 1, 1977. Soon the U.S. government withdrew that commitment under the threats of Zionist pressure groups and during its preparation for the Sadat adventure which produced the Camp David Accords and the so-called autonomy.

Our stress on the present administration's policy on the question of Palestine does not mean that the previous administrations were stronger adherents to justice or possessed a deeper sense of right. But this administration has gone beyond all normal bounds of confusion, retreat, and humiliating capitulation to Israeli and Zionist pressures. You may recall that the government of the U.S. voted for Security Council resolution 461 last March only to
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say a few days later that it should not have supported that resolution and that the positive vote cast was the result of a communication problem between Washington and New York. Poor Washington! How technologically backward.

Only recently, the Security Council met and condemned the Israeli measures in Jerusalem. The U.S. abstained, although the Security Council had several years earlier, with U.S. support, called upon Israel to stop all measures pertaining to changing the character of the Holy City.

The present administration also abstained recently on a Security Council resolution calling upon Israel to return three Palestinian deportees to Hebron and Halhoul. The same administration spoke loudest on human rights, yet when the Security Council called upon Israel to rescind its arbitrary decision of deporting three elected Palestinian leaders, it abstained.

Those are just a few examples from the record of the current administration which is replete with hostility to the Palestinian people and capitulation to the Zionist will. The Carter administration attributes all that has happened to its preoccupation with the Presidential elections. Should we wait until the American President is re-elected?

We have grown accustomed to hearing such chronic pretexts over the years. President Johnson was by his nature anti-Arab and therefore we had to wait for the election of a new president. President Nixon could not do anything serious before the beginning of his second term. President Ford was not elected and we had to wait for an elected president. President Carter cannot make a move before the beginning of his second term, and it is not certain that he will be re-elected because Reagan may win. If Reagan wins, then he will not be able to move before the beginning of his second term. Nonetheless, Reagan has already sold himself in advance to Zionism and pledged

himself to Israel. He is now competing with Anderson, the independent candidate, for the favor of Israel; both promise to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel upon winning the election.

This brief survey of the attitudes of successive American administrations and the coming one clearly shows that there is no hope in American policy. Moderation, good will, and patience are characteristics not relevant to the logic of this age and to the balance of power in the world.

While any administration is bound to please its constituency and is therefore susceptible to Zionist pressure or blackmail, the Arab states are equally bound to respond to their constituencies which suffer from Israeli arrogance and brutality. This is the logic that will balance and awaken U.S. policy. Therefore, total confrontation with the U.S. government and its Israeli ally is inevitable. No Arab ruler will hesitate to join this confrontation after watching U.S. blessing, moral and material support, and military aid bestowed on Israel which is preparing to make Jerusalem its eternal capital, and which is devouring occupied Arab territories on the West Bank and Gaza strip which Menachem Begin considers the land of his forefathers.

Since Menachem Begin came to power, no room was left for interpretation or quesswork with regard to the real Israeli intentions of expansion in the occupied Arab territories. Israel gives the West Bank and Gaza Strip Hebrew names. It wants Jerusalem. It continues to build new settlements. Yet the leader of the Israeli opposition, Shimon Peres, expresses support for Begin's policy on Jerusalem and new settlements. This means that if Peres comes to power, conditions will not change at all except for the replacement of a fanatic Torah face by a falsely progressive, socialist one.

Given the pattern of Israeli behavior supported by the U.S. government, we can

predict that our region lives now on borrowed time in the sense that the explosion is coming soon. The Palestinian people who have been confronting and battling the racist, expansionist, Zionist movement for over sixty years, believe, through the leadership of the P.L.O. that matters are moving very slowly which enables Israel to gradually realize its goals and its geographic and demographic ambitions. Yet the international community is still unable at least to confront Israel in an effective and decisive manner despite U.N. condemnation of Israel.

This session represents a last chance, if not the last one indeed before the explosion, to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their right to return, to self-determination, to independence, and to a state of their own in Palestine. Our people could not attain those rights at the Security Council despite repeated attempts as a result of self-interested, imperialist alliances.

The Palestinian people, the peoples of the region, and all freedom-loving and peace loving peoples look forward to you today to demonstrate the results of this emergency session, hopeful that you will succeed in enabling our region to avert the anticipated destruction and bloodshed due to Israeli arrogance and U.S. submission to Israel. Let us return to the real sources for a just solution to the crisis. The solution is in your hands. You made it and promoted it. It is the only solution contained in resolution 3236.

