

palestinian rights

A Project of the
Social Justice Center of Albany, Inc.
33 Central Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210/ 434-4037

الْجَلِيلَةُ الْأَخْبَابِيَّةُ



McNulty Encourages Bush and Baker to deny Arafat a Visa

First year US Representative Michael McNulty wrote to President Bush on September 14, urging Bush and Secretary of State James Baker to deny Palestinian President Yasir Arafat a visa to speak at the United Nations (UN), should he seek a visa.

The letter (which is included in this Newsletter) was full of scorn for the Palestinians and the UN. It began with, "I write to voice my grave concern at the possibility that Yasir Arafat, the head of the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization,...". His letter was incredibly insulting to the Palestinian people. In his three page letter, he repeatedly referred to Palestinians as terrorists, he did not say anything positive about the Palestinians, nor did he say anything the slightest bit critical of the Israelis. He concluded his letter by stating that refusing a visa is in "the best interests of the United States, the state of Israel--our staunch and only democratic ally in the Middle East--and the peace process to which you have given so much impetus".

McNulty said it was legal for the US to deny Arafat a visa. He did not mention the 1947 headquarters agreement the US has with the UN in which the US agreed to allow invited guests of the UN permission to enter the US in order to attend UN sessions in New York City.

The Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights encourages people to contact Mr. McNulty at (518)-465-0700 and let him know that his views on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict are badly out of tune with the sentiments of the American people. He should also be told that constantly referring to Palestinians as nothing but terrorists is racist and unacceptable.

Refer to McNulty's Letter at the end



A view of Mubarak's Plan By Salah Sanjak



Mr. Mubarak's "10 point plan" is undermining the Palestinian peace initiative. Before talking about the proposed 10 points, I would like to remind people about the Palestinian peace plan.

The PLO gave the world a peace plan which was, in general, a result of years of conflict and, in particular, a result of the Intifada. Remember how this plan had so much support from the Arab World, the European Countries, the Socialist Block Countries and the Third World Countries. On the other hand, it put Israel in very bad shape. It also put the U.S. in a confusing position which led the U.S. to start dialogue (albeit at a very modest pace) with the PLO.

Now let us look at Mubarak's 10 points. The Mubarak points are a mixture of Shamir's election plan, Mr. Baker's plan and the Camp David Accord. The sum of this mix is the denial of the Palestinian people's right to their land; instead the Palestinian problem is considered as a political rights or election problem. But the true issue, as the U.S. and Mubarak know, is the Palestinian's right to their land. the question is, what are the real reasons behind the 10 points?

First, some historical reasons. The 10 years of political and economic isolation of Egypt from the rest of the Arab World after the Camp David Accord created a new policy atmosphere in Egypt in which the Egyptians were left looking for new international relations to fill the gap that the Arab nations left open. Not surprisingly, the player who benefited the most from Egypt's predicament was the one who created the gap, which was the designer of Camp David; the U.S.. The U.S. benefits from controlling the policy of Egypt. For example, when Mubarak was in the U.S. visiting President Bush and watching a baseball game, the Egyptian market was empty of flour, rice, and some other things which are usually imported from the U.S.. The change in grain exchange policy seems to have been a punishment to the Egyptians for taking a positive step toward the PLO and the Uprising. When Mr. Mubarak

went back from his visit, he brought with him a plan to bring Jordan into the picture again after Jordan declared the West Bank independent from the Jordanian government. Thus, they could delay the Palestinian peace initiative. Their plan did not succeed because of the world's support for the PLO.

Second, some political reasons which resulted from the historical events. The Egyptian government policy in the Middle East basically supports U.S. Foreign policy goals. In fact, Egypt is the second hand for the U.S. after Israel. The Egyptian role in the Middle East is to assist the American goal, which is monopoly control of Middle Eastern Affairs. Thus, it is not surprising when the Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R. was talking to the U.S. Secretary of State about the proposed International Peace Conference, Mubarak revealed to the world his alternative of the 10 points. This action might pull the carpet from underneath the Soviets and Western Europeans who are supporting the PLO plan, and allowing the U.S. to play with the future of the Middle East without any concern for what its people and, in particular, the Palestinian are struggling for now as

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Israel Asks for Trouble in Occupying Lebanon

By James Zogby*

(Los Angeles Times/Tuesday, August 8, 1989)

In all of the reporting on the kidnapping of Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid and the execution of Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, very little attention has been paid to a key element in these events: Israel's continuing occupation of Southern Lebanon.

Obeid was a Muslim preacher in a village in that region and well-known to Israeli authorities. After his abduction, the Israeli military described him as an "inciter" of violence and the mastermind behind "attacks against Israel". But almost immediately, the government radio was reporting the possibility of swapping him for three Israeli soldiers believed taken by Shiite forces in the area. The Israeli spin doctors went to work. Obeid, snatched from his home and family in the middle of the night, was now a hostage being offered for trade. His kidnapping was now an "arrest", and the three missing military men, presumably prisoners of war, were now "hostages".

One can reasonably ask whether the designers of the operation against Obeid foresaw the twists and turns that it would produce. Regardless, the Israeli image machine lost no time in keeping up with the changing headlines. At one point they sought to implicate Obeid in everything from the holding of U.S. hostages in Lebanon (which, it should be noted, was not one of their initial charges) to the planning of the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing. At week's end, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was taking credit for refocusing U.S. attention on our hostages in Lebanon, whom he said, Washington had forgotten "but we have never forgotten".

Spin aside, Obeid's kidnapping was not intended to serve U.S. interests or to secure the freedom of U.S. hostages. In fact, only a month earlier a high Hezbollah leader indicated the possibility of movement toward their release. Obeid was taken simply to secure Israel's control over Southern Lebanon.

