

Day of Rage demands: No annexation of Palestinian land!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
July 7, 2020



Lead banner at Brooklyn Day of Rage. SLL photo: Greg Butterfield

July 1 was declared an International Day of Rage against Israel's latest attempt to annex Palestinian lands. The Israeli apartheid regime, backed by the Trump administration in the U.S., plans to annex its illegal settlements in the West Bank and Jordan Valley — land that rightfully belongs to Palestinians. Not only is this

decision illegal under international law, but it will displace thousands more Palestinians from their homes.



Los Angeles. SLL photo: Reece Evans

In **Los Angeles**, more than 200 cars with signs, banners and Palestinian flags drove slowly from the Westwood Federal Building to the Israeli Consulate. There, activists held a loud rally. They chanted and shouted down a small group of Zionist supporters who gathered nearby.

Drivers continued to circle the block around the consulate, honking their horns and slowing down traffic on one of the busiest boulevards in L.A.

The action was called by Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition and co-hosted by the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Code Pink, Labor for Palestine, the Answer Coalition, the Palestinian Youth Movement and others.



Baltimore. Photo: Youth Against War and Racism

A rally held outside the Herbert R. O'Connor State Office Building in **Baltimore** demanded "No Israeli annexation! Free Palestine! End the deadly exchange!" The latter demand refers to the way that U.S. police agencies use the Israeli military to train cops in the brutal techniques used to suppress Palestinians fighting for their rights and self-determination. U.S. police come back and use these same tactics against Black and Brown people and protesters here.

"We're here today, without apology, to demand an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine," said Andre Powell of the Peoples Power Assembly. "The U.S. government gives billions of dollars each year to prop up the racist regime in Israel, while, in this

country, people go without schools, hospitals, medical care and food.”

“The Baltimore police train directly with the Israeli Defense Forces,” said Miranda Etel, a young Jewish activist and a leader of Youth Against War and Racism. “So are thousands of cops from across the U.S. And we hear reports of Palestinians being repressed with the knee on the neck, the way George Floyd was killed by police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis.”

Along with YAWR and the PPA,, the Malaya Movement DMV/Baltimore and the Socialist Unity Party co-sponsored the action.



Brooklyn, N.Y. SLL photo: Bill Does

Brooklyn: One struggle for liberation!

Brooklyn, N.Y.'s Bay Ridge neighborhood saw one of the largest Day of Rage actions. Thousands flooded the streets in an area that is home to many Palestinians and other Arab people.

The protest was led by Within Our Lifetime-United For Palestine and organized by the NY4Palestine coalition, which also includes Samidoun, Al Awda, American Muslims for Palestine and several chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine. It explicitly linked the defense of Palestinian lives and land with the Black-led uprising against police terror here.

"There can be no Palestinian liberation without Black liberation!" declared Nerdeen Kiswani of WOL-UFP, who chaired the opening rally.

Speakers included Nefretti Larkin of the December 12 Movement; longtime prisoner rights activist Dequi Kioni Sadiki of the Jericho Movement; representatives of the Filipinix movement BAYAN-USA; the Red Nation, an organization of Indigenous revolutionaries; New York Boricua Resistance, representing the Puerto Rican independence struggle; Nodutdol, a Korean American organization fighting for reunification of the Korean peninsula; Bill Does of Struggle-La Lucha; Suzanne Ross of the International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; and many more.

Recorded remarks by U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal gave the signal to march.

The lead banner declared: "NYPD = KKK = IDF, One Struggle for Liberation." Palestinians and supporters chanted, "Not just annexation, not just occupation, we

want liberation, bring the whole thing down!" A small group of bigots from the racist "Jewish Defense League" fled the area as the crowd took over Brooklyn's Fifth Avenue.

The protest marched across Brooklyn for four hours, gathering support and cheers in that borough's diverse, multinational neighborhoods. Marchers chanted, "From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls have got to go!" and "No justice, no peace, no Israel, no police!" before ending at Barclays Center with a Dabke, the traditional Palestinian folk dance.

Two days later, on July 3, another large march was held across the river in North Bergen, N.J., organized by American Muslims for Palestine-N.J.

According to the [Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network](#), other July 1 protests took place in occupied Palestine; San Francisco; Chicago; Salt Lake City; Albuquerque, N.M.; Portland, Ore.; Boston; Seattle; Philadelphia; Toledo and Columbus, Ohio; San Diego, Rancho Cucamonga and Claremont, Calif.; Halifax and St. Catherines, Canada; San Jose, Costa Rica; Oldham and Bedford, England; Toulouse and Saint-Denis, France; Amsterdam and The Hague, Netherlands; Frankfurt and Berlin, Germany; Madrid, Granada, Valencia, Valladolid, Sevilla and Bilbao, Spain; Athens; Istanbul; Johannesburg; and Seoul.

More actions were planned for the following days, including in Berlin; Amman; Copenhagen; Toronto and Mississauga, Canada; Dublin, Ireland; Derry, North Ireland; Lyon, France; London; Auckland, New Zealand; Detroit; Cleveland; Lisbon; and other places.

Greg Butterfield, Bill Does and Scott Scheffer contributed to this report.

Videos: Los Angeles:
<https://www.facebook.com/scott.scheffer.7/videos/10223439531955390/>

Baltimore: <https://www.facebook.com/yawrbaltimore/videos/282835442921752/>

Brooklyn, N.Y.: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=296163601755902>



Take action: Endorse and join the 1 July mobilization against Israeli annexation of the occupied West Bank

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network urges all organizations in support of Palestinian liberation to endorse the [call to action](#) by Samidoun Network in occupied Palestine and in the diaspora, originally [released in Arabic](#), against the prospect of Israeli annexation of the occupied West Bank, and to mobilize internationally on Wednesday, 1 July, the day the Israeli state threatens to escalate its ongoing project of colonialism, dispossession and ethnic cleansing.

Samidoun organizers, affiliates, and partners are helping to build demonstrations in [Ramallah](#), [New York City](#), and [Madrid](#), with other events

soon to be announced in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and elsewhere.

And organizations including [Al-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition](#) and the [US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel](#) have also released calls to action, which Samidoun endorses, and for which it encourages broad support.

To endorse the international appeal from Palestinians under Israeli occupation, or to inform us of your local event so we can help promote it, please complete our [online form](#), message us on [Facebook](#), or e-mail us at samidoun@samidoun.net.

Read the full statement and call to action below:

A call to the struggling Palestinian people throughout occupied Palestine and to the masses of our people struggling in exile and diaspora...

A call to Palestinians, Arabs and the people of the world....