Let the U.N. shoulder its responsibility of realizing the complete withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, and securing Palestinian sovereignty under the leadership of the P.L.O. Halt the theatrical autonomy talks which are held against the wishes of the Palestinian people, in their absence, and against their will. Let us all unite for peace, real peace which is based on justice before it is too late.

Excerpts from UN General Assembly Resolution

- 1) *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted, and calls for their return;
- 2) *Reaffirms also* the inalienable rights in Palestine of the Palestinian people including:
 - a) The right to self-determination without external interference, national independence and sovereignty;
 - b) The right to establish its own independent sovereign state;
- 3) *Reaffirms* the right of the PLO, the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate on an equal footing in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the Question of Palestine and the Middle East within the framework of the United Nations.
- 4) *Expresses* its opposition to all policies and plans aimed at the resettlement of the Palestinians outside their homeland;
- 5) *Reaffirms* that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be established, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant U.N. resolutions, without the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories including Jerusalem and without the achievement of a just solution of the problem of Palestine on the basis of the attainment of the inalienable right of return of the Palestinians, and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in Palestine, including the right to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty, and the establishment of their own independent State;
- 6) *Calls upon* all states to desist forthwith from supplying Israel with any military and/or economic aid (material, technical as well as human) in view of the continued occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories including Jerusalem and the denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

American Delegation Condemns Israeli Repression in the Occupied Territories



American group in Jerusalem

An American delegation headed by Dave Dellinger and including Denice Carty-Bennia, Reverend Paul Mayer and L. Clayton Jones visited the occupied West Bank and Gaza on June 18-22. They met with a number of Palestinian leaders including injured Mayor Karim Khalaf in Ramallah hospital, and Mayor Elias Friej of Bethlehem. They visited the families of exiled Mayors Qawasmeh and Milhelm in Hebron.

The delegation held a press conference in Washington, D.C. upon their return on July 2, and expressed their strong opposition and condemnation of Israeli repressive policies in the occupied territories. Clayton Jones compared the treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories to the treatment of Blacks in South Africa and said, "the Israeli government seeks to demoralize a whole people". He expressed

his anger at the shooting of Palestinian children in the occupied territories and the torture of political prisoners in Israeli prisons. Dave Dellinger compared Israeli occupation policies to those of Nazi Germany during 1936-37 and said he had seen the same horrors in the occupied West Bank, and blamed the US government for supporting Israel unlimitedly. Paul Mayer compared the persecution of Palestinians to the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany and he expressed his shock at the Israeli military brutality against the un-armed Palestinian population in the occupied West Bank. The group quoted Israeli generals who said, "they will use more military tactics to oppress the Palestinian people." They quoted Israeli General Amourazi who said, "We will not give up one inch to the Arabs even if this means nuclear war in New York."

Statement by Rev. Jesse Jackson on Jerusalem

Recent reports that Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is moving his office to Arab East Jerusalem is cause for serious concern. It is sad that the Prime Minister has chosen to threaten and subvert the peace process in this way. The excuse given—that this move of administrative offices will show the "unity" of Jerusalem under Israeli rule, is a sham act of public deception.

The Holy City of Jerusalem, so important in the religious heritage of Christians, Muslims and Jews alike, is under Israeli military occupation and the character of the city is being altered under these adverse conditions. Not only does this military occupation violate the letter and spirit of U.N. Resolution 242, passed thirteen years ago. Any attempts to increase the Israeli Government presence in Arab East Jerusalem is in clear violation of international law under the Geneva Convention of 1949.

One cannot believe the Israeli Government is unaware of these facts. The

present moves suggest a deliberate provocation designed to embarrass President Sadat, make further attempts at negotiating a just peace futile and demonstrate contempt for world public opinion.

Moving the Prime Minister's office to Arab East Jerusalem is at one with the pattern of expanding Israeli settlements on the West Bank. These are war-like gestures.

The political and religious leadership of our nation must use its influence to let the Israeli Government know that American public opinion rejects these expansionist moves, because these actions sabotage the peace process and increase tensions.

We welcome the clear, outspoken position on this matter taken by Pope John Paul, II last week. We urge President Carter to do no less. The Congress should review our relationship with the State of Israel, especially our foreign aid, in the light of these acts of provocation.

