

The tendency has been to consider Palestine a separate—and unfortunately too often marginal—issue. This is precisely the moment to encourage everyone who believes in equality and justice to join the call for a free Palestine.

Angela Y. Davis. *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle*, 2016

...if we put identity politics ahead of the requirement to be intersectional and to connect to other struggles, we harm ourselves, our cause, as well as other causes.

Excerpt from a public talk by Omar Barghouti, delivered May 2, 2017, as told by Philip Weiss on *Mondoweiss*

Inspired J. Howard Miller's iconic "We Can Do It!" wartime poster of "Rosie the Riveter," this image was rediscovered in the '80's and used as a symbol of the feminist movement. This version has become a powerful image of feminism today as influenced by intersectionality and inclusion.



This quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. appears in support of the Standing Rock Sioux in a protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline, August 31st, 2016.

Like Jim Crow (and slavery), mass incarceration operates as a tightly networked system of laws, policies, customs, and institutions that operate collectively to ensure the subordinate status of a group defined largely by race.

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, 2010

But now something new is happening. There may be new energy and clearly anger, fear, and hopefully sustained resistance to our failed political system on multiple levels. While we are not united as yet, people more readily see the connection of these noble causes and how the causes intersect with the Palestine question.

Letter by Don Wagner, Presbyterian theologian and Palestine advocate, to fellow Palestine justice seekers, January 2017



The London Protest Exposes Israeli Government "Brand Israel" propaganda in #TLVinLDN Festival, an example of a cultural boycott, September 2017.

The hard truth is: Environmentalists can't win the emission-reduction fight on our own.... To win that kind of change, it will take powerful alliances with every arm of the progressive coalition.

Naomi Klein, influential voice on climate change and author of "This Changes Everything," "We are Hitting the Wall of Maximum Grabbing," *The Nation*. December 14, 2016

INTERSECTIONALITY THREADS OF CONNECTION

Islamophobia is one branch on the tree of racism. Islamophobia, homophobia, anti-Black racism, and antisemitism are all connected, and we cannot dismantle one without the other. Our liberation is intertwined, our stories are intertwined, our identities are intertwined.

"Our Liberation Is Intertwined," An Interview with Linda Sarsour, *On Antisemitism: Solidarity and the Struggle for Justice*, p.93, 2017



Palestinians wait to cross Qalandia checkpoint on their way to attend Ramadan Friday prayers in Jerusalem on August 3, 2012.

If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

Lilla Watson, Aboriginal activists group, Queensland, Australia

Tess Schellian/ActiveStills



Above: Protesters gathered in Copley Square in Boston, MA, January 29, 2017, to demonstrate against President Trump's immigration order.

Native Americans Take a Stand for Gaza. Tony Gonzales of the American Indian Movement (AIM): "with a common legacy of *bantustans* (homelands)—Indian reservations and encircled Palestinian territories—Native Americans understand well the situation of Palestinians."



Image via Sharat G. Lin

You who come from beyond the sea, bent on war,
don't cut down the tree of our names,
don't gallop your flaming horses across
the open plains.
You have your god and we have ours,
you have your religion and we have ours.
Don't buy your God
in books that back up your claim of
your land over our land...

The stanzas above are excerpted from Mahmoud Darwish's poem, "Speech of the Red Indian." Read the complete poem as translated by Sargon Boulous at <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/speech-of-the-red-indian/>



To stand one's ground acknowledges the right to defend one's beliefs or rights through acts of resistance and protest. Here, a protester at Standing Rock holds a sign which demonstrates the importance of their ancestral lands to the indigenous Dakota.

Cornell Daily Sun/Michael Wenye Li



Activist and scholar of black American history, [Russell] Rickford joined Black Lives Matter in Ithaca in 2015 and became a founding member of Cornell Coalition for Inclusive Democracy.