Israel, the Zionist project fully supported by the United States of America and the reactionary forces in the region, is continuing upon the path of attempting to liquidate the Palestinian cause and Palestinian rights. It aims to impose its racist colonial regime through armed force, through repressive systems, prisons and detention center, and by spreading systematic destruction targeting the Palestinian people. Israel not only denies the national rights of the Palestinian people but also violates the most basic and natural rights of people and the land.

Our struggling Palestinian people, along with the Arab nation, the peoples of the region, and the progressive forces and liberation movements around the world, are aware of the true face of the racist, Zionist colonial entity and its expansionist nature and aims, now more than ever. They also see with full clarity how the occupation continues to implement its ongoing crimes and daily attacks against the

Palestinian people. These crimes and violations do not subside for one hour, from killing, siege, mass arrests, home demolitions and the confiscation of Palestinian land through annexation and displacement projects. These daily crimes committed by the occupation forces take place in full sight and sound of the world, with no accountability, meaningful response or even a minimal international legal response.

The policies of the Zionist state and of the Trump administration standing together with Netanyahu and Gantz are the natural continuation of the ongoing history of each successive Israeli government and leadership from before the establishment of the Zionist state on our Palestinian homeland in 1948 until the present day. This right-wing alliance and the deeply, fundamentally racist structures propping it up are convinced that it may impose its will by force upon the Palestinian people because of the state of disintegration, weakness and disorganization on the Palestinian and Arab internal fronts. They target the homes and the very existence of the Palestinian people with impunity, from demolishing our homes in the Negev, Qalansuwa, Jerusalem and throughout the West Bank, to continuing the devastating siege upon our people in the struggling Gaza Strip, to denying our right to return and self-determination throughout the entire land of Palestine.

Today, the Zionist right-wing alliance prepares to plunder all of the Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, creating a system of ghettos, cantons, strangulation and impoverishment, what it calls “facts on the ground” that target, first and foremost, the rights and interests of the Palestinian popular classes throughout all of occupied Palestine.

On the other hand, these Israeli policies are also acting to accelerate the resounding fall of all of the projects of surrender and illusion, the path of negotiations that began with the 1991 Madrid conference and the disastrous and devastating Oslo accords that destroyed the Palestinian people’s institutions and organizations. This current dragged the Palestinian national movement into a state of defeat, internal

conflict and disintegration, confiscating the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization and emptying it of its popular and democratic role.

Today, the peoples of the world, and friendly and hostile forces alike, look toward the Palestinian response, not only to this latest Zionist crime but to this entire stage of destruction. Their eyes point to the critical importance of a popular Palestinian and Arab response to the annexation project and the imposition of the so-called “Israeli laws and sovereignty over Judea and Samaria.”

Accordingly, we call upon all national and Islamic forces, popular organizations inside Palestine and in exile and diaspora, as well as our labor unions, women’s organizations and student movement to participate widely and lead the popular march that will begin on 1 July 2020 in the city of Ramallah, as we march on the path of a unified Palestinian people and a unified Palestinian struggle, standing for the rights and dignity of our people – always and only, the rights and dignity of the Palestinian people.

We call upon the Palestinian people throughout occupied Palestine, everywhere in exile and diaspora, and all those who stand for justice in Palestine – all of the national forces, youth groups, civil society institutions and popular movements – to organize direct actions and popular mobilizations in the refugee camps, cities and villages and to formulate plans for joint action and mass organization. Together, we can mobilize the power and potential of the Palestinian people, the Arab people and the international movement for justice to confront the schemes of the occupier and its collaborators. The time has come to take a qualitative step to protect the Palestinian people and rebuild the foundations of the national liberation movement.

Our Palestinian people everywhere and the national liberation movement march on the path to liberation and return.

With loyalty to the martyrs and the struggling prisoners’ movement, the

leadership of the Palestinian struggle.

Down with the occupation! The annexation, colonization and settlement projects will be defeated. Victory is with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause!

6 June 2020

Source: [Samidoun.net](https://samidoun.net)



Palestine, marching toward return

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Seventy-two years ago, the majority of the people of Palestine were expelled from their homes by terror, force and massacre. Thousands of children, women and men were executed in cold blood and 530 villages were destroyed so that the racist settler state of “Israel” could be created on their land. Today that state, which declared its so-called “independence” on May 15, 1948, directly occupies 85 percent of the land of Palestine and part of Syria.

For Palestinians, 1948 was the start of Al-Nakba, the catastrophe of exile and occupation that continues to this day. Palestinians on the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem live under a daily reign of terror from Israeli troops and settlers, who murder and kidnap them and destroy their crops and animals in an effort to drive them from their land. In the Gaza Strip, nearly 2 million Palestinians live under a

constant state of siege, locked inside a giant open-air prison where water is not fit to drink, electricity runs a few hours a day, and people die from lack of medicine.

The very existence of “Israel” has been a 72-year-long war against the people of Palestine and the neighboring countries of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. For 72 years, this war has been subsidized by the United States, which provides an endless flow of arms and dollars to the Zionist fortress in Palestine. On May 22, while millions of workers in the U.S. worried about their next meal, the U.S. Senate Foreign Aid Committee approved a \$38-billion aid package to Israel. On May 12, Trump’s secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, visited Jerusalem to support Israel’s plan to annex large areas of the occupied West Bank.

For the corporate stooges in Washington, the racist state of Israel is part of the U.S. warfare state, a tool in their bloody struggle to maintain the position of U.S. banks and corporations in the world economy. In 2017, aboard the USS George Bush, moored in Palestinian waters, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, “A few miles from here, there is another aircraft carrier for our common civilization — it’s called the State of Israel.”

For the people of Palestine, however, the land between the river and the sea remains their homeland. In 72 years, they have never stopped fighting for the right to live in peace and freedom in every corner of their land. Their victory in this just struggle would alter the global balance of forces in favor of the workers and oppressed people of the world.

Palestinians and their allies around the world marked May 15-22 as a week of struggle for freedom and the right to return to their land. Millions around the world also marked May 22, the last Friday of Ramadan, as the International Day of Al-Quds (Jerusalem), a global day of solidarity with Palestine.

As part of this week, several powerful webinars were held. They can be viewed at

the links below:

[72 Years of Nakba, Marching Toward Return: Al-Awda Virtual Rally](#)

[Liberate Palestine from the River to the Sea, with Palestinian writer Khaled Barakat](#)

[Talk by Mohammed Khatib of Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network](#)

[Al-Quds Day Global Online Rally](#)



Miranda Etel interview: Palestinian Prisoners Day

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On April 17, Palestinian Prisoners Day, Struggle-La Lucha interviewed Miranda Etel, a young Jewish activist who organized a car caravan from Baltimore to Washington, D.C., to support Palestinian-led protests against the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference this year.



