

The Iranian Diaspora Says “Free Palestine and Jin, Jîyan, Azadî!”

We are a group of people whose ancestors and families have lived in Iran for centuries and who are now living in the diaspora. We are located throughout the world: from Western Europe to West Afrika, Turtle Island (“U.S. and Canada”) and beyond. We are multigenerational Iranians whose families have been displaced from their homeland for various reasons, including ethnic, racial, religious and political persecution, poverty, and sociopolitical instability. We are Afghans, Ahwazi Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians, Azeris, Black and Afro-Iranians, Gilakis, Kurds, Mazanderanis, Persians and Persian Jews in support of Palestinian liberation.

We are supporters of the Jîna uprisings, a revolutionary movement led by Kurds, Baloch and women against the oppressive Islamic Republic of Iran. We have supported and continue to support our people in their fight against the Iranian state and in demanding “Jin, Jîyan, Azadî! [Woman, Life, Freedom!]” The movement finds its roots anywhere Kurds have fought against genocide, erasure and the patriarchy, be it in Iran or in “Turkey.” We are aligned with the revolutionary people of the Iranian plateau in demanding that all people have freedom, safety and dignity regardless of their ethnic, racial or religious backgrounds. Our people especially understand that women, queer and trans people have been targeted and persecuted in Iran for the last hundred years. We wholeheartedly support a future that is inclusive of all genders and sexualities, where gender-affirming care is accessible. We oppose the coercion of one member of a queer couple to transition so they may conform to cisheteronorms as is common practice today.

In the last 22 days, we have been watching the events unfolding in Palestine with utter shock. We know that for the last 75 years, Zionist colonization of Palestine has meant the following for Palestinians: (1) the destruction of more than 500 of their towns and villages, (2) the expulsion of over 750,000 people, (3) the systematic murder and imprisonment of tens of thousands of people, (4) brutal land theft, and (5) continuous displacements making them refugees over and over again. The aforementioned are all horrific attempts to erase and dispossess an entire indigenous group of people from their land. Today, Palestinians remain the world’s oldest unsettled refugee population yet they are continuously denied their right to return to their homeland.

Currently, the Zionist settler-colonial regime (“Israel”) has escalated this ongoing genocide by carpet bombing the Gaza Strip. We are absolutely appalled at what we are witnessing and disgusted by the relative apathy of the western powers. Since October 7th, over 8,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by Israeli airstrikes. Dozens of Palestinians have also been killed by the Israeli Occupation Forces and settlers in the Occupied West Bank. As this genocidal campaign continues, let us not forget that it was just a month ago that we watched “Azerbaijan” use Israeli weapons and technology to ethnically cleanse Artsakh of its Armenian population. Over the last decade, we know that Israeli weapons and technology have also been used by militias and militaries throughout the Afrikan continent in displacing millions of people from their homes. Places such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan that had already seen decades of manmade humanitarian crises continue to experience devastation fueled by western and Israeli weapons manufacturers. Today, we say NO MORE! We join the global call for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine by the Zionist settler-colonial regime (“Israel”). Like many of our ancestors, we unequivocally support the Palestinian liberation movement and believe that our liberation is tied to theirs.

We must also bear witness to the intertwined histories of Iran, Zionism, and Palestine. During the 20th century and in part due to Germany’s influence, Jewish communities in Iran became targets of antisemitism by both the state and non-Jews. These realities included living as crypto-Jews in Mashhad, physical violence against Jewish people while walking in Tehran, bullying and alienation of children in schools and much more. Looking back on this history, we are deeply saddened and disturbed by the violent antisemitism our peers/families inflicted and strongly condemn it. These events made many Iranian Jews grow fearful, but given their strong ties to the land of Iran, they largely remained. It was not until the hanging of Jewish leaders during the 1979 Revolution that many in Iran’s Jewish community migrated. While wealthier Jewish families settled in places like Turtle Island (“U.S. and Canada”), others, who either had their wealth seized by the Islamic Republic or were already living poor and working class lives in Iran, settled in Occupied Palestine, ultimately aiding the Zionist settler project in oppressing Palestinians and erasing them from the land.