Israeli Defence Forces first invaded and seized Lebanese territory, up to a depth of more than 10 miles, in 1978. They have continued to control this area, under military administration, ever since. In addition to

their direct presence, the Israelis also sponsor, fund, train and arm a surrogate force called the South Lebanon Army (which is a militia, not a government army) at a cost of some \$30 million a year.

The Media and Public Opinion

Israel's suppression of the media was targeted by many cartoonists. Contradicting its proclaimed freedom of the press, Israel censored the media and charged that the press were "outside agitators" inciting the Uprising. Undeterred by the media blackout, the public continued to question Israeli motives.



Israeli (sic) withdrew to the 10 miles north of the border in 1985 after its ill-fated march on Beirut, giving the world the impression that the occupation was temporary. Since then, however, steps have been taken to establish a de facto annexation of this area: Water resources have been diverted and are now administered under Israeli control; Electricity and telephone lines have been severed from the Lebanese network and are now hooked up directly with Israel's. The economy has been brought under Israeli control and Israeli currency is used. Daily, thousands of Lebanese cross into Israel to work, and because the

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Economic Strangulation, Oppression & Mobilization

By Amy Trabka

Although our media coverage of the Palestinian Uprising has diminished, within Occupied Palestine, daily resistance and the accompanying casualties are a continuing reality. During the month of June, I had the opportunity to visit the West Bank and experience some of the resistance and repression first hand.

Economic warfare is still in full swing with the unanimous participation of Palestinian businesses in daily half-day strikes intended to reduce consumer dependency on Israeli products. In addition, local processing of agricultural produce has increased to the point where most towns and villages now have small scale cooperatives to produce yogurt and several dairies are marketing bottled milk. Previously, consumers had no choice but to purchase Israeli versions of these products. Farmers are no longer able to obtain permits to export fruits and vegetables to Jordan. In an attempt to take advantage of the low prices of these "locked in" commodities, women's committees have established small cooperatives to produce fruits and vegetables for home consumption and local distribution. Their small scale precludes licensing requirements and subsequent repression.

However because of reduced sales from shorter hours of operation and a scarcity of cash among the economically strained population, businesses have been devastated by the exorbitant taxes being levied by the Israeli civil administration to finance the huge cost of occupation. Although many businesses have refused or delayed paying taxes as a form of resistance, eventually the administration finds ways of collection, such as setting up check points until payment is made. At that time the merchant may have to come up

with, not only the tax, but also an additional 500% penalty as well as two year's taxes in advance. Frequently this additional burden is enough to put a small merchant out of business. Additional sources of funding the occupation are exorbitant automobile registration fees (\$1500), license plate costs (\$700) and high insurance premiums for policies available now only through the state.

Economic strangulation is a primary method of trying to break the Palestinian's steadfastness. Part of this plan is the construction of a new system of highways enabling Israelis to travel directly from settlements to cities. The bypassed Arab villages are virtually being turned into ghettos outside of Jewish "development towns". The roads which service Arab villages are narrow and in disrepair, sharply contrasting the new road system connecting the settlements. The new roads decrease but do not eliminate confrontation between Uzi-armed settlers and Palestinians. On one occasion my Palestinian companions were forced at machine gun point, by a single Israeli settler, to clear stones from a road servicing both village and settlement. Unsatisfied with their efforts, the settler smashed the roof of our car with a rock and stoned our back window as we drove away.

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Palestinian women play a significant role in the intifada.

Side by side with economic resistance, the war of the stones continues. In the town of Ramallah, about 20 Kilometers from the village where I was staying, demonstrations occurred daily with the army responding to road blocks, burning tires and stones with gunfire; first planks, then tear gas and live ammunition. Frequently, the demonstrations and army response shut down large sections of the town even before the regular 12 noon shop closings. The demonstrators are respected by the population, who follow their directions for road blocks and rerouting traffic. Still commerce attempts to continue; street-side vendors sharing the sidewalk with masked demonstrators. Residents who do not actively participate in the demonstrations act as advocates for those arrested risking tear gas to argue (usually unsuccessfully) for their release.

Pre-dawn raids on villages and neighborhoods continue in an attempt to find persons suspected of resistance activity. These are accompanied by vandalism (smashing glass in rooftop solar heaters) and theft. Women in the village where I stayed complained of being locked into one room of their house while the soldiers searched the other rooms, confiscating life savings (most villagers do not have bank accounts, savings are stored at home). Gold jewelry, was also missing after army searches. Since these raids have occurred continuously, those who are wanted by the army have been sleeping in the hills outside of the village for the last two years in order to avoid arrest. Family members have been severely beaten by frustrated soldiers trying to force information of their whereabouts. Those who are detained are made to ride on the floor of buses to the army compound where they are kicked and hit by the arresting soldiers. Some of those who are arrested, even if they are not charged with any

offence, are being issued green "activist" ID's which will limit their movements to the territories as well as subject them to continual arrest at check points.

Another new technique was arbitrary selection of young men who are forced to stand next to anti-occupation graffiti with spray paint cans while they are photographed by soldiers. These photographs are then used as "evidence" of guilt, with prison sentences ensuing. Much of the anger in the village is directed against Palestinians who collaborate with the occupation forces as the presence of the collaborators incurs much stronger military repression. Those arrested may be pressured to collaborate. Use of force under interrogation continues; some come back from questioning unable to stand. On June 2nd, the twentieth anniversary of the death of Mohammed Khawaja was commemorated, the first Palestinian to die from torture under interrogation during Israeli occupation. The fact that this anniversary was celebrated all over the West Bank, with photographs and banners marking roadways and areas of commerce was an indication of a new level of coordination of different political entities of the underground leadership. Also commemorated during my stay was the death on June 4th of Omar Qassem, a Palestinian resistance leader who died in prison after serving 21 years of a life sentence. About 8000 Palestinians participated in his funeral in Jerusalem, while symbolic funerals were held in other towns.