Etel is one of the founders of Youth Against War and Racism. She is currently helping the Peoples Power Assembly and Prisoners Solidarity Committee organize a car caravan protest in support of Maryland prisoners and ICE detainees.



According to [Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network](#), “Today, there are approximately 5,000 Palestinians jailed by Zionist colonialism, including over 180 children, 430 administrative detainees jailed without charge or trial, and 700 sick and ill prisoners, 200 with chronic and serious diseases that place them at even greater risk should Covid-19 spread throughout the prisons.”



<https://youtu.be/THxNCn-Z-ZY>



Four Palestinian prisoners in isolation for potential coronavirus exposure from Israeli interrogator

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Four Palestinian prisoners in Megiddo prison are [reportedly in isolation for potential infection with coronavirus](#) (COVID-19) after exposure to an Israeli interrogator who has been confirmed to have COVID-19. While the four prisoners' diagnosis is not yet confirmed, at least one of the four is reported to have shown signs of illness after he

was interrogated by the infected Israeli interrogator at Petah Tikva detention center.

Their family members have not been informed of their location. Previous reports have indicated that Israeli officials are using solitary confinement cells to quarantine prisoners, despite the fact that these cells are known to be dirty and infested with vermin. Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network emphasizes the complete responsibility of the Israeli state and the Israel Prison Service for the lives and health of Palestinian prisoners and for their reckless and repeated exposure of Palestinian prisoners to Israeli guards and officials with coronavirus infections.

While Israeli occupation forces have barred Palestinian prisoners from [purchasing at least 140 different items at the “canteen”](#) or prison store, including cleaning and sanitation supplies, and prohibited family and legal visits to the prisoners, they have continued to put Palestinians at severe risk by continuing interrogations, maintaining dirty and overcrowded conditions and pursuing transfers. These policies place Palestinian prisoners at severe risk for exposure to COVID-19 from Israeli prison guards and interrogators. All of these policies apply equally to the 190 Palestinian child detainees in Israeli prisons.

Earlier, 19 Palestinian prisoners were placed in isolation in Ashkelon prison after an Israeli psychiatrist, later diagnosed with COVID-19, visited Section 3 of the prison, where he interviewed a prisoner. While Palestinians in Gaza are refraining from most public events in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus, which has not yet been detected within the besieged area, advocates for the prisoners [protested outside the offices](#) of the International Committee of the Red Cross on Thursday, 19 March to demand protection and proper infection control inside Israeli jails.

Instead of protecting prisoners' health, the Israeli policies – which have not been equally applied to Israeli civil and criminal prisoners but instead have been reserved for Palestinian political detainees – appear to be nothing more than a further attempt to undermine the severely limited rights of Palestinian prisoners. They

reflect the ongoing mandate of Israeli Minister of Public Security Gilad Erdan (who also runs Israel's "anti-BDS ministry" and engages in international smear campaigns against human rights defenders) to "make conditions worse" for Palestinian prisoners.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Society announced that prisoners plan to close their sections and return meals on Friday and Saturday, 20 and 21 March, in protest against the punitive measures carried out against them in the name of infection control while they are denied real resources to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. Palestinian prisoners are instead demanding full sterilization, disinfection and cleaning of the prisons as well as proper health treatment for all detainees, according to the guidelines of the World Health Organization.

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network emphasizes that this situation is not simply a humanitarian concern for the health of the prisoners, but it instead reflects a systematic and racist Israeli policy of targeting Palestinian prisoners with complete disregard for their lives and health. Medical neglect and insufficient health care pose a constant threat to the prisoners, especially those who are also most vulnerable for COVID-19.

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network emphasizes the urgency of a global response to COVID-19 that focuses on solidarity, mutual aid and public health, rather than capitalist values of exploitation, oppression and marginalization of the most vulnerable. We reiterate our long-standing call for the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, at severe risk in this time of pandemic, and especially administrative detainees, sick and elderly prisoners, and child prisoners. Defending public health must mean freedom for Palestinian prisoners, freedom for Palestine, and freedom for all oppressed peoples and nations.

Read our full statement on COVID-19 and Palestinian prisoners:
<https://samidoun.net/2020/03/israeli-apartheid-covid-19-and-palestinian-prisoners-freedom-now/>

Source: [Samidoun](#)



Germany escalates attack on Khaled Barakat, Palestinian rights with four-year ban: Fight back against repression!

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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The German state has once again escalated its harassment and repression directed against Palestinian speech and advocacy. In the latest order issued by the Berlin immigration office, received yesterday, 9 March, German officials escalated their [attacks on Palestinian writer and activist Khaled Barakat](#), ordering him officially

expelled from Germany (even though he has not been living in Germany since August 2019) and banning him from entering the country for four years. Barakat and his lawyer are challenging the order in an appeal.

In addition to the political ban, residency denial and now exclusion imposed on Barakat, recent repressive attacks by the German state on Palestinian rights have included the deportation of [Rasmea Odeh](#), the passing of an [anti-BDS resolution in the Bundestag](#), the [criminal prosecution of Palestinian and Israeli Jewish activists](#) for interrupting a speech by a member of the Knesset, the forced resignation of the director of the Jewish Museum, the closing of the bank account of Jewish Voices for a Just Peace and the disinvitation of international artists who have taken a stand to support Palestinian rights. This continued targeting of Palestinian community organizing, Palestine solidarity and progressive activism comes even as the very real threat of far-right violence continues to threaten the lives of Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims and people of color throughout Germany, as reflected in the [horrific racist attack in Hanau](#).

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network calls on all who stand for justice in Palestine to confront the repression that is taking place in Germany, in Europe and internationally. As Trump and Netanyahu attempt to impose their “deal of the century” and liquidate the Palestinian cause, these efforts to criminalize, silence and repress Palestinian and Palestine solidarity organizing are part and parcel of that comprehensive attack.

At the same time, they also indicate the real fear of these forces - not of a “threat to security” from Palestinian organizing, but of the power of organized communities to make real change and struggle for the liberation of Palestine - and to fight for justice in their countries of exile as well. Here, they attempt to silence a progressive vision of a liberated, democratic Palestine.

Watch the 17 August speech German officials are trying to silence here:



This is not an attack on Khaled Barakat alone, an attack on one person or even on one political trend in the Palestinian movement. Indeed, the order itself openly declares that it intends to deter all foreign nationals from advocating for the boycott of Israel! The only response to such a shameless attack on the rights of the Palestinian people, oppressed communities and all who stand for justice and liberation is to escalate our organizing and make clear that such attempts at silencing, repression and liquidation are unacceptable. We stand with Khaled Barakat – and we stand together, for the liberation of Palestine and against racism, Zionism and imperialism.