Professor Has No Regrets After Controversial Chant
...at a knee-in, Rickford led the chant “Free Palestine” just before the crowd kneeled....“All the great structures of US violence—mass incarceration, militarism, police terror, racism, etc.—converge in the occupation of Palestine....I always invoke Palestine when I speak publicly. It is part of my attempt to demonstrate solidarity, as the Palestinian people have long done in relation to the black freedom struggle.”
John Yoon, *Cornell Daily Sun*, October 5, 2017
<http://bit.ly/Rickfordnoregrets>



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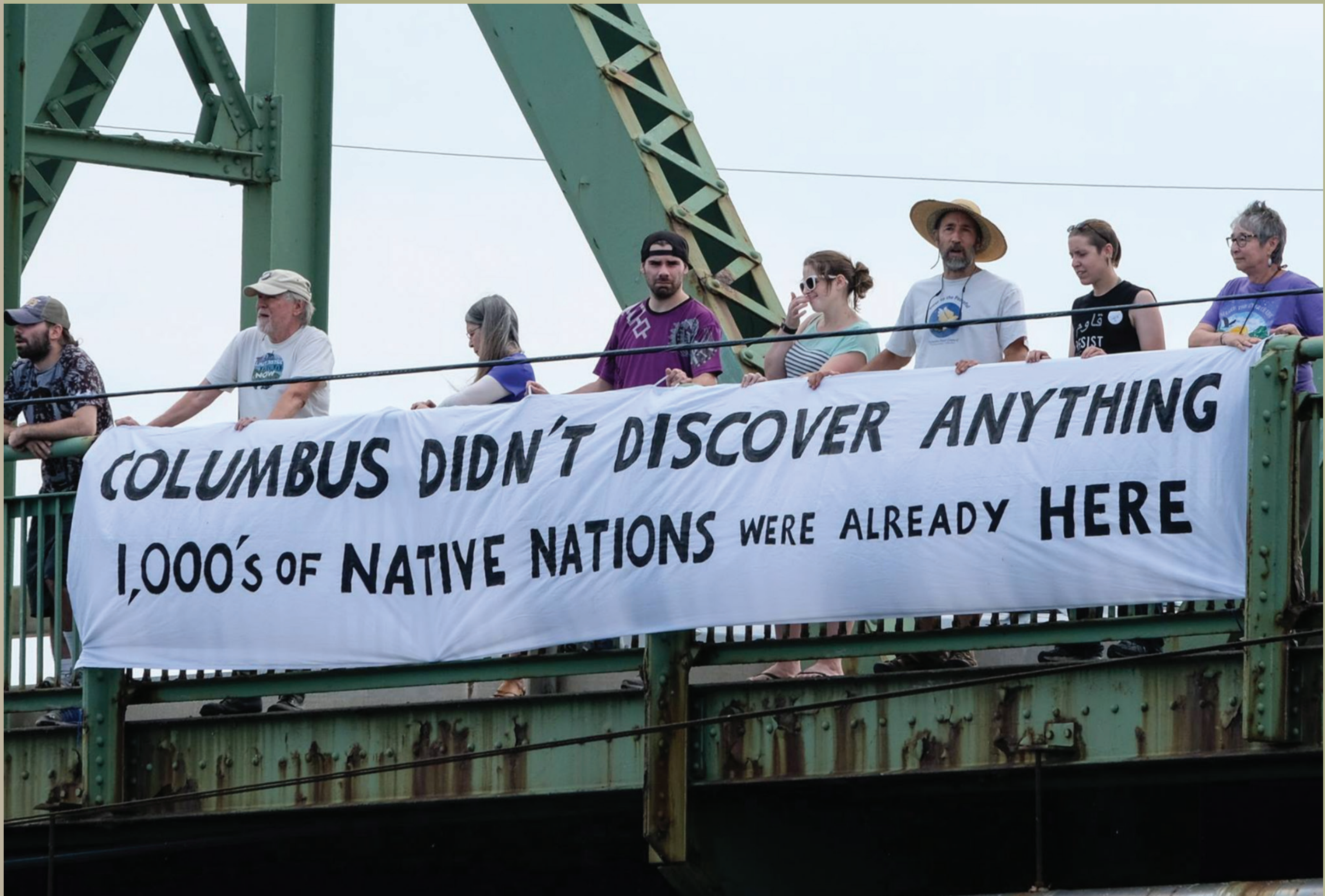
Follow

The interconnected events of the summer of 2014 have brought a collective moment of clarity. #Ferguson #Gaza #USBorder #MakeTheConnections

3:34 PM - 14 Aug 2014

Posts showing solidarity have continued to erupt over social media as others become aware of the situation in the US, and as groups around the world find commonality in their struggles.