With the realization that actual independence will take a long time to achieve, the Palestinian people are gradually but steadily working toward the creation of an independent economic and political infrastructure on which to build their new state. Originally initiated by the young activists in coordination with the Unified National Leadership, older, more established members of the

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region is now cut off from other markets, Israeli agricultural and industrial products have a monopoly.

Currently visiting Washington, the governor of the district, Halim Fayyad, characterizes the situation as part of Israel's "imperial designs" on Lebanon. "They seek to expand borders and gain rich water resources", says Fayyad, and do so "in the name of their national security".

The U.S. has refused to press Israel to withdraw from Southern Lebanon and to enforce U.N. Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal and for the securing of the region under U.N. forces. This has left the Lebanese who want to regain sovereignty over the territory no recourse but to wage a war of national resistance.

While the Israeli propaganda machinery describes the resistance forces as terrorists, it requires a remarkable contortion of logic to define attacks against an occupation army as anything other than legitimate resistance.

In fact, it would seem more appropriate to describe the forced expulsion of thousands of Lebanese from their land, the use of collective punishment against entire villages, and the prolonged detention of male leaders without charges or due process as a form of terrorism. After all, the accepted definition of terrorism is the use of force against non-combatants in order to create fear and intimidation for the achievement of political objectives.

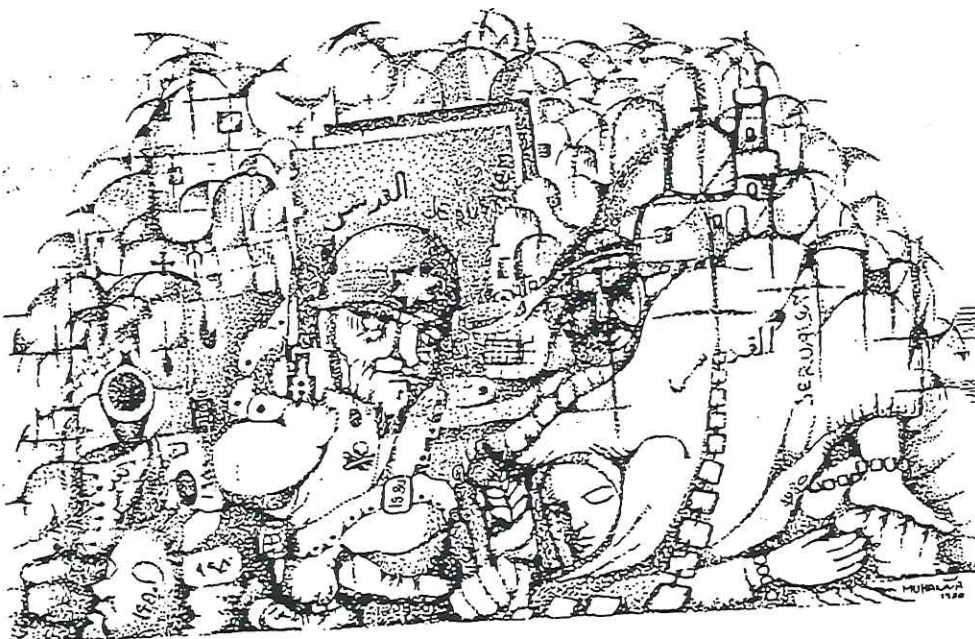
But as repressive as Israeli practices have been, they have not subdued the Lebanese resistance. It is in this context that Sheikh



Obeid's role can be seen and understood.

Given the resolve of the Lebanese not to submit to Israeli occupation the crisis will continue to expand and may threaten further harm to the U.S. if we do not firmly distance ourselves from Israel's Lebanese adventures. Just as no civilized person can condone the holding or killing of innocent hostages, neither can a civilized nation such as ours condone Israel's holding Southern Lebanon hostage and the kidnapping and killing of its people.

*James Zogby is president of Save Lebanon, a relief organization, and executive director of the Arab American Institute.



Noted Pakistani Scholar
Egbal Ahmad Lectures
About Palestinians at RPI

On Sept. 28, Egbal Ahmad lectured for about two hours about the Palestinian-Israel conflict at RPI. About 70 people attended.

Dr. Egbal said that he is struck by how little interest there is in the US in hearing both sides of this issue. He described the Israeli policy towards the Palestinians as genocide. He said genocide is done either through murder or the taking away from the victims, their land, water, leaders, and culture. Dr. Egbal said, Israel now controls 85% of the water, 60% of the farmable land in the occupied territories, and the Israeli prisons are filled with Palestinian leaders and Israel is attempting to destroy every Palestinian Institution.

Dr. Egbal described the Intifada as an "extraordinary event", unprecedented in history. He said the "Israeli goal is to eliminate the Palestinians". Expulsion has now become "transfer", the same word the Nazis used during the first years of their regime. He also said the "Palestinians are an abandoned people". They can only go to the American people, because the US government is a party to the conflict, or to Israel. He said "The Palestinian is the shadow of the Jew... and he will not leave until his is embraced". And added the "Palestinians are not merely terrorists who want to destroy Israel, or freedom fighters, or fighting for their self-determination; they are fighting for their survival".

Dr. Egbal said that Zionism has nothing to do with the liberation of the Jewish people, but it is a movement for a Jewish state and is unconcerned about the Jewish people. He also said it is incorrect to say that the Arab governments strongly support Palestinian rights, but they

collaborate with Israel either directly or indirectly. He said American Universities are largely failing, the Social Sciences departments are occupied by functionaries, and that Noam Chomsky is the most brilliant mind produced in the US in this century and he can barely get published. Of newly-elected US Representative Michael McNulty, he said, "McNulty is either ignorant, and I do not think so, or he is not responding to the wishes of the American people."

Finally, he said, those of us who support Palestinian rights should write lots of letters, talk to the politicians, demand equal time from the news media, and encourage others to get involved.