The people of our country desire a just peace in the Middle East and we share that goal with the international community.

June 24, 1980

Palestinian Women in Copenhagen

On July 14th, the second World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, opened in Copenhagen for ten days of discussion over issues concerning women internationally. Over one thousand delegates from over one hundred countries attended, including a Palestinian delegation. A group of ten women made up the Palestinian delegation headed by Leila Khaled.

At different conferences, the delegate from the Palestine Liberation Organization and the head of the Egyptian delegation both expressed sharply differing views on Israel. Jihan el Sadat, head of the Egyptian delegation, said, "Egypt wants to live in peace with all its neighbors. We are against extremists. We can't destroy Israel." During her speech, twenty members of Arab delegations walked out.



Leila Khaled

Leila Khaled of the PLO said, "We speak to the world with words but to the Israelis we speak only with weapons. Do you really feel its possible to respond to occupation of one's land and to violence and terror against one's people with peace?"

The convention evolved into a marked success for the Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian delegation participated in different panels and presented facts about Israeli repression in the occupied territories, including the murder and torture of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, and the shooting of school children in the streets. The Palestinian delegation managed to win approval for a special United Nations Fund for Palestinian women, despite American and Israeli opposition. As stated in the resolution, the fund is to be administered "in consultation and cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization."

American Indian Movement Resolution

The following are excerpts from the resolutions passed by the Sixth International Indian Treaty Conference. These resolutions reaffirm the continuing solidarity

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between Palestinians and the Indian peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

1. To recognize the historical right of the Palestinian people to return to and repossess their homeland, Palestine.

2. To recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, within and outside of occupied Palestine.

3. To support the right of the Palestinian people to establish a democratic secular state in all of Palestine.

4. To oppose all political and military attempts at liquidating the Palestinian cause and all formulas and solutions toward that end, including but not exclusive to the so-called Camp David Peace Treaty.

5. To support all oppressed peoples of the world who are suffering at the hands of the forces of colonialism, racism, and imperialism.

Chairman Arafat's Message to PUSH Convention

Respected Reverend Jesse Jackson:

Revolutionary greetings. It gives me great pleasure on the occasion of your organization's annual convention to convey to you in the name of my brother members of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and in the name of the Palestinian people and myself, our sincerest greetings and wishes for success for your convention and its delegates.

There is great pride among the ranks of the Palestinian people and the P.L.O. in the continuing friendly relationship and cooperation between our two peoples. This is expressed in the ongoing friendship which you uphold through the noble and courageous stances you have taken on the just struggle waged by our Palestinian people for their legitimate rights.

The terrorist campaign waged by the Zionist occupation authorities against the masses of our Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, exposes the fascism of these authorities. Authorities who do not hesitate to open fire on unarmed students, women, old men and children. At the same time they expell our leaders or attempt to assassinate them. It is really regretable that the Israeli aggressor continues his acts of aggression and his occupation of our land with the support of the United States of America whose administration is bent on supplying all means of aggression at their disposal. This includes the most modern weaponry, and billions of dollars, paid for by the American

taxpayer, which are converted into bullets, terror occupation and continuous aggression directed against our people. In spite of all this, the masses of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the P.L.O., are determined to continue their struggle against Zionism and racism for the realization of their national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to self-determination without any outside interference, and to establish their independent state on Palestinian national territory. To achieve that, we depend on the struggle of our Palestinian people and the support of all noble and freedom-loving people in the whole world.

I am confident that you personally and your militant masses, will stand on the side of our people and their just cause—exactly as our people with their modest capabilities, stand on the side of your just cause.

I wish your convention success.
Revolution until victory!

Ramallah Convention Reaffirms Support for PLO

The 21st Annual Convention of the Ramallah Federation was held in Birmingham, Alabama from the 11th through the 14th of July.

The convention reaffirmed its support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and called on the US to recognize that right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

The convention condemned Israel for its acts of terrorism in the occupied territories and called on the US to cut military aid to Israel which enables her to maintain occupation of Palestinian lands.

As Mayor Karim Khalaf of Ramallah spoke to the convention by telephone from his hospital bed, the thousand delegates cheered. He expressed his determination and the determination of his people to continue the struggle for freedom.

From Beirut, the convention received a message of greetings from Chairman Arafat, who stressed the fundamental role of Palestinians in the US of winning support the American public for the Palestinian cause.