Christopher Columbus's controversial place in history was highlighted in Brewerton, a town in upstate New York, when the group “Neighbors of the Onandaga Nation” displayed this banner from a bridge where it could be seen by replicas of Columbus's ships as they sailed into New York, July 21, 2017.



Tynes, Brian

In Standing Rock I Saw Something of Tahrir
It was unmistakably there: the clear sense of purpose; the transformative feeling of community; the fearlessness in the face of police brutality,...the indescribable joy in being a part of something...the sheer sense of possibility; the feeling that one would never be the same again.
...Something real and effective had been created through months of grassroots organizing, movement building, and leadership from indigenous people. They had used their bodies as a form of resistance....They had made a stand in defense of the environment and Native American sovereignty against corporate and government power that reverberated across the country...
Sharif Abdel Kouddous, “What Standing Rock Can Tell Tahrir,” January 2, 2017

INTERCONNECTED STRUGGLES INTERSECTIONAL POLITICS GROUNDED IN EFFECTIVE ALLIANCES



Haithem El-Zabri with creative help from PYM

Standing Rock and Palestine: The Struggle for Justice is One

Because it raises such fundamental issues of justice and history, Standing Rock has become the epicenter for a protest movement that has drawn thousands of Native Americans from across the US and won the support of indigenous peoples around the globe. The protesters who refer to themselves as “Water Protectors” have engaged in massive and peaceful acts of civil disobedience only to be met with a heavily militarized police force using rubber bullets, tear gas, and power hoses spraying demonstrators with water in below freezing weather. And so as an American, and especially as an Arab American, I am proud to stand with the Standing Rock Sioux because the struggle for justice is one and is playing out daily in North Dakota and across the occupied Palestinian lands.

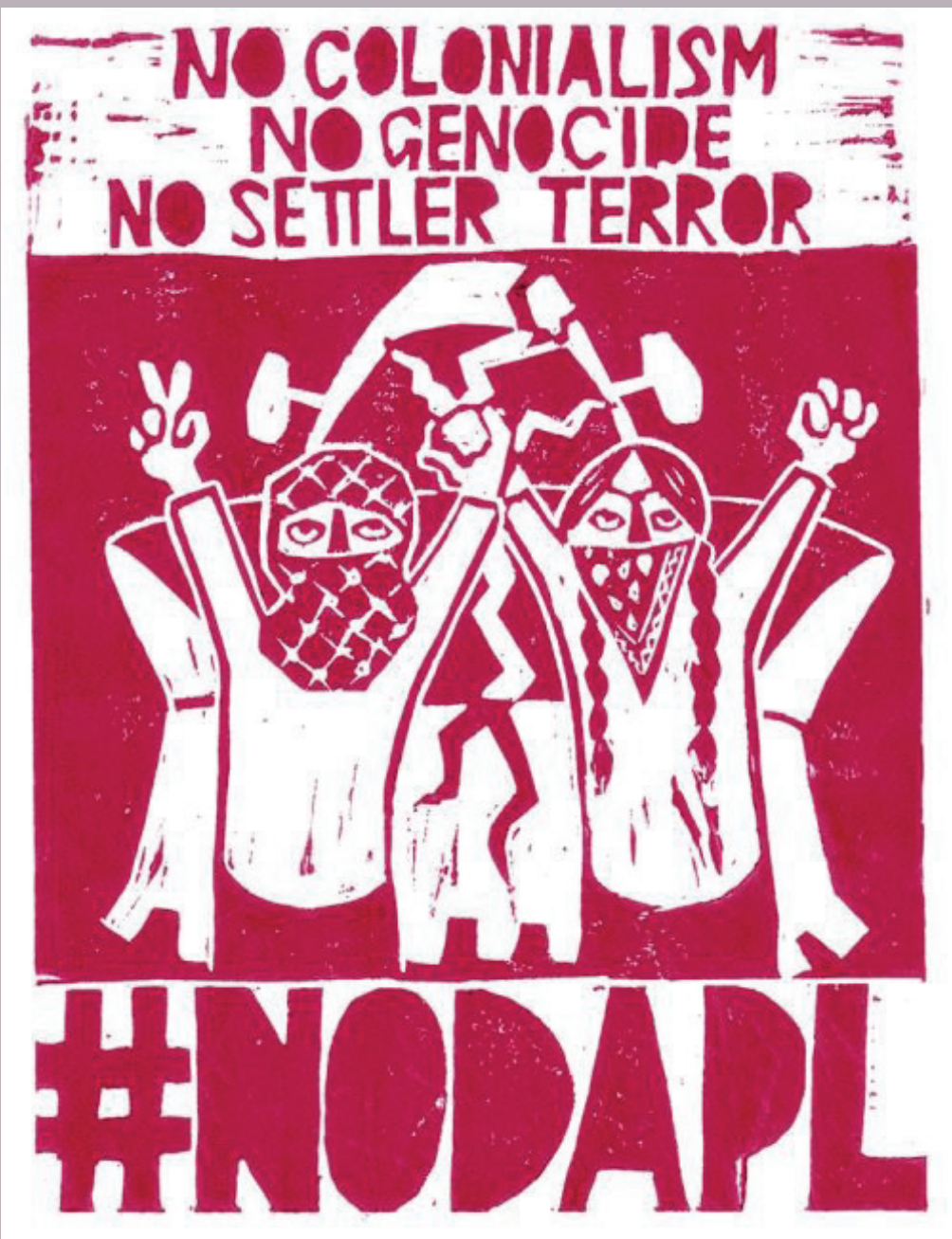
James J. Zogby, November 28, 2016, *Washington Watch*