Times Union runs Racism Series,
Omits any Discussion of Anti-Arabism

For seven days, beginning on October 22, the Albany Times Union News Paper ran a series of articles on racism in the Capital District. There was plenty of discussion of racism against blacks and Jews, but nothing about racism against Palestinians and other Arabs.

Michael Winograd, the Regional Director of the ADL was quoted twice during the series. In the article on 10/27, he made comments that surely applied to himself and the ADL. He said, "What people say and what they do are two different things. There are a lot of closet bigots. There is a whole range of bigotry from very polite background bigotry to actual violence. A lot of people who claim not to be bigoted have bigoted attitudes".

This the same Mr. Winograd who two years ago had a letter printed in the Schenectady Gazette describing the

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PLO as a terrorist organization. One time when I asked him what is the difference between a Palestinian killing a Jew in cold blood and a Jew killing a Palestinian in cold blood, he said the former is "terrorism", the latter "terrible". This the same Mr. Winograd who has refused to acknowledge that it is repugnant for the ADL to run both an anti-prejudice campaign (A World of Difference) and a prejudice campaign (the ADL's decades long proactive of publishing books and articles about what it calls Palestinian and Arab terrorism and Arab anti-Semitism) simultaneously.

On August 23, on a live TV show on WTEN, CPR member David Aube challenged Mr. Winograd about the ADL's two-faced approach to prejudice and he replied that he and Mr. Aube have had differences on this issue. He refused to discuss the substance of the CPR charge. Thousands of the Capital District residents saw this cowardly response.

I called the Times Union reporter Tim Beidel and told him about the ADL and its prejudice record, but the Times Union refused to include anything about it in its series of articles.

It is a shame that while there is a tremendous amount of discussion of prejudice against Jewish people, there is virtually no discussion of prejudice by Jewish people. On many occasions, I have stood in demonstrations in support of Palestinian rights and been verbally attacked by Jewish people who called me a Nazi, a racist, a Jew-hater, an anti-Semite, ect. Rather than fighting against prejudice wherever it occurs, the ADL has in recent deads become the major promoter of the surprisingly large amount of Jewish prejudice against Palestinians and other Arabs.

CPR Members meet with Bishop Hubbard

On October 24th, three members of the Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights met with Howard Hubbard, Bishop of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese. Shelia Oweida, Faisal Zahrey, and Tom Ellis discussed a variety of issues during the 70 minute meeting.

The meeting had been requested by CPR members to discuss the Bishop's accepting an award last June from the virulently Anti-Arab Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL). Bishop Hubbard said he would not apologize for accepting the award, but said the packet of information provided to him by the CPR documenting the ADL's long bitterly hostile negative stereotyping campaign of Arabs and its intimidation of people, including religious leaders, who speak out in support of Palestinian rights, was a "strong indictment" of the ADL.

The Bishop stated there is a major distinction between the political Israel-Palestinian conflict and the interreligious activities between Christians and Jews. In response to that, we said that this is correct but there are many Jewish people who do not make distinction and that it was painful for us to see the Bishop socializing with Jewish leaders who refer to us as anti-Semitic for criticizing Israel. Father Hubbard said he has told Jewish audiences that it was inappropriate for them to label critics of Israel as anti-Semites. He also added that at times when he speaks in synagogues, he has spoken out in support of Palestinian rights.



CPR members asked him if he would hold a memorial service for the victims of the Intifada and he said that he would consider it, but not until after a November conference of US bishops in Baltimore. The Bishop will be finalizing a policy statement on "Toward Peace in the Middle East: Problems and Principles". He said,

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they have been for tens of years.

Our call is for Egypt to back away from the 10 point plan and return to join the Arab League in supporting the Palestinian peace initiative, and for the U.S. to move forward toward a real peace in the Middle East.

 Palestinian Theatre Company
By Laurie Kirby* 

El-Hakawati, a Palestinian theatre company from East Jerusalem, performed their play "The Story of Kufur Shamma" in Kingston New York, on August 27.

The group gained some notoriety in this country when Joseph Papp of New York's Public Theatre abruptly canceled his invitation to them to perform as part of their North American tour. The outcry caused by Papp's decision forced him to reconsider and invite them to appear next year, along-side a Jewish play for "balance".

Papp claimed the play might "offend" Jews, but this moving and atmospheric production could only offend those who find offensive the fact that Palestinians are human beings, capable of love, humor, anger and the sufferings of exile. The story concerns one man's search for the people of this village, Kufur Shamma, who were dispersed when the village was erased from

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the map (and from the earth) in 1948. We follow the adventures of the little band of fellow exiles he gathers around him in a series of scenes in which the company of six actors and actresses use modest means to evoke a variety of people and situations. El-Hakawati means The Storytellers, and this element of Arabic culture is fused with modern theatrical techniques. The tragedy and alienation of life in a refugee camp are movingly presented. And there is a powerful scene when the far-flung exiles finally meet in Massachusetts after 40 years, only to realize the unbridgeable gap that has grown between them. (It is interesting to reflect on the similar experiences shared by the diaspora's of other nations).

El-Hakawati will be back in the U.S. next year. Try to catch them then.

*Laurie Kirby and other concerned people are working to educate people about Palestinian Rights in the Woodstock/Saugerties area. If you live in

that area and would like to help call (914)- 679-5822.



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about the memorial service, that "I need to know what the service was, what the context was". He said that he did not remember the 1982 request of CPR member Alice Azzam for the Bishop to hold a memorial service for the victims of the Sabra-Shatila massacres.