Germany aims to silence Palestinians

The political nature of the order is overt and unconcealed throughout the 23-page document. It is based entirely on public political speeches, writings and [YouTube videos](#) and does not allege criminal activity; indeed, the order notes that criteria relating to criminal convictions do not apply in this case. This comes after a [political ban of over one month was ordered against Barakat](#) in June 2019 in order to prevent him from giving a speech on U.S. President Donald Trump’s so-called “Deal of the

Century” and the attack on Palestinian rights, and then, the denial of the renewal of his residency visa.

The nature of this attack is clear throughout the document. “The so-called two-state solution is dead. The Palestinian people have no choice but to continue their struggle until the liberation of all of Palestine and the construction of a democratic society in Palestine,” Barakat said in a [meeting with the South African ambassador to Germany](#). This progressive vision of a liberated, democratic Palestine is cited twice in the document as evidence of an “extremist” perspective that is “unacceptable” in Germany.

It further classifies opposition to the Oslo process, the so-called “peace process” that has been a lengthy process of attempted liquidation of Palestine, as another element of unacceptable “extremism,” alongside rejection of the “two-state solution.” (Of course, this criterion is not considered relevant when it is Zionists who want to colonize all of Palestine who reject Oslo or two states; it is only “extremism” for Palestinians and their supporters who want to *liberate* all of Palestine.) It emphasizes, “Your expulsion is intended to make it clear to other third-country nationals that such agitations against the State of Israel...in the Federal Republic of Germany...can also lead to consequences under residence law.”

Perhaps most disturbing is the stated purpose of the denial of Khaled Barakat’s rights – not solely to attempt to silence him as an individual, but to terrorize the Palestinian and Arab community in Berlin and more broadly, throughout Germany and Europe. This order comes as part and parcel of an attempt to suppress the potential organizing of thousands of Palestinian and Arab youth in Berlin, in Germany and throughout Europe, and more broadly, the power of organized communities to fight racism, oppression and colonialism.

An attack on communities

As Barakat said, this order is actually aimed not only against him as a writer, journalist and political activist, but at “thousands of Palestinian youth in the cafes on the Arab street in central Berlin. These forces are afraid of the organized power of impoverished youth from the popular neighborhoods and European city centers, of the possibility that they will become fully aware of their potential strength and power and unite and organize to take up the project of return and liberation. All of Europe’s officialdom expresses its ‘fear’ of the refugee masses at its shores. Germany wants to suppress, police and silence the Palestinian, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Iranian, African communities and impose upon them the burden of the terrible massacres that the German state committed against peoples, especially the massacre of Jews. This report makes clear that repressive state security structures want to stop the coming renaissance of the Palestinian people in diaspora.”

Mohammed Khatib, Europe coordinator of Samidoun, said: “Their real fear is the mobilization of tens of thousands of Palestinian youth, hundreds of thousands of young Arabs, millions of migrants, people of color, and all oppressed groups that together demand the liberation of Palestine and fight for rights, justice, freedom and equality.”

Redfish report on the political ban:

Parroting Israeli propaganda, negating Palestinian rights

The order repeatedly attacks movements and organizations struggling for Palestinian rights, including the BDS campaign, Hirak – a movement of Palestinian youth in Berlin – and Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, uncritically parroting claims of the Israeli “anti-BDS ministry,” the Ministry of Strategic Affairs, whose payments to the Jerusalem Post to run its anti-Palestinian propaganda campaigns sparked a scandal.

It even attempts to use Barakat's [speech at the European Parliament of 10 July 2019](#) – about the political ban on him and the repression of Palestinian advocacy in Germany – against him, claiming that being invited to the European Parliament is somehow proof that he is a leader of the PFLP. It unquestioningly reiterates German right-wing media and Israeli propaganda claims against his speech while neglecting to report that the [smear campaign was decisively repudiated](#) by the European Parliament itself in August 2019: “Mr Barakat and Samidoun, the Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, are not amongst the persons or groups and entities covered by these provisions. Further, Mr Barakat did not enter Parliament’s premises as a representative of the Popular Front For the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), nor did he speak on behalf of this group. The PFLP was not mentioned nor promoted during the event. “The primary purpose of the visit was to offer Mr Barakat the opportunity to address a meeting in Parliament on Palestine-related matters, and oppose the speaking ban imposed upon Mr Barakat by German authorities in June 2019.”

The document declares, “your expulsion is also considered necessary to deter other foreigners...your expulsion must also make other foreign nationals aware that the state does not tolerate anti-Semitic statements approving the use of force and boycotts against sovereign states.” This reflects the Israeli state’s global campaign against growing international support for the call for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) and the attempt to distort the meaning of anti-Semitism for an anti-Palestinian smear campaign.

It must be emphasized that the definition of “anti-Semitism” used here is not one that refers to any form of hatred against Jewish people or Judaism as a faith; instead, the document has [redefined anti-Semitism](#) to mean, variously: “opposing the existence of the State of Israel,” “talking about the ‘racist project of Israel,’” “calling into question the right to exist of the Jewish and democratic state of Israel and its

legitimate right of national defense,” and supporting the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

Therefore, this order is clearly meant as a threat to other non-German and non-European citizens in Germany that they may face severe repression, up to and including deportation, for supporting the boycott of Israel, or for expressing that the Palestinian people have the right to resist occupation and oppression. This kind of attack on freedom of expression should shock the conscience of all who claim to uphold human rights, particularly civil and political rights.

Redefinition of “anti-Semitism” to attack Palestinians, whitewash the far right

While it is not referenced by name in the document, it apparently draws inspiration from the so-called IHRA definition and examples that Israel lobby organizations have been attempting to have adopted in parliaments, councils and other institutions around the world. The IHRA’s “examples” include stating that [“Israel is a racist endeavour” may be anti-Semitic](#), while here, “the racist project of Israel” is labeled anti-Semitic as well.

All of this is shameless propaganda for an Israeli state in cahoots with the most extreme right-wing and fascist forces around the world, while people of color and Jews remain facing actual threats from neo-Nazis and far-right forces in Germany. Instead, the German state throws its repressive weight to attempt to silence a leftist Palestinian writer and activist. This attempt to redefine anti-Semitism and focus on Palestinians and Arabs also serves the purpose of whitewashing far right and fascist forces throughout Europe, both those serving in government positions and those engaging in street violence against Jews and people of color.