Reverend Jesse Jackson was a guest speaker at the convention in which he harshly condemned Israeli prime minister Begin's policies and use of terrorism in the occupied West Bank. In addition, he stressed the need for a US dialogue with the PLO in order to obtain a better understanding of the Palestinian situation. Reverend Jackson expressed his belief that the US should recognize the PLO and the Palestine right to self determination and an independent state. Referring to the difference between Zionism and Judaism, he said "Judaism is a religion, Zionism is a kind of poisonous weed

that is choking Judaism. We must see it for what its worth." He stressed the need for Black Americans and Palestinians to cooperate in order to enable them to face Zionist pressures and thereby influence the American scene.

The Mayor of Birmingham, Richard Arrington greeted the Ramallah Convention and declared July 6-12 Palestine week. Additionally, a key to the city was offered to the president of the Ramallah Federation, Ziadeh Samieh. The newly elected President and Vice President, Jawad George and Edie Ajlouni, both pledged to continue the work to defend Palestinian rights and assist the PLO in its struggle for freedom, liberation and self determination for the Palestinian people.

Calendar of Events

- Aug. 1-2 Palestine Aid Society (Najda) Conference, Detroit, Michigan.
- Aug. 23 March for freedom of Ziad Abu Ein, Chicago, Illinois. For information call - (312) 327-9629.
- Aug. 27-30 Annual Convention of Organization of Arab Students, East Park, Colorado. For information call - (817) 387-0834.
- Sept. 5-6 Palestine Human Rights Campaign Conference, Washington, D.C. For information call - (202) 296-5089.
- Sept. 12-14 United Holy Land Fund, 2nd Annual Convention, Chicago, Illinois. For information call - (312) 284-5574.
- Sept. 19-22 Palestine Arab Fund, Annual Convention, Los Angeles, California. For information call - (213) 439-9150.
- Sept. 26-28 Palestine Congress of North America, 2nd Annual Convention, New York City. For information call - (202) 244-5578.
- Nov. 21-23 Annual Convention of the Association of Arab-American University Graduates, Boston, Mass. For information call - (617) 753-1692.

An International Appeal

Stop the Extradition of Ziad Abu Ein— Held Without Bond in a Chicago Jail for Nearly a Year!

While world attention has been riveted on the U.S. hostages in Iran, little has been heard of a young Palestinian who has been a hostage of the U.S. State Department for the past 11 months.

Ziad Abu Ein is a 20 year-old Palestinian who was arrested by the FBI in Chicago on August 21 of last year, at the request of the Israeli government. He is accused by the Israelis of carrying out a PLO bombing in May 1979, but the only basis for this is a confession written in Hebrew and signed in Arabic by another Palestinian in an Israeli jail. This "confession" has since been twice repudiated by the said prisoner.

If extradited to Israel, Ziad will not receive a fair trial. There are numerous cases, documented by Amnesty International, the U.S. National Lawyer's Guild, the London *Sunday Times*, etc., of Palestinians who are forced to "confess" under Israeli torture. Ziad could be judicially railroaded to execution or life imprisonment. Also, his extradition could set a precedent for the extradition of any foreign national in the U.S. whose government is able to manufacture a bogus confession.

August 21 will mark the one-year anniversary of Ziad's incarceration. We ask that *messages of protest* be directed at U.S. Secretary of State Edmund

Muskie, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520. Please *publicize* this case through whatever means at your disposal. Finally, we are appealing for an *international day of protest* to coincide with a national protest here in Chicago on August 23.

STOP THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FROM CARRYING OUT THIS JUDICIAL TRAVESTY! HELP US FREE ZIAD ABU EIN!

Thankyou,
Fayez Khozindar
Ziad Abu Ein Defense Committee
Chicago, Illinois
Tel: (312) 327-9629