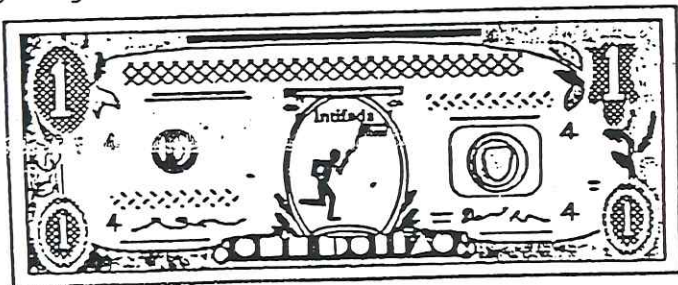
When we asked him to make a strong public statement in support of Palestinian rights, he said, "I am very concerned and very upset about the ill-treatment of Palestinians and I will express it in my own way". He also said the Israeli treatment of Palestinians is "deplorable".

While no future meetings were scheduled, it is clear that the local Palestinian community has begun a dialogue with the Bishop and hopefully he will be more sensitive to our concerns.

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community have become increasingly involved in the creation of cooperative industries, popular schooling and community resistance against the occupation. Palestinian intellectuals are participating in the establishment of research centers to coordinate the cooperative movement, writing grants to obtain funds from European countries to aid in the development of individual and collective industry, and attempting to record popular history. Despite the crack down on neighborhood organizing, the women's committees continue to be active. Functioning in small groups as their increasing membership prohibits large meetings, they continue to demonstrate against harsh prison conditions, provide social visits to the injured and imprisoned and participate in popular teaching and medical relief. Their primary emphasis has been on the cooperative movement and the processing of food stuffs for local consumption. The creation of a higher women's council now facilitates coordination between the four original women's committees as well as new committees (representing alternative political viewpoints) which have recently formed.

As the extent and duration of my visit was limited to three weeks in the Ramallah district this hardly purports to be a comprehensive study of the Intifada, but rather the much abbreviated testimony of one individual. To even begin a more intimate portrayal would take many pages more. Although the uprising may have disappeared from our television screens and newspapers, it is still very much present in the spirit of all those that I encountered. Palestinians continue to search for creative forms of resistance to the occupation, to heal their wounded and to mourn their dead. No one spoke of going back.



The Student Committee for Palestinian Rights

Formed several years ago by SUNYA students concerned with the lack of understanding on campus of the Palestinian quest for self-determination, the Student Committee for Palestinian Rights has remained an outspoken voice. Over the past several years, while working in conjunction with the Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights, we have sponsored and co-sponsored speakers and presentations. With an excellent budget allotted to us by the Student Association last year, we look forward to many more activities. For instance, during the Spring semester, we will be holding a Palestinian Pride Week, which will include speakers, films, and other cultural events. Already this year we have co-sponsored with the Capital District Committee and the RPI Peace Club, Egbal Ahmad.

Although the group slackened off towards the end of last year due to members involvement in the budget cut fight at SUNYA, several new students and the previously active members will bring the group past its previous activity level.

In addition to the Palestinian Pride Week and more speakers, we will be continuing to have literature tables on campus to provide students with information on the Palestinians quest for justice and peace.

The co-chairs this year are Rana Halaby (455-6970) and George Rosamond (455-6996). We warmly welcome and encourage new members to attend. Meetings are held on Monday evenings at 07:15 Rm BA 215 at SUNYA. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. Feel free to call either chair for information. We look forward to working with a broad range of students and community organization on Palestinian Rights and Justice for all people this year. Victory to the Intifada!

George Rosamond

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
FRESHMAN MAJORITY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 1989

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I write to voice my grave concern at the possibility that Yasir Arafat, the head of the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization, may--upon his request--be granted a visa to visit the United States for the purpose of addressing the United Nations.

There is no question in my mind, Mr. President, that granting a visa to Mr. Arafat will undermine all you have done to promote the peace process in the Middle East over the last nine months.

Mr. Arafat heads an organization that still supports and engages in terrorist activities, including numerous assassinations.

PLO terrorism is being used not only against Israel but also against Palestinians, who disagree with the PLO, including those who favor negotiations with Israel and those who do not agree that the PLO represents all Palestinians resident in Israel, in Jordan, on the West Bank, or in Gaza. That terrorism has taken hundreds of American and Israeli lives, and not once has Yasir Arafat renounced such terrorist acts.

On the contrary, on January 1, 1989, our Embassy in Riyadh recorded a message from Mr. Arafat in which he states: "Whoever thinks of stopping the intifada before it achieves its goals, I will give him 10 bullets."

Despite his public declarations last December, numerous statements by Mr. Arafat and other senior PLO officials make clear the PLO's continuing commitment not only to the Cairo Declaration of November 1985, which called for terrorist operations against Israel, but also the elimination of Israel.

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As recently as last month, the 1200 delegates attending the 5th General Congress of the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council in Tunis--Mr. Arafat's own constituent within the Palestine Liberation Organization--adopted a commitment for "Continuing to intensify and escalate armed action and all forms of struggle to liquidate the Israeli-Zionist occupation of our occupied Palestinian land and guaranteeing our people's right to freedom, and independence."

On what basis, then, Mr. President, can we justify granting a visa to Mr. Arafat? Do we permit him into the United States to address the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 25? Of course not. The opening session of the United Nations is addressed and/or attended only by heads of state. To permit him to come to this session would constitute implicit recognition for the non-state for which he seeks United States recognition.

Do we, on the other hand give him a visa to participate in the United Nations general debate on the Israel-Palestinian issue, scheduled for November of this year? Of course not for the following reasons:

- * Mr. Arafat and his PLO have been actively seeking support for an international conference on the Middle East, and has mobilized considerable support for his position within the United Nations. His appearance before that body will put the international conference on the UN agenda. The United States and Israel are opposed to such a conference for good and valid reasons.
- * By coming before the United Nations, Mr. Arafat will be perceived not as one who is against peace in the Middle East, but as one who embraces the idea of an international conference. With the kind of support he has in the United Nations, this would place the United States in an extremely difficult and disadvantageous position.
- * If the United States accedes to the will of the United Nations, the peace process is ended.
- * If the United States opposes the international conference within the United Nations setting, the pressures upon us will be so great that the peace process will be ended.