Indeed, while labeling it anti-Semitic to “call into question....Israel’s legitimate right to national defense” -i.e., to perpetrate colonial warfare on indigenous people, the

document repeatedly affirms that it is unacceptable to recognize Palestinians' right to resist. Saying that Palestinians "have the right to exercise all forms of resistance, including armed revolutionary violence, until the Palestinian people have achieved all their national aspirations" is labeled "extremist." At the same time, it is declared equally, or perhaps even more unacceptable in the same document to simply advocate for the peaceful boycott of Israeli goods and corporations.

No right to reject Israel's "right to exist"?

While the document repeatedly refers to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a leftist Palestinian political party and resistance movement, in an attempt to justify repressing Barakat's speeches and writing, let alone expelling him from the country - despite the fact that the PFLP is not illegal in Germany - it also states that, in the end, it does not matter whether or not he is a member of the PFLP, because he adheres to its political goals. Specifically, these political goals are defined as "overcoming the state of Israel and establishing the state of Palestine," "negating Israel's right to exist," and "the liberation of Palestine from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea," certainly the political goals of vast numbers of not only Palestinians and Arabs, but all who stand for justice in Palestine.

The document repeatedly notes that Barakat refuses to "recognize Israel's right to exist." Of course, states do not have a "right to exist," people do - and it is human rights, people's rights, that are under attack by the Israeli state and its imperialist partners and allies around the world, including the German state. For Palestinians, this demand to recognize the "right to exist" of an occupying power on their land is a demand to accept the legitimacy of the Nakba and to approve of the expulsion of over 700,000 Palestinian refugees from their homes and lands and the continuing denial of the right of return of millions of Palestinians today.

It is to demand indigenous people praise the "legitimacy" and "right" of their colonizer and occupier to steal their land, imprison their leaders, demolish their

homes and confiscate their resources. Not only should this be unacceptable to Palestinians, the demand to recognize “Israel’s right to exist” is one of colonial domination that should be repellent to all who stand for justice and human dignity. It is notable that the order is repeatedly appalled by Barakat’s advocacy of an inclusive, democratic Palestine that embraces people of all religions, demanding instead support for an exclusivist colonial state built on the dispossession and subjugation of the Palestinian people and their land.

Anti-BDS resolution threatening freedom of expression

It must further be noted that, when the German Bundestag passed its [notorious anti-BDS resolution](#) in May 2019, over the objection of Palestine justice advocates, Jewish supporters of justice and opponents of apartheid, and defenders of freedom of expression, it claimed that it was a “non-legally-binding resolution.” Nevertheless, that very text is used multiple times within this document to justify barring a Palestinian writer from returning to Germany for four years, making clear that it is being allowed to present a real, legal threat to Palestinians, Arabs and members of communities and political movements targeted by the German state for repression and silencing.

The document reflects such hatred toward the growing BDS movement that it exceeds even typical Israeli state propaganda, claiming that “your public advocacy of the aims of BDS and support for a ‘comprehensive boycott call’ against Israeli goods and services constitutes an arbitrary measure” that allegedly violates the rights of “Israeli citizens and persons of Jewish faith in Berlin.”

Of course, this makes no mention of the many Jewish people in Berlin and elsewhere in Germany, including Israeli citizens, who have faced various levels of state persecution and repression for their support for BDS and Palestinian rights. Jewish Voices for a Just Peace had its bank account shut down, while two Israeli activists and a Palestinian activist face criminal charges for interrupting a speech by a

Knesset member in Berlin. This attempt to shamelessly instrumentalize Jews and equate Jewish people with Zionism and the state of Israel – a truly anti-Semitic framework, unlike support for the liberation of Palestine – comes hand in hand with the repression of actual Jewish people who stand for justice in Palestine.

The demand to depoliticize

The document concludes by ordering that Barakat be excluded from the country for four years. Barakat and his lawyer are appealing immediately, of course, but the conclusion contains other disturbing assertions. Not only does it attempt to justify this four-year ban solely on the basis of political activity, articles and speeches, it further declares openly that there is a “risk of the behavior being repeated,” namely: “since the year 2014 at the latest, you have repeatedly expressed your views on the Palestinian question during your stay in the Federal Republic of Germany and, in doing so, you have returned to the Palestinian population’s alleged right to resist and welcomed this in your speeches.

It is therefore to be expected that you will also do so in further statements in the Federal Republic,” as a justification for his expulsion. It argues that Barakat must show that he has changed his “internal attitude” in order to be exempt from the ban, including “admitting or at least no longer denying that his actions in the past cause a danger,” despite the fact that those actions are, in this case, giving speeches and writing articles about Palestine. In essence, there is a demand that not only Khaled Barakat, but all Palestinians, must depoliticize and silence themselves in order to be welcome or even to exist in Germany, a fundamentally racist and colonialist premise.

Stand together against repression, struggle together for liberation

There is much more to be said about this egregious order and how it fits into the overall framework of the attempt to silence Palestinian organizing and Palestine solidarity in Berlin. It must be noted that, despite these ongoing attacks, that

organizing and activism continue to thrive and grow, with hundreds and thousands taking the streets and constant events and discussions about Palestine taking place on a daily and weekly basis. While such efforts may be destined to fail, it is all of our responsibility to fight back, to defend Palestinian rights everywhere in exile and diaspora, as well as throughout all of historic Palestine. This means building the boycott movement and the BDS campaign, defending Palestinians' right to resist occupation and oppression and organizing together to confront Zionism, reaction and imperialism. We stand with Khaled Barakat! From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!



samidoun
PALESTINIAN PRISONER SOLIDARITY NETWORK

SOLIDARITY WITH KHALED BARAKAT

No to the criminalization of support for Palestine
in Germany and everywhere.

★
Nein zur Kriminalisierung der Unterstützung für
Palästina in Deutschland und anderswo.

★
Non à la criminalisation du soutien à la Palestine
en Allemagne et ailleurs.

samidoun.net

Source: samidoun.net



International Women's Day ... 43 Palestinian women in detention

written by Struggle - La Lucha
July 7, 2020



On this International Women's Day, there are 43 Palestinian females held in Israeli prisons and detention centers, including 16 mothers, 8 injured prisoners, 12 sick prisoners and 4 administrative detainees held without charge or trial. Those female prisoners also suffer from long sentences with a maximum of 16 years. All of the Palestinian female prisoners are held in Damon Prison since November 2018.

The arrest of Palestinian women and girls

Since the beginning of the occupation, over than 50 years ago in 1967, over 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested and detained by Israeli occupation forces. In the past year, and just like previous years Palestinian women and girls are routinely arrested from the streets, Israeli military checkpoints, and during violent night raids on their homes. Those military incursions are accompanied with the presence of Israeli soldiers, intelligence officers, and police dogs, during which destruction of household items and property damage takes place. They are blindfolded and handcuffed, and they are forcibly taken to a military jeep. Women also continued to suffer torture and ill-treatment in interrogation centers, in addition to difficult and deteriorating detention conditions at Damon prison which once was a stable for horses and a storage for tobacco.