July, 1980

Palestinian Murders in Israel Prisons



In Support of Palestinian Political Prisoners

Last month "*Palestine Perspectives*" wrote about the newest addition to Israel's prison system. Nafha prison has been characterized as a "concentration camp in the Negev" and it has more than lived up to its name. 76 prisoners started a hunger strike there on July 14 in protest of the prison's inhuman conditions. Since then, two prisoners (Ali Jafari and Rassem Halawi) have died as a result of brutal force-feeding by Israeli prison officials. The two prisoners who died were part of a group of 26 transferred to Ramleh prison after all those on strike refused to eat and were force-fed. Reports are that Palestinians in other Israeli prisons have begun hunger strikes in solidarity with the Nafha prisoners and demon-

strations protesting the mistreatment of these prisoners continue. In East Jerusalem, 300 demonstrators, including families of the prisoners, protested in front of the headquarters of the International Red Cross. The protestors carried signs saying "Close the Nafha liquidation camp!" and charged Israeli prison officials with having beaten the prisoners before force-feeding them using crude rubber tubing without medical supervision. Twenty of the female relatives of the prisoners have started hunger strikes themselves, and as of July 28th, five of these women have had to be hospitalized. The Israeli officials say that the force feeding will continue, although a third prisoner is reported close to death as a result of this brutality.

P.U.S.H. holds Annual Convention

Black Organization PUSH headed by Reverend Jesse Jackson ended its ninth annual convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Convention adopted resolutions calling for "self determination for the Palestinian people, recognition of the PLO by the US government and Israeli withdrawal from Arab Jerusalem."

Arab ambassadors from the United Nations attended the convention including Ambassadors from Jordan, Yemen, Nigeria and Grenada. Dr. Clovis Maksoud of the Arab League gave a keynote address in which he called for stronger ties between Black Americans and Arabs. In addition, he stressed that the two peoples are struggling for freedom and equality. He called on Black Americans to oppose Zionist policies in occupied Palestine as they oppose racist Apartheid in South Africa. Also, he stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PLO was represented at the convention by Hatem Hussaini and Said Hamad. At the convention Reverend Jackson received a message of solidarity from Chairman Arafat.

Zionist and Israeli pressures on PUSH were evident at the convention and Reverend Jackson appealed for financial support from members in order to be able to face Zionist pressures.

Ambassador Andrew Young invited an Israeli councilor to the Convention banquet, but PLO representatives protested his presence and asked PUSH to be consistent and not allow any support for racist aggressive entities such as Israel.

The Liberation of Jerusalem is a Historical Imperative



Mayor Marion Barry with Palestinian Mayors

Excerpts of PLO's Ahmed Sedki Dajani's Statement at Security Council

This Council is meeting again today to consider the question of Jerusalem and it will meet again, as long as Jerusalem remains under occupation, for, as long as the occupation continues, the occupiers will commit crimes and the victims of the occupation will suffer and will resist.

Therefore our point of departure in the discussion of any aspect of occupation is putting an end to that occupation.

The issue under consideration in this Council today is the bill before the Israeli Knesset proposing passage of a basic law relating to the annexation of Jerusalem as a new link in the long chain of crimes committed by Zionism against both our rights and the will of the international community.

The heavy suffering resulting from Zionist crimes in Jerusalem affects both the Palestinian people and believers the world over.

For us, the Palestinian people, Jerusalem is the capital of our homeland Palestine and it has always been its symbol since our forefathers, the Arab Cananite Jebusites, established it over 3,000 years ago in a distinctly strategic location consecrated to God.

Our founding forefathers gave it the name "the City of Peace". It was in Jerusalem, the City of Peace, that our people worshipped the compassionate God and glorified His name. It was in Jerusalem that they established their Arab Canaanite civilization. It was from Jerusalem that the masses of our people conveyed the message of morality, peace and love, heralded by the divine religions believing in the one God. Therefore, for the Palestinian people, the liberation of Jerusalem is a question of destiny.

Moreover, Jerusalem is the kiblah of the faithful, the direction in which all believers in the divine religions turn in prayer. It is the destination of their pilgrimage to glorify the name of God. Therefore the liberation of Jerusalem constitutes a basic issue for all believers.

We in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the representative of the Palestinian people, are struggling with our eyes set on those two facts. Our destiny is tied to the liberation of Jerusalem; its liberation will bring good to all believers. We are proud that our people have assumed throughout the ages their responsibility of providing care and protection to the pilgrims. We are proud of our cultural heritage, of which the Jewish, Christian and Moslem cultures are component parts inherited from ancestors who upheld Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We, the Palestinian people, are proud of the atmosphere of toleration that has characterized their relations with one another and their attitude towards the pilgrims during their stay in the Holy Land.