What can take place under the circumstances outlined above can have a reverse policy effect for the United States.

In addition, as you well know, Mr. President, there is a legal basis for barring Mr. Arafat's entry into the United States under Public Law 80-357.

As our Ambassador on October 6, 1972, you yourself explained to United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim a decision to bar Dia-Allah El-Pattal, the head of the International Organizations Department of the Syrian Foreign Ministry, from joining his country's delegation in the General Assembly. This exclusion resulted from his recruiting individuals for terrorist operations of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

It was under this section of Public Law 357 that former Secretary of State George P. Schultz barred Mr. Arafat's entry into the United States, citing the Chairman's "associations with terrorism." And, as you know, Mr. President, there have been a number of other less publicized cases.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to deny Yasir Arafat a United States visa that would enable him to participate in the proceedings of the United Nations. I sincerely believe this to be in the best interests of the United States, the State of Israel--our staunch and only democratic ally in the Middle East--and the peace process to which you have given so much impetus.

Respectfully yours,



Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress

MRM:cms

cc: The Secretary of State



capital district committee for palestinian rights

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A Project of the
Social Justice Center of Albany, Inc.
33 Central Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210/ 434-4037

NEWSLETTER

January/February 1989

A YEAR OF INTIFADA

The Palestinian/Israeli conflict has changed dramatically since the beginning of the Intifada on December 8, 1987. Of primary importance, the Declaration of Independence of November 15th brought the long sought Palestinian State into existence. More than 70 countries have recognized the new state. The PLO's observer mission at the UN is now referred to as "Palestine".

The Intifada has conferred a powerful international legitimacy for the Palestinian cause. In addition, the image of Israel as a moral and democratic state has suffered profound setbacks. More Americans, including supporters of Israel, have been speaking out. There has also been a weakening of AIPAC.

The Palestinians have clearly seized the political initiative. After being denied an opportunity by the U.S. to speak at the UN in NYC, the General Assembly convened in Geneva and Chairman Arafat was heard. The visa denial and Arafat's UN speech clearly showed U.S. isolation. In December the U.S. announced it will open a "diplomatic dialogue" with the PLO.

The Palestinians in the Occupied Territories have created a tremendous network of self help popular committees. Individuals from various PLO parties in the Occupied Territories, (Fateh, Popular Front, Democratic Front, the Communist Party, and in Gaza, Islamic Jihad) have formed the clandestine Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

The reaction from Israel is ominous. There has been a shift to the right in the recent Israeli coalition government and Labor and Likud is united in their rejectionism of PLO peace initiatives. The talk of transfer (forced mass expulsion) has been legitimized in mainstream discourse. Murderous attacks on Palestinian workers staying overnight in Israel have occurred, and Israeli Death squads are operating in the Occupied Territories.

The significant achievements of the Palestinian people in 1988 is due to the courage and creativity of the Intifada. The costs have been high; hundreds of Palestinians have been killed, over 20,000 Palestinians have suffered injuries warranting hospitalization, 47 individuals have been expelled, 400 houses have been demolished and sealed, over 100,000 fruit and olive trees uprooted, medical supplies interrupted and the arrested have been held in mass detention centers.

In the Capital District supporters of Palestinian rights must not let this historic moment pass. We must stand in full solidarity with the Palestinians under occupation and increase our efforts toward their quest for freedom, dignity, and self-determination. All of us must unlock previously untapped resources and increase our strength in unified actions.

1. L. J. J. J. J.

The Palestinian Declaration of Independence, 15 November 1988

Palestine, the land of the three monotheistic faiths, is where the Palestinian Arab people was born, on which it grew, developed and excelled. The Palestinian people was never separated from or diminished in its integral bonds with Palestine. Thus the Palestinian Arab people ensured for itself an everlasting union between itself, its land and its history...

It was the Palestinian people, already wounded in its body, that was submitted to yet another type of occupation over which floated the falsehood that "Palestine was a land without people". This notion was foisted upon some in the world, whereas in article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations (1919) and in the Treaty of Lausanne (1923), the world had recognised that all Arab territories, including Palestine, of the formerly Ottoman provinces, were to have granted to them their freedom as provisionally independent nations.

Despite the historical injustice inflicted on the Palestinian Arab people resulting in their dispersion and depriving them of their right to self-determination, following upon UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947), which partitioned Palestine into two states, one Arab, one Jewish, yet it is this resolution that still provides those conditions of international legitimacy that ensure the right of the Palestinian people to sovereignty and national independence.

By stages, the occupation of Palestine and parts of other Arab territories by Israeli forces, the willed dispossession and expulsion from their ancestral homes of the majority of Palestine's civilian inhabitants, was achieved by organised terror; those Palestinians who remained, as a vestige subjugated in their homeland, were persecuted and forced to endure the destruction of their national life.

Thus were principles of international legitimacy violated. Thus were the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions disfigured, for they had recognised the Palestinian people's national rights, including the right of return, the right to independence, the right to sovereignty over territory and a homeland...

The massive national uprising, the "*intifada*", now intensifying in cumulative scope and power in occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the unflinching resistance of the refugee camps outside the homeland, have elevated

consciousness of the Palestinian truth and right into still higher realms of comprehension and actuality. Now, at last, the curtain has been dropped around a whole epoch of prevarication and negation. The *intifada* has set siege to the mind of official Israel, which has for too long relied exclusively upon myth and terror to deny Palestinian existence altogether. Because of the *intifada* and its revolutionary irreversible impulse, the history of Palestine has therefore arrived at a decisive juncture.