Some of the arrest cases of female prisoners from last year, included but was not limited to human rights defenders, such as Khalida Jarar, and Widad Bargouthi. Ex-Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) member, Khalida Jarar was arrested on 31 October 2019. Soldiers broke into her house at around 3:00 am to arrest her. This is her third arrest in the past five years, she in fact, was just released in February 2019.

Widad Bargouthi who is a lecturer at Birzeit University was arrested on 1 September 2019, she given a list of charges which was mainly incitement through facebook. Additionally, Widad was taken to al-Mascobiyya interrogation center during her detention period, in an attempt to pressure her son, Qassam Bargouthi, who was under interrogation at that time. Widad received conditional release on 16 September 2019, which included 40.000 NIS bail, and house arrest in area C in the West Bank. Later on, the judge at Ofer military court

Targeting Female University Students

Through out the past year the Israeli Occupation Forces targeted university students including female students. Those female students were arrested from their houses after the middle of the night, they were taken to detention and interrogation centers and some of them were subjected to severe torture and other ill-treatment. This all prevents their access to education and leads to the violation to their right to an adequate education. The majority of the targeted students were also charged with university activism, this does not only criminalize their student activism but it is also a violation of their right to peaceful assembly and association.

▪ **Mais Abu Gush / 23 years old**

Mais, who is a fourth-year university student at Birziet university and studying journalism was arrested on 29 August 2019 in a raid on her house. Mais's family house was violently raided by a large numbers of Israeli occupation forces that were heavily armed and escorted by trained security dogs. Abu Gush was then transferred to al-Mascobiyya interrogation center, where she was subjected to severe physical and psychological torture and ill-treatment, for around one month. After around one month, Mais was transferred to Damon prison and was provided with list of charges, which included participating in university activities and coordinating a summer camp, she is still waiting her trail.

▪ **Samah Jaradat / 23 years old**

Samah graduated from Birziet university in summer 2019 with a sociology degree. She was arrested by the occupation forces on 7 September 2019. A special force unit raided her house after the middle of the night and arrested her. She was taken to al-Mascobiyya interrogation center where she spent around one month in interrogations before she was transferred to Damon prison. During her interrogation Samah suffered from torture and ill-treatment methods, which included stress positions, threat of the family members, solitary confinement and watching other detainees interrogated and tortured. Jaradat received a list of charges that included

university activism and is detained waiting her trial.

▪ **Shatha Hassan / 20 years old**

Shatha Hassan a student at Birziet university was arrested on 12 December 2019. Soldiers broke into her house after the middle of the night and arrested her. After three days of her arrest, Shatha was given a three-month administrative detention order that should be finishing on 11 March 2020. However, administrative detention can be indefinite, thus, Shatha's administrative detention order is subject to renewal.

▪ **Leen Awad / 22 years old**

Leen Awad who is a university student at the Palestinian Polytechnic University was arrested from her house in Bait Omar, Hebron on 25 February 2020. Israeli occupation forced raided her house after the middle of the night, they damaged its belongings and confiscated several laptops and cellphones. Leen was then taken Etzion detention center and then Hasharon prison where she was interrogated about her student activism. On 3 March 2020, the Israeli military court at Ofer gave Leen conditional release which included 20.000 NIS bail by a third party and a fine of 1500 NIS.

It is also worth mentioning that the female prisoner Bayan Azzam from al-Ezarrya was arrested on 11 March 2017 and sentenced to 40 months in prison. Bayan is a university student at al-Quds open university and is considered to be the oldest student among female prisoners.

Torture and Ill-treatment against Female Prisoners

Upon being taken to interrogation and detention centers, female Palestinian detainees are routinely denied an explanation of their rights and the reason for their arrests. Often, they are denied attorney access and held for several days under

interrogation where they are subjected to torture and ill-treatment. The methods of torture and ill-treatment used against female Palestinian prisoners cause severe physical and mental suffering. Interrogation methods include prolonged isolation from the outside world, inhumane detention conditions, excessive use of blindfolds and handcuffs, sleep deprivation, denial of food and water for extended periods, denial of access to toilets, denial of access to showers or change of clothes for days or weeks, being forced into stress positions, yelling, insults and cursing, and sexual harassment.

In the past year, the case of Mais of Gush was one of the most extreme cases of female prisoners who were subjected to torture and ill-treatment. Mais spent around one month at al-Mascobiyya interrogation center where she suffered from severe physical and psychological methods of torture.

One other case was Hiba al-Labadi, who was arrested on 20 August 2019 from the border checkpoint between Jordan and the West Bank. Hiba was transferred to Petah Tikva Interrogation center where she spent around one month under interrogations. Al-Labadi informed Addameer's lawyer in a visit the detention conditions she suffered from; this lawyer's visit came after Hiba was banned from lawyers' visits for a total of 25 days. Hiba was subjected to long interrogation sessions, sleep deprivation, humiliation, and the use of her family members in order to pressure her. After her interrogation period she was given a six-month administrative detention order without charges or trial. This made Hiba to start a hunger strike protesting her arbitrary detention. Hiba was on a hunger strike for 40 days, she suffered extremely throughout her hunger strike period. She finally stopped her hunger strike when the Israeli occupation authorities decided to release her.

Furthermore, the case of female prisoner Halima Khandaqji who was arrested on 1 January 2020. Halima informed Addameer's lawyer of her detention conditions

during her interrogation period which was at al-Mascobiyya interrogation center. Halima suffered from long interrogation sessions, stress positions, humiliation, and the threat of arresting her ten-year-old son and two daughters.

Women under Administrative Detention

There are four Palestinian female detainees who are held at Israeli prisoners under administrative detention. Those four detainees are held without any charges or a trail, they in fact, are detained based on the so called “secret file” that is not shared with them or with their lawyers. The first among them is Shuruq al-Badan from Bait Fajar, Bethlehem. She was arrested on 15 July 2019 and given a six-month administrative detention order that was renewed for another six months. Then comes Alaa’ Basir from Qalqilia who was arrested on 24 July 2019, she was issued a four-month administrative detention order that got renewed twice. Israeli occupation forces also arrested the journalist Bushra al-Taweel on 11 December 2019 and placed her under administrative detention. Finally, the university student Shatha Hassan who was issued a three-month administrative detention order.