September 7, 2017. At Standing Rock, protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline, water protectors described uncanny connections between the obstacles and oppressions facing those in Standing Rock and Palestinians under occupation and apartheid. Palestinian activists authored and circulated a statement of solidarity with the Great Sioux, “We condemn all forms of state violence against our First Nation siblings and denote that the undermining of their sovereignty and livelihood is a part of the continuing dialectic of settler-colonialism transnationally.”

Right to Education, from Pine Ridge to Palestine

In April 2016...Palestinian students came to speak at US university campuses about their experiences studying under Israeli occupation and the impact of colonialism on their education. [The Right to Education Tour] aimed to create links between student movements in the US and Palestine... and social movements (e.g., indigenous, migrant, and black struggles)....Palestinian students and organizers reached the understanding that Black-Palestinian solidarity is a praxis to be adopted in a joint liberation struggle against interconnected forms of racial supremacy, state violence, and Empire....As indigenous people living under settler-colonial states, Palestinians, American Indians, and Hawaiians experience and struggle against illegal occupation, dispossession, and erasure.

Osama Mor, Amira Sakalla and Kristian Davis Bailey, <http://mondoweiss.net/2016/03/right-to-education-from-pine-ridge-to-palestine/>



From Mexico to Palestine, All Walls Will Fall

...Just as the “Gaza to Ferguson” connection that surfaced during the riots against police murders of African Americans in various US cities, the chant linking the Mexico Wall to the Israeli Annexation and Apartheid wall is a sign that points in the right direction, one of global struggle, global solidarity, global alliances.

Nada Elia, *Mondoweiss*, January 31, 2017 <http://bit.ly/No2Ban>

November 2016. Morton County, North Dakota, police assault Standing Rock Water Protectors with tear gas and pepper spray. The Standing Rock Sioux and allies from around the world amassed to fight to protect their water rights and treaty land from the Dakota Access Pipeline.



Since white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed unarmed Black teenager Michael Brown last August, sparking an uprising for racial justice that swept the nation, there has been growing awareness about Israel's role in training US law enforcement agencies in the methods of domination and control that have sustained Israel's decades-long occupation and disenfranchisement of Palestinians, enabled by billions of dollars in military aid from the United States. The growing realization that their oppressors—the United States and Israel—are working together has ignited an outpouring of mutual solidarity between a younger generation of Black Americans and Palestinians...

Rania Khalek, independent journalist and political commentator, January 2016



"As the protests in Ferguson have escalated over the past week, the international community has increasingly turned its attention to the demonstrations stemming from the fatal shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old black man. Surprisingly, the images and videos of the police crackdown on protesters have resulted in shows of sympathy and support coming all the way from Palestinians in Gaza," wrote David M. Brooks in the *New York Times*, August 14, 2014.