However, there are also Iranians who we know personally who live among Palestinians in cities like Bethlehem and Jerusalem and who are vocal supporters of Palestinian liberation - the ones who show up to Nakba demonstrations and learn Arabic to communicate with their neighbors. Ultimately, we know that the only solution is

dismantling Zionist colonization, occupation, and apartheid to pave the way for a society where everyone, from the river to the sea, lives with equal rights regardless of ethnicity or religion.

Last but not least, many people whose ancestry is from the Iranian plateau, regardless of ethnicity or religion, turn to Zionist ideology as a way of opposing the Islamic Republic. We reject this line of thinking and demand of our people to be morally and ethically consistent in their politics and in condemning all forms of oppression, whether the state in question is the Islamic Republic or the Zionist regime. None of us are free until all of us are free.

As leftists and marginalized people, we aim to follow in the footsteps of those who came before us and we thus remember the organizers from the Iranian Students Association in the United States and Confederation of Iranian Students Across Europe and the U.S. who would regularly call for solidarity in defense of Palestinians (1970s), the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia who called for unity from Palestine to Armenia (1980s), the Mizrahi Black Panthers who advocated for Palestinian freedom along with their own by supporting the PLO (1970s), and the many other groups that included Iranian nationals in their call for Palestinian liberation.

Our demands echo the demands of the Palestinian Feminist Collective and feminists in Iran:

- **Stop the Genocide of the Palestinian People!**
 - Immediate ceasefire in Gaza and open a humanitarian corridor to Gaza
- **End U.S. aid to the Zionist regime (“Israel”)!**
 - End all “U.S.” aid to “Israel” and nullify all joint agreements and collaboration in arms trade and policing
- **Free Palestine!**
 - End the occupation
 - End the siege on Gaza
 - Grant Palestinians full rights and freedom including the right of all refugees to return home
- **Down with the Islamic Republic!**
 - Up with a self-determined future for all people in struggle in Iran
 - Repatriation of all Iranians transnationally who want it, including Persian Jews

Signed,

- A. Parsa
- Afsaneh
- Ak Ami
- Alborz Ghandehari
- Alicia
- Amitis
- Amy Tahani-Bidmeshki
- Arash D.
- Arax Y.
- Araz
- Aryana Goodarzi
- Asal
- Atiya
- Atusa Assadi
- Ayda
- Ayda
- Azaadeh
- Azita Mir
- Bahaur
- Banafsheh Nazari
- Behtash
- Camellia Jahanshahi
- Daliah
- Darius Delam
- Desiree Moshiri
- E. Rostamabadi
- Emily
- Farzane Jalali
- Fiona
- Gilbert Nazari
- Halleh
- Halleh
- Hannah
- Hushi
- Hamoun
- Jasmina Aliakbar
- Jasmine Sabadosa
- Kayhan
- Kimia

- Kip
- Lia
- Lili
- Lily
- Lilyan
- Linet
- Manijeh
- Manijeh Moradian
- Maria
- Maryam
- Maryam
- Maryam S.
- Maya
- Mehrnaz
- Melika
- Melika
- Mina
- Misha Murphy
- Mona
- Monette
- N. B.
- Nassi Doudman
- Natalie
- Nedda
- Nicholas Ali Mehran
- Nika
- Niki
- Niki A.
- Nikki
- Nikki
- Niko
- Nikoo Nooryani
- Nikta
- Niloofar
- Nina
- Noor
- Pardis
- Pari
- Parisa
- Parisa A.
- Parissah
- Parsa Taheri

- Parvoneh
- Pegah
- Pouneh
- Qais
- Raha
- Ranya
- Rojeen
- Ronak
- Rosa
- Rose Z.
- Roxana
- Roya
- Ruja
- Saara
- Sabine
- Sahar
- Saiyare
- Samira
- Samira D.
- Sani Jalalzadeh
- Sara M.
- Sarah
- Sean
- Setareh Ghandehari
- Shayda
- Sheens
- Sheila
- Shirine V.
- Shiva Amelirad Shafiei
- Sophie Shek
- Sumaira
- Tara Kaveh
- Tara M.
- Tal
- Tatiana
- Tina P.
- Varoojean
- Yasaman
- Yasi
- Yasmine Farhang
- Yosi
- Zach