Medical Negligence against Female Prisoners

There are eight injured female prisoners and twelve sick female prisoners who suffer medical negligence by the Israeli Prison Services (IPS). The female prisoners constantly report to Addameer’s lawyer in regards of the negligence they suffer from. They informed the lawyer of the unprofessional discriminatory treatment they receive from the doctors and nurses. For instance, some of the prisoners said that a doctor or a nurse can use one injection with more than one of the prisoners, or use an open injection with them. They also constantly report that most of the time they do not receive their medication.

For example, prisoner Israa Ja’abes still suffers from her injuries and burns obtained during her arrest. Also, prisoner Ansam Shawahneh informed Addameer’s lawyer

last month that she has been suffering extreme pain in her bones. She informed the doctor at the prison clinic several times but was only given mussel reliefs. After a while she was transferred to the hospital where they did several tests and realized that she has inflammation in her bones and that her body needs to take vitamins. However, she was not given the proper treatment until now.

Also, a number of the Palestinian female prisoners suffer from blood pressure, diabetes and a number of other sicknesses that require constant and adequate medical care.

Palestinian Females in the Context of Occupation Law

Israel is accountable for its actions in the occupied territory, particularly the ill-treatment of women during arrests and transfers. Article 12 of General Recommendation 28 by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the Core Obligations of States Parties states that:

“Although subject to international law, States primarily exercise territorial jurisdiction. The obligations of States parties apply, however, without discrimination both to citizens and non-citizens, including refugees, asylum-seekers, migrant workers and stateless persons, within their territory or effective control, even if not situated within the territory. States parties are responsible for all their actions affecting human rights, regardless of whether the affected persons are in their territory.”[\[1\]](#)

Furthermore, Article 3(1)(c) of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) forbids “outrages upon personal dignity, in particular, humiliating and degrading treatment”. This happens regularly for female prisoners, particularly during transfer and strip-searching. Furthermore, according to international humanitarian laws, the Four Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the occupying power is obligated to protect female prisoners. Israeli occupation authorities are in fact,

obligated to keep female prisoners in separate facilities than men, maintain their supervision to be only by women and provide them with their basic hygiene and health needs. In addition to this, female prisoners are, like the majority of Palestinian prisoners, held in historic Palestine territory and outside the occupied territory. This is in direct contradiction of articles 49 and 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which forbids the occupying power to deport protected persons, and specifically detainees, from the occupied territory.

Testimonies by Palestinian women and girls highlight the brutality of the arrest process as well as conditions inside Israeli interrogation, detention and prison centers, and even hospitals while in custody. The abuse, ill-treatment, and torture of Palestinian women and girls take place within the context of the ongoing occupation of over 50 years and annexation of Palestinian lands. In the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women, States Parties emphasize “that the eradication of apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and interference in the internal affairs of States is essential to the full enjoyment of the rights of men and women.”[\[2\]](#)

[\[1\]](#) UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), General Recommendation No. 28 on the Core Obligations of States Parties under Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 16 December 2010, CEDAW/C/GC/28.

[\[2\]](#) UN General Assembly, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 18 December 1979, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1249, p. 13.

Source: [Addameer](#)



Koreans in support of the Palestinian freedom struggle

written by Struggle - La Lucha
July 7, 2020



“We will crush the deal of the century and continue the revolution!”

We, Korean people and people of the Korean diaspora, unequivocally oppose the “Deal of the Century.” This so-called deal represents a continuation of U.S.-Israeli policy to further entrench the occupation of Palestine and erode the sovereignty of the Palestinian people. The deal is a unilateral decision that was birthed without any input from the Palestinian people.

We support the liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian right of return, neither of which are included in the Deal of the Century. People across the world, from Palestine to Korea, are terrorized by U.S. imperialism and its military occupation. There can never be true sovereignty under U.S. hegemony.

In addition, we demand that the South Korean government end its military relations with Israel. South Korea and Israel have engaged in arms trade and invested in defense upgrades, joint ventures and co-production since opening their respective

embassies in the early 1990s. As an example, in 2011, the Republic of Korea closed a \$43 million arms deal, and in June 2012, Elbit Systems, an Israeli defense electronics company, secured a \$62 million contract with the Republic of Korea Air Force. We condemn South Korea's past and current involvement in arms trade with Israel, which is a direct statement of support for U.S.-Israel's occupation of Palestine.

We call on our fellow Koreans worldwide to extend solidarity with Palestinians everywhere, support the Palestinian right of return and denounce settler-colonialism. Until our lands are liberated from the hands of U.S. military occupation from Palestine to Korea to Turtle Island, we remain committed to fighting the settler-colonialist occupation further perpetrated by the "Deal of the Century" and all forms of settler colonialism.

February 18, 2020

Source: Nodutdol.org



USPCN honors life and memory of Dick Reilly, adopted son of Palestine

written by Struggle - La Lucha
July 7, 2020



A pioneer in the movement for Palestine solidarity in the U.S., Richard "Dick" Reilly, passed away of complications from lung cancer on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 11,

2020, in his Chicago apartment. He was 67 years old.

Known across the U.S. and even internationally as one of the core leaders of national formations like the November 29th Coalition and the Palestine Solidarity Committee, Dick dedicated over 40 years of his life to supporting our fight for the liberation of Palestine.

The working-class son of Scott Reilly and Catherine Freeman, he gravitated as a young man to join the struggle for workers' and oppressed people's rights by organizing for a period with the Industrial Workers of the World. Soon thereafter, he was introduced to the Arab Community Center (commonly known as the Markaz, "Center" in Arabic) and began his lifelong activist passion.

It was the perfect fit. Progressive, social justice-minded Arabs and Palestinians who ran the Markaz uniting with a progressive, social justice-minded Irishman who wanted a united, liberated Ireland and saw in the Palestinian struggle his own.

Last year, USPCN organized an important event, a debka performance by Wishah, one of the top troupes in the Arab world, and there we explained why our institution is a legacy of the Markaz. The solidarity organizations Dick helped found, worked with and inspired also had the same political affinity with the Markaz, and today's Palestine solidarity movement is one of his own powerful legacies.

From his base in Chicago, Dick was the Midwest Coordinator and National Executive Committee member of the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC), a vibrant group that organized direct action protests, rallies, press work and educational presentations in communities across the country from the 1980s through the early 1990s, an intense era that saw the Israeli war on Lebanon in 1982 and what is popularly called the First Palestinian Intifada, or Uprising, which began in December 1987.

One year into the Intifada, Dick helped lead a delegation to Palestine, where he was arrested while participating in a protest commemorating the 1982 Israeli-supported massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps of Beirut. He was one of seven activists deported by the Israelis back to the U.S.