This quote by W.E.B. DuBois, American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, and author, makes frequent appearances on social media platforms and protest placards.

In the global, post-9/11, permanent war economy, Israel has parlayed its permanent subjugation of the Palestinian people into a huge competitive advantage—deeply attractive to powerful elites within the “core” and far off in the periphery....More to the point, permanent occupation has necessitated the development of technologies and protocols for surveillance, policing, and population control that Israel can market around the world, generating healthy profits.

Jeff Halper, *War Against the People*, 2016

An Israeli soldier points his weapon at journalists and medics during confrontations between Palestinian protesters and occupation forces near al-Bireh and the Beit El checkpoint, December 22, 2017.



Oren Ziv/ActiveStills

MILITARIZATION, REPRESSIVE POLICING UNPRECEDENTED CONNECTIONS ACROSS MOVEMENTS AND BORDERS

On December 2, 2016, Playgrounds for Palestine (PfP) dedicated a playground to two boys, one African American and one Palestinian, who were killed, ultimately, by institutional racism. Tamir Rice was killed by police in Cleveland, Ohio, as he played in a park. Abdurrahman Obeidallah was killed by an Israeli sniper as he walked home from school. Both boys were 12 years old. Neither the American police officers nor the Israeli soldiers who killed Rice and Obeidallah were indicted for killing the boys. A monument in their memory was erected at the Lajee Center, where PfP built a new playground. The Reverend Graylan Hagler, together with a group of Black pastors, participated in the ceremony. They were in Palestine as a delegation of church leaders there to bear witness.

Playgroundsforpalestine.org



Monument in memory of Tamir Rice and Abdurrahman Obeidallah, erected by Playgrounds for Palestine inside the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. [See story at left.]



While Gaza residents sent tweets to the protesters in Ferguson with advice on how to handle tear gas, the Ferguson crowd chanted “Free Gaza.”

July 12, 2014. Supporters of Palestinian rights rally in Denver to protest Israeli attacks in Gaza.



The place where human rights forms the common ground for joint action among Palestinians, Americans, and Israelis is in the area of police practices. In 49 of 50 states...Israeli security consultants are training our city and state police....The slogan “from Ferguson (or North Dakota) to Palestine, Apartheid is a crime” rests on more than an idle juxtaposition of American and Palestinian civil rights. It rests instead on the recognition that the same forces, sometimes even the very same companies, are acting to suppress human rights in Palestine, in the United States, and against dissidents and refuseniks in Israel. Eve Spangler, “The Perfect Storm: Civil Rights in the Era of Trump, Netanyahu, and Abbas,” *Mondoweiss*, January 19, 2016

Palestinian protestors, experienced with the use of tear gas and rubber bullets by Israeli military personnel and police, have used social media to express solidarity with the protests against police brutality in Ferguson, Missouri.



Movement for Black Lives Endorses BDS

In the fight for dignity, justice, and freedom, the Movement for Black Lives is committed to the global shared struggle of oppressed people, namely the people of occupied Palestine and other indigenous communities who for decades have resisted the occupation of their land, the ethnic cleansing of their people, and the erasure of their history and experiences....We commit to global struggle, solidarity, and support of the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) movement to fight for freedom, justice, and equality for Palestinian people and to end international support of the occupation.

#FreedomNow#BlackPalestinianSolidarity



Anne Paq/ActiveStills

From Palestinians we learn the importance of struggling for self-determination—This is a right that Palestinians refuse to let go of through their *sumud*, or steadfastness—and it is a right that Black people must claim as well....The call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions also models what it might look like for Black people in the US, across our varying political ideologies, to present basic criteria...and to present basic actions people around the world can take to help us actualize our self-determination....Full justice for Palestinians makes the case stronger for our own organizing in the US; full justice for Black Americans or South Africans makes the case stronger for Palestinians. I see each of these struggles as my own, because a victory for one group is a victory for us all.

Kristian Davis Bailey, “Our Palestine statement draws on history of Black internationalism,” *Electronic Intifada*, September 2015

Left: November 25, 2017. People of African descent and supporters protest against against the slavery and human rights that refugees face in Libya, in front of the Libyan embassy in Berlin, the event took place as other demonstrations were organized internationally.



Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA) Solidarity Statement



Electronic Intifada/Rania Khalek

2014. Members of the Palestine contingent in St. Louis protest race-based police brutality. Over 9,000 American officials have trained with Israeli police and military units. Police responses to civilian protest often fail to distinguish between the police's duty to protect civilians and military responses to war.

Across the Globe: Solidarity with Palestinian Mass Hunger Strike

Palestine, in its struggle against the Israeli occupation, has long mobilized transnational solidarity among peoples who have shared experiences of living under colonial imperialism, government oppression, racial domination, and economic exploitation.... Oppression, repression, and brutality of state terror persist despite the existence of internationally recognized rights, as oppressed peoples continue to be denied basic human rights, including the right to self-determination....We salute all of the political prisoners around the world leading the movement for justice, freedom, and self-determination. Together, our global solidarity is crucial to collectively face repression and defeat racism, imperialism, and exploitation.

<http://samidoun.net/2016/08/across-the-globe-transnational-solidarity-with-palestinian-mass-hunger-strike/>

CROSS-MOVEMENT CONNECTIONS BUILDING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE

Statement of Solidarity with the Standing Rock Dakota Indians

We...hereby declare our unqualified and heartfelt solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their epic struggle to protect what remains of their ancestral lands, waters, and sacred sites.

As an indigenous people, we recognize that Native American and First Nation peoples have endured centuries of violent settler colonialism that has dismantled and robbed them of home, heritage, dignity, security, narrative, land, language, identity, family, trees, cemeteries, animals, livelihoods, and life.

We recognize the multitude of ways that Native American and First Nation struggles to protect indigenous territories have ultimately been struggles on behalf of all of humanity to save the Earth we share from toxic globalization of neoliberal and capitalist ethos that threaten our collective survival...

<http://bit.ly/PalestinetoStandingRock>

Arundhati Roy, Indian human rights and environmental activist and author of *The God of Small Things* has inspired activists around the world with her statement, “Another world is possible. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing.”



Popularresistance.org/Allan Lissner

Sumud: Freedom Camp

We are a diverse community whose sacred values compel us to join in shared nonviolent resistance to discrimination, inequality, and occupation and build a future in which the civil and human rights of all people are recognized unequivocally. We envision a world in which the overwhelming violence, psychological trauma, and spiritual burden of endless occupation is abolished, and a beloved community can emerge beyond the walls, borders, and checkpoints of today. We envision a world in which all systems of violence, domination, and oppression have been dismantled, and the inherent value of all people is respected. We believe that the struggle for Palestinian civil and human rights is part of a broader struggle for a world in which all people can thrive, and resources are not distributed on the basis of class, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and ability.

<https://sumudcamp.org>

Economic activism calls upon banks and corporations to be socially responsible by stepping away from contracts that contribute to climate, racial, and economic injustice.



From the Platform for Black Lives

In the years since September 11 and the US-driven “global war on terror,” US military spending has increased by 50 percent. This war has led to the killing of 4 million civilians in the Middle East. US arms and military corporations have made billions of dollars in profit from waging disaster and destabilization in the Middle East, while increasing western control over the land and resources of the region. In South America and the Caribbean the war on terror has combined with a long-running war on drugs intensifying forced migrations, land grabs, and political disenfranchisement....The US justifies and advances the global war on terror via its alliance with Israel and is complicit in the genocide taking place against the Palestinian people. The US requires Israel to use 75 percent of all the military aid it receives to buy US-made arms. Consequently, every year billions of dollars are funneled from US taxpayers to hundreds of arms corporations, who then wage lobbying campaigns pushing for even more foreign military aid. The results of this policy are twofold: it not only diverts much needed funding from domestic education and social programs, but it makes US citizens complicit in the abuses committed by the Israeli government. Israel is an apartheid state with over 50 laws on the books that sanction discrimination against the Palestinian people. Palestinian homes and land are routinely bulldozed to make way for illegal Israeli settlements. Israeli soldiers also regularly arrest and detain Palestinians as young as four years old without due process. Everyday, Palestinians are forced to walk through military checkpoints along the US-funded apartheid wall.

Joe Piette



December 8, 2017. Hundreds protest in Philadelphia against President Trump's order to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

December 6, 2016. National Students for a Democratic Society activists stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.