

MUTUAL AID MONTHLY

A Production of Des Moines Mutual Aid

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Palestinian Flood has Broken Israel's Dam

Hundreds protest locally, joining millions across the world

Comrade Pat

On October 7, Palestinian guerillas infiltrated Israel and obliterated not only that state's border defense and wall, but also the ideological dam holding together its legitimacy. Israel is unable to defeat Palestinian guerillas on the ground and has responded with a militarily impotent campaign of airstrikes on civilians and visited thousands of unspeakable atrocities upon Gaza.

People in Des Moines acted in solidarity with the Palestinian people on October 10th and 24th, flooding the streets, delivering speeches denouncing Israeli atrocities, and blocking major arteries of traffic. These demonstrations united elements of the Left with the local Muslim community, whose mosques mobilized for the event and fielded fiery speakers. Our actions here were echoed with millions of other pro-Palestinian marchers across the world. These numbers reflect an ideological sea change: civilian support for the Israeli state has melted away in the last month, and what used to be a third rail in domestic politics is now an electoral liability for liberal parties.

These demonstrations have a material effect on the ability of the Palestinians to resist. That resistance fighters there can mobilize worldwide protests against Israel is an important military advantage in 21st-century warfare. Western support for Israel is not based on a traditional model of colonial extraction, but upon a geopolitical calculation that using Israel as a military and intelligence outpost in the region will further colonial interests there. Western government support for Israel can be reduced and cut off, as it was with apartheid South Africa, by breaking through media blackouts and making support for Israel politically untenable. With actions like those on the 10th and 24th, our movements here can do our part in the international liberation struggle.

Privatized Healthcare Will Only Get Worse

Empty your pockets, how much is you life worth?

Comrade Jordan

Selling healthcare or insurance is how these companies meet profitability to justify their existence to investors. The expectation of unending profit growth runs into the boundaries of reality: a medication already used widely or a hospital already serving its entire community. Executives increase profits despite these realities to the detriment of patients.

Healthcare sellers excessively cut costs putting patients and workers at risk. Medical workers are overexerted with patients and workload. Companies are exploiting workers with less training, supposedly justifying lower pay instead of providing training. Hospitals and clinics are chronically understaffed to ensure workers are always busy producing profit; however, this results in long wait times and no capacity for major emergencies. Courts have found individual medical workers solely liable for mistakes made in overworked, undertraining, and understaffed conditions, so companies have little risk to push relentlessly.

Medications are less accessible as pharmaceutical and insurance companies maximize profits. Companies have wide margin abuse patents of critical medications to price gouge astronomically. Large companies buy patents to innovations that would compete with their current sales and simply sit on them to avoid the cost. Insurance companies compound this problem by restricting access to medication with tactics such as prior authorization and step therapy.

The wealthy do not share our interest in fixing these problems. Through wealth or position they can access concierge and executive healthcare services: special attention, priority access, luxury benefits, and premium preventative care. Worst of all, some organizations buy this with money from collective premiums. The wealthy's interest is increasing their private healthcare investments.

Alternatives to private healthcare are needed to meet our needs; healthcare is a right for all.





From The River To The Sea

"Decolonization is always a violent event"

Franz Fanon - *"The Wretched of the Earth"*, 1961

Subcomandante Jade & Subcomandante Ronnie

Most western writing about the current battle in Palestine presupposes that the state of Israel is legitimate, occasionally mentioning contested settlements as disagreements among neighbors.

To begin with this assessment is to justify settler colonialism, a capitalist tactic of controlling resources by overrunning a land with foreigners, overpowering and replacing the native inhabitants. While immigration/migration entails settling among a native population, settler colonialism's goal is *to replace* them, to ethnically cleanse.

The unreported reality is that Israel is a nation of land thieves.

This war didn't begin when Hamas attacked the border of their open air prison on October 7th. It began when England illegitimately occupied the land in 1917, displacing tens of thousands of Palestinians. Granted statehood in 1948 by other colonialist nations, the Israeli state pushed another 750,000 Palestinians from their land and massacred tens of thousands in what is known as the Nakba, "the catastrophe". Since then, Israel, largely backed by USA funding (contributing \$3.3 billion, or \$9 million dollars a day, in 2022 alone), has continuously and relentlessly stolen territory from Palestinians through deadly military campaigns. October 7th was a flare in a century-old settler project.

Palestinian resistance to occupation is no different from anti-colonial resistances in Haiti, South Africa, Algeria, or Chiapas. The majority of the world, victimized by capitalism, understands this connection, but here in the settler-colony currently known as the USA, to validate anti-colonial resistance is to question the legitimacy of western domination and the USA itself.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.

This flyer is a production of Des Moines Mutual Aid, which is a local network of anarchists, communists, and socialists building community autonomy from capitalism and the state. Below are our points of unity - basically, the political and social outlook which binds us together.

o. We believe in working shoulder to shoulder and standing in solidarity with all oppressed communities. We ourselves are oppressed, and our mutual aid work is a fight for our collective liberation. We do not believe in a top-down model of charity. Instead, we contrast our efforts at horizontal mutual aid, the fostering of mutually beneficial relationships and communities, to dehumanizing and colonizing charity.

1. We believe in community autonomy. We believe that the communities we live and organize in have been largely excluded from state social services, but intensely surveilled and policed by the state repressive apparatus. Capitalism is fundamentally unable to meet people's needs. We want to build self-sustaining communities that are independent of the capitalist state, both materially and ideologically, and can resist its repression.

2. We are police and prison abolitionists. Abolition and the mutual aid that we practice are inextricably linked. We don't rely on capitalist institutions or the police to do our work. We believe in building strong and resilient communities which make police obsolete, including community systems of accountability and crisis intervention.

3. We work to raise the political consciousness of our communities. Part of political education is connecting people's lived experiences to a broader political perspective. Another component is working to ensure that people can meet their basic needs. It is difficult to organize for future liberation when someone is entrenched in day-to-day struggle.

4. We have open disagreements with each other about ideas and practices. We believe there is no formula for resolving our ideological differences other than working towards our common aims, engaging with each other in a comradely manner, and respecting one another, whether or not we can hash out disagreements in the process.

If you want to get involved, let a volunteer know. For more information, including how to donate, visit <https://iowamutualaid.org/>.