Whereas the Palestinian people reaffirms most definitively its unalienable rights in the land of its patrimony:

- now by virtue of natural rights, and the sacrifices of successive generations who gave themselves in defence of the freedom and independence of their homeland;

- in pursuance of resolutions adopted by Arab summit conferences and relying on the authority bestowed by international legitimacy as embodied in the resolutions of the United Nations Organisation since 1947;

- and in exercise by the Palestinian Arab people of its rights to self-determination, political independence, and sovereignty over its territory.

- the Palestine National Council, in the name of God, and in the name of the Palestinian people, hereby proclaims the establishment of the State of Palestine on our Palestinian territory with its capital Jerusalem.

The state of Palestine is the state of the Palestinians wherever they may be. The state is for them to enjoy in it their collective national and cultural identity, theirs to pursue in it a complete equality of rights. In it will be safeguarded their political and religious convictions and their human dignity by means of a parliamentary democratic system of governance, itself based on freedom of expression and the freedom to form parties. The right of minorities will duly be respected by the majority, as minorities must abide by decisions of the majority. Governance will be based on principles of social justice, equality and non-discrimination in public rights, men or women, on grounds of race, religion, colour or sex, under the aegis of a constitution which ensures the rule of law and an independent judiciary. Thus shall these principles allow no departure from Palestine's ancient spiritual and cultural heritage of tolerance and religious co-existence.

The state of Palestine is an Arab state, an integral and indivisible part of the Arab nation, at one with that nation in heritage and civilisation, with it also in its aspiration for liberation, progress, democracy and unity. The state of Palestine affirms its obligation to abide by the charter of the League of Arab States, whereby the coordination of the Arab states with each other shall be strengthened. It calls upon Arab compatriots to consolidate and enhance the emergence in reality of our state, to mobilise its potential and to intensify efforts whose goal is to end Israeli occupation.

The state of Palestine proclaims its commitment to the principles of the UN, and to the universal declaration of human rights. It proclaims its commitment as well to the principles and policies of the Non-Aligned Movement.

It further announces itself to be a peace loving state, in adherence to the principles of peaceful coexistence. It will join with all states and peoples in order to assure a permanent peace based upon justice and the respect of rights so that humanity's potential for well-being may be assured, an earnest competition for excellence be maintained, and in which confidence in the future will eliminate fear for whom justice is the only recourse.

In the context of its struggle for peace in the land of love and peace, the state of Palestine calls upon the United Nations to bear special responsibility for the Palestinian Arab people and its homeland. It calls upon all peace and freedom loving peoples and states to assist in its attainment of its objectives, to provide it with security, to alleviate the tragedy of its people, and to help it terminate Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

The state of Palestine herewith declares that it believes in the settlement of regional and international disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with the UN Charter and resolutions. Without prejudice to its natural right to defend its territorial integrity and independence, it therefore rejects the threat or use of force, violence and terrorism against its territorial integrity, or political independence, as it also rejects their use against the territorial integrity of other states...

Therefore, we call upon our great people to rally to the banner of Palestine, to cherish and defend it, so that it may forever be the symbol of our freedom and dignity in that homeland, which is a homeland for the free.

reprinted from MIDDLE EAST INTERNATIONAL

Please call your elected federal officials and ask them to have the United States recognize the newly declared Palestinian state. The phone number at the White House is 202-456-7639. The US Senate number is 202-224-3121. The US House of Representatives number is 202-224-3121. Thank you.

PRO-PALESTINIAN RESOLUTION WINS VOTER
APPROVAL IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

During the recent elections in the US, voters in Cambridge, MA passed a resolution calling for a reduction in US aid to Israel equal to what Israel spends in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The vote was 22,784 for and 20,456 against. This referendum demanded the district's state representatives to send a message to the President and Congress "to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East by: 1) demanding that Israel ends its violations of Palestinian human rights and its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza."

A similar resolution in nearby Newton, MA and two others in California were defeated, in part to intense campaigns by many Jewish groups and other supporters of Israel.

In Newton, a resolution calling upon the US govt. to "support the principles of self-determination for the Israeli and Palestinian people; the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip next to Israel, and security for Israel and the new Palestinian state" was defeated by about a 2 to 1 margin.

The referendum on the ballot in San Francisco stated that seeing as the US already recognizes Israel and that a comprehensive Middle East peace "may be achieved only by the mutual recognition of the national and human rights of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples", "It is therefore resolved that the people of San Francisco join the vast majority of the people of the world in calling upon the United States government to expand its policy to include: United States recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza side by side with the state of Israel with guarantees for the security of both states."

Sadly, this resolution was loudly attacked by many Bay-area Jewish groups as being anti-Israel. More than 63,000 persons voted in favor while over 133,000 opposed it.

A voter referendum in Berkley which would have established Berkley as a sister city of the Jabalya refugee camp in Palestine gained more than 13,000 votes for and over 31,000 opposed to it.

The Northern California Jewish Bulletin of November 11 reported that both the Bay-area "No" campaigns outspent the "Yes" campaigns by more than 10 to 1.

Although the Pro-Palestinian referendums were defeated in three of the four localities, supporters were still glad that they had made the effort.

Hilton Obenzinger, who is on the Executive Committee of the Palestine Solidarity Committee, said the lesson from the great victory in Cambridge is that "Voters can be convinced to challenge the political establishment once they realize that we are paying for Israel's human-rights abuses."

INTIFADA VICTIMS MEMORIAL SERVICE
HELD IN SCHENECTADY

On December 11, 1988, the Palestinian Committee members commemorated the first anniversary of the Intifada. A memorial service "for those who have perished in Uprising on the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza" was held at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church in Schenectady, New York. Father Anthony Nicholas performed the ceremony after the regular Sunday service. The memorial service included "rah me," a mercy offering containing wheat wrapped around a kafiya. A coffee hour was held afterward at which Committee members conversed with parishiners and information leaflets were distributed.