The agony of Jerusalem under Israeli occupation is the direct result of the Zionist conquest of our homeland, Palestine. The history of Palestine throughout the ages clearly draws a distinction between two groups: the pilgrims and the conquerors. The former came to pray; the latter came to usurp. The conquerors came to confiscate property and oppress us. They concealed their real aims behind religion.

The Zionist movement wanted to repeat what the European crusaders had done nine centuries earlier. Our people—Moslems, Christians and Jews—equally resisted the Crusaders and the Mongols, some of whom were Moslems. In both cases our people emerged victorious.

Our people distinguished between persons like Moussabeh Maimoun—Moses Maimonides, the Arab scholar of the Jewish faith, and Benjamin of Tudela, who came to Palestine as a pilgrim, and those Zionist invaders like Menachem Begin, the terrorist who came from Poland and who led the massacre of Deir Yassin, and Meir Kahane, who came from New York full of hatred planning to blow up Al-Aqsa Mosque and several churches while they were full of worshippers.

Clearly, because we are proud that Jerusalem is the destination of believers from all over the world, we shall do our best to meet the requirements for the continued protection of the Holy Places. But in no circumstances shall Jerusalem be open to attack by alien invaders, nor shall its sanctity be a pretext for conquest and usurpation of our homeland and our culture. Palestine has over the ages been the homeland of its people and the holy destination of all believers.

It would be redundant to detail the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation in Jerusalem. The Council has on various occasions heard details about those crimes. Recently it heard detailed statements about the atrocities of the military Government, the settlements, oppression and confiscation of land. It is sufficient to note briefly that the Zionist invaders have to an extreme degree attempted to destroy our culture and used the most inhuman methods.

Jerusalem has suffered a great deal of destruction. Its holy character has been distorted by the establishment of concrete military structures. It has been desecrated by the introduction of life patterns far from spiritual values and contrary to all holy values.

The majority of the countries of the world have defined their stand on what is happening to the many relevant resolutions adopted by the international community?

The experience of the past 13 years has demonstrated that Israel cannot pursue its aggressive policy without the unlimited support of the United States. Therefore, what is happening in our homeland is primarily the responsibility of the United States. Through United States support, Zionism is enabled to implement its expansionist plans of building settlements and confiscating Arab land. Thanks to United States support, Zionism can show contempt for Palestinian human rights.

Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the United States policy is that it has enabled the
(Continued on page 12)

The Liberation of Jerusalem. . .

(Continued from page 10)

Zionists to continue their occupation of Palestine and Arab territories and it has given priority to the Israeli concept of security over the Palestinian rights of expression, assembly, self-determination and sovereignty, as well as over the principles of the Charter of the United Nations which establish the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. The United States has gone further in its collaboration with Israel: the United States refuses to recognize the rights of our people which are guaranteed by international agreements; it is even committed to an absurd policy which rejects even a dialogue. In this connection, the United States has made of itself a hostage to Israeli policy.

Yet it is a source of satisfaction that some forces have emerged among the American people rejecting that official United States behaviour and calling for a policy based on the moral principles of justice and right.

The Zionist concept of security is predicated on the acquisition of more land, the subjugation of the peoples of the region and the exploitation of their natural resources. On the other hand, our conception of security is based on peace and justice. Herein lies the difference between the logic of the Zionist aggressor and the logic of human liberation of the Palestinian revolution. The usurpation of territory and the practice of terrorism breeds resistance by peoples defending their freedom and dignity. Security cannot be established at the expense of justice and the rights of others. History is full of lessons for those willing to learn.

In spite of our sufferings as individuals and as a people and in spite of the failure of the United Nations to implement its resolutions concerning our rights, our presence here today is a reaffirmation of our belief in the constructive role of this international organization in the search for peace and justice.

We should also like to make it clear that it is our sacred right and moral responsibility to struggle against the Israeli Zionist occupation and aggression. We are proud of the heroic struggle of our brothers and sisters against aggression. We strongly reject any and all attempts to equate, or even to compare, our legitimate struggle for self-determination and national independence with the aggression of the Zionists. That would

amount to equating the victim with the criminal. It is high time for those who talk about the cycle of violence and counter-violence to stop this distortion and condemn the aggressor.

I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the achievement of a just and lasting peace which fulfils our national and inalienable rights, namely, our right to self-determination and national independence and our right of return, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

While the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Arab States reject the Camp David accords, which ignore our rights, we are striving within the framework of the United Nations for a comprehensive and just peace.

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