Although he was never able to visit Palestine again, his work with PSC continued unabated, and his relationship with Palestinians in Chicago and across the U.S. grew even stronger. The PSC organized side by side with the Markaz on a number of important projects, including Palestinian political prisoners' rights campaigns and concerts for Palestine that were headlined by Black liberation artist Gil Scott-Heron and progressive singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson, respectively.

There is a common misconception that intersectionality in the Palestine support movement is a new phenomenon, that today's U.S. Palestinian community and its supporters only recently began relating to other oppressed and marginalized communities. But in reality, Palestinians, the PSC and Dick had deep ties with the most important progressive movements in the 1980s, supporting community organizing in solidarity with the people of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, South Africa, Puerto Rico and others; with Black people, Native people, Asians and Chicanos in the U.S.; and with workers' rights, women's rights, environmental rights and other social justice organizations.

The PSC worked with the Markaz to help elect Harold Washington, Chicago's first Black mayor, and supported the Rainbow Coalition and Rev. Jesse Jackson's bid for U.S. president, which played a role in prompting Jackson to add support for Palestinian statehood to his platform. USPCN and other Palestinian institutions owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Markaz, other Palestinian elders across the country, and PSC leaders like Dick Reilly for today's strong relationships and alliances with many social justice and liberation movements in the U.S.

When the Second Intifada broke out in Palestine in 2000, when the Lebanese

resistance ended Israel's occupation of its land in 2006, and when Israel attacked Gaza numerous times, especially in 2008-2009, 2012, 2014 and Land Day 2018 (when the #GreatReturnMarch began), Dick was again supporting our community and leading solidarity efforts — this time organizing with, advising and mentoring a whole new generation of Palestinians.

He and his wonderful life partner, Christine Geovanis, a leading organizer and solidarity activist in her own right, provided much of the press work for USPCN's organizing at that time — through HammerHard MediaWorks, a labor of love they established with others to support institutions like ours that lacked communications capacity.

A new anti-war movement in the U.S. was established after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and of course Dick was there too, assuming leadership in the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism, and helping in 2001 to found Chicago Action Medical, an organization of medics, nurses and activists who provide health care to anti-war and other protesters across the city. He was a psychiatric social and crisis worker at Northwestern Hospital, and of course he also helped organize health care workers in Chicago.

He played a major role in supporting Palestinians in the U.S. who were again being challenged by the mainstream anti-war movement to decenter Palestine from the work. The argument, of course, like it had been ever since the 1967 occupation, was that the question of Palestine divides social justice movements in the U.S. because of “soft Zionist” participation, and occasional leadership, in them.

But we did not budge. The Zionists in the anti-war movement who claimed that it would be a tactical mistake to connect Israel with the war on Afghanistan or the impending war on Iraq were isolated, and Dick stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us when we won that battle, leading to the largest national protest specifically for Palestinian rights in the history of the U.S. — 80,000 people marching in

Washington, D.C., in response to heroic Palestinian resistance to another Israeli massacre in the Jenin refugee camp in 2002.

Dick was also an extremely close friend to Rasmea Odeh, the Palestinian-American organizer who was forced from the U.S. after being wrongfully convicted on an immigration charge in 2017. They had known each other for decades, and he worked on her communications team, strategizing with leaders of the Rasmea Defense Committee to help nullify the jury (without success, unfortunately) in her case. She was shattered to hear of his passing.

USPCN and a number of its members across the country learned a ton from Dick Reilly over the years, but he was also a great listener and learner himself. Christine and he would always ask us for their “marching orders,” because they were the truest of solidarity organizers. Dick understood fully the concept of self-determination and knew that the leadership of any national liberation movement must come from the oppressed nation itself.

He participated in the discussions and the debates with the old Markaz crew back in the day and with the Palestinian and Arab leaders of today’s movement in the U.S.,



and he offered his insight and opinions (wow, did he have opinions!), but when the decisions were made and handed down, he followed the line of march.

We loved him for this discipline and [for his steadfast commitment, always, to the Palestinian thawabet \(the “constants”\)](#) — our Right to Return, to self-determination, to resist Israeli Zionist occupation and colonization and U.S. imperialism, and to liberation in an independent state on all of historical Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital.

And so, Dick Reilly, after 40+ years of your commitment to us Palestinians, it is time for us to make a commitment of our own: we pledge to the proud Irish Republican our solidarity with you — that we won’t rest until your people are truly liberated in a united Ireland, “when they own everything from the plough to the stars,” as one of your heroes, James Connolly, once proclaimed.

And we also pledge that there will be no rest until your beloved Palestine is free “From the River to the Sea”!

Dick Reilly, ¡PRESENTE!

U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN)

February 15, 2020

Contributions in Dick Reilly’s name are being accepted by the [Middle East Children’s Alliance](#). A [GoFundMe page](#) has been established to assist with raising money to cover his medical expenses.

Source: [USPCN](#)



PFLP mourns lifelong internationalist fighter for Palestine, comrade Richard Reilly

written by Struggle - La Lucha
July 7, 2020



The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine mourns the internationalist comrade, Richard Reilly, one of the most consistent, committed defenders of the Palestinian cause.

In the name of our General Secretary, Comrade Ahmad Sa'adat, and all the comrades of the Front inside Palestine and in exile, to the Palestinian people, the international movement in solidarity with our cause, and all of the strugglers for justice in the world, the PFLP mourns the Irish American comrade and freedom fighter Richard Reilly, who passed away today in Chicago after a long struggle with illness.

He spent his life as a fighter and an advocate for the Palestinian cause and for the just causes of oppressed peoples and liberation movements inside the U.S. and around the world. On this occasion, the Front sends its deepest condolences to his companion, Christine Geovanis and all of the comrades, family and friends of this dedicated fighter for Palestine in the United States and Ireland.

We know that Palestine has lost one of the most deeply committed voices that has always stood with the Palestinian people in the most difficult of stages, a comrade who always struggled on the front lines, a fighter for oppressed communities and Black and indigenous liberation movements.

He always believed deeply in the inevitability of the victory of the Palestinian people and the liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.

During the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982, he was involved in launching widespread media, political and popular campaigns to defend Beirut within the United States. In 1988, during the first Intifada, he led a solidarity delegation that joined a march in Ramallah organized by Palestinian women's organizations on the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. After that protest, the Zionist occupation forces deported him from Palestine and prevented him from returning ever since. Palestine, however, and the Palestinian people, remained in his heart, mind and actions, as he consistently mobilized against imperialism, Zionism and racism, fighting for a liberated society always.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine pledges that we will not forget this great comrade. We will remain true to his path of struggle and continue to adhere to the principles for which he fought and dedicated his life, until victory over imperialism and Zionism.

Rest in power, comrade Richard.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
February 11, 2020

Source: [PFLP](#)