During the memorial service, Father Nicholas read two letters. The first was from the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America. The other was from the Metropolitan Philip of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. The first letter said, "How ironic that in the promised land, once again we see the slaughter of children along with a majority of the young people." The second letter included: "May we join our prayers to yours for the victims who are struggling just to survive and for those martyrs who have given their lives so that their children...will one day be freed from the Zionist Occupation of their lands."

The Palestinian Committee greatly appreciates the efforts of Father Nicholas for organizing this event and the parishiners for the use of the church.

THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

The PLO has been very active in the latter part of 1988 - declaring an independent state, pursuing a vigorous peace initiative, and negotiating with the US. Despite all these activities, the history and nature of the PLO has never been properly articulated in the mainstream US media.

Basically, the PLO is the national liberation movement of the Palestinian people. It is the institutional expression of Palestinian nationhood, the Palestinian's instrument in the struggle for the attainment of their usurped national rights, and their organized effort to reconstitute their shattered and dispersed society.

In 1964, the Arab League empowered Ahmad Shugairy to formulate the PLO. The Arab League's reasoning was twofold - to control individual Palestinian liberation efforts and to cover their own ineptitude in dealing with Zionism. On May 28, 1964, in Jerusalem, 422 Palestinians, mostly from elite circles, gathered for the first session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC).

Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, many individual fedeyaan organizations had developed and they saw the PLO as a tool of Arab governments. The June 1967 war proved to the Palestinians that Arab countries could not liberate Palestine. Shugairy resigned at the end of 1967 and was replaced by Yehya Hammoudeh, who had promised radical reforms. The fedayeen organizations participated in the 4th PNC session (7/68) and at the 5th PNC session (2/69), Mr. Arafat was elected Chairman of the PLO. It was during this period when the PLO began to represent all sectors of the Palestinian people.

After the 1967 war, the PLO built social, political, and military institutions in Jordan. However, in Sept., 1970, a civil war broke out and the PLO was forced to reorganize in Lebanon. The PLO was primarily based there until 1982 when the Israelis invaded. Within the last few years, the PLO has returned to Lebanon. The Headquarters are presently located in Tunis, Tunisia.

After the October war of 1973, the PLO regained the historical initiative and it was determined to seek international recognition. In 1974, the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Countries gave recognition to the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Also in 1974, the United Nations (UN) gave the PLO observer status and membership in all sub-organizations. On Nov. 13, 1974, Chairman Arafat delivered a speech to the General Assembly.

In June 1980, the European Economic Community (EEC), in its Venice Declaration, recognized the Palestinian's right to self determination and called for PLO participation at an international peace conference. The number of nations that today recognize the PLO is twice the number that recognize Israel.

The political program of the PLO has evolved through many stages: 1) 1964 - to liberate all of Palestine from the Zionists and establish an independent Palestinian state. 2) 1968 - a democratic secular state in Palestine. 3) 1974 - an independent national authority on any part of liberated Palestine. 4) 1977 - an independent Palestinian state on any part of liberated Palestine. 5) 1982 - acceptance of the Fez Arab Summit Plan which called for a two state solution and the right of all states in the region to live in secure borders. 6) 1988 - an international peace conference with all parties to the conflict participating, including the PLO, on the basis of UN resolutions 242 and 338, and the safeguarding of Palestinian national rights.

A major component of the PLO are the social and cultural institutions. The PLO is committed to meeting the functional needs of the Palestinian people, with a focus on children and the development of a sense of selfworth. The following are examples of major institutions: The Palestine Red Crescent provides medical and health care and is a member of the International Red Cross. The Samed Martyrs Works Society provides for the economic infrastructure. The Dept. of Culture and Information preserves and develops Palestinian arts and maintains worldwide media systems. Popular organiza-

tions such as unions provide the democratic structure of the PLO. Since the early 1970's, a grass roots network has existed in the Occupied Territories. As the Intifada has progressed for a year, a national economy has developed. This network will become the infrastructure of the Palestinian state.

PLO political institutions resemble parliamentary democracies. These include the National Council, the Central Committee, and the Executive Committee. The Palestine National Council (PNC) is the highest policy making body. It represents the entire spectrum of Palestinian society. The PNC has proportional representation from the commando groups, mass movements and trade unions, professional organizations, communities in the diaspora, Palestinians who have been expelled from Palestine, scientists and intellectuals, and independents. Palestinians from the Occupied Territories are represented. However, they are threatened with expulsion if they participate.

The Central Committee consists of 60 PNC members. It serves a combined legislative-executive function. The Executive Committee has 15 PNC members and it functions as the executive branch of government. Each member has a portfolio. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is the Chairman of the PLO.

The fedeyaan organizations are at once independent of the formal structure of the PLO and integrated within it. They have representation in all PLO institutions. It is more accurate to refer to these groups as political parties than factions. Each group differs on how to accomplish a Palestinian homeland. Intense debates are constantly held in the search for consensus and unity.

In its nearly 25 year history, the PLO has matured politically and socially into a reasonable responsible member of the global community. Presently the PLO is pursuing a vigorous worldwide peace initiative as well as strengthening and developing the Palestinian state through the Intifada. It is crucial for supporters of Palestinian rights to support the PLO; they are clearly the chosen representative of the Palestinian people.

A considerable amount of additional info. about the Palestine Liberation Organization is available from the committee. Please contact us at 518-434-4037.

David Aube

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO FOR PEACE NOW

In Geneva Arafat took another stride which furthers the chances of peace. The government of Israel must not reject Arafat's words out of hand. We will only be able to achieve peace and security by way of negotiations with the PLO. There is no other option. Only through negotiations can yesterday's enemy become a good neighbor tomorrow.

The government of Israel has the responsibility to invite the PLO to negotiations on a diplomatic settlement between the Palestinians and Israel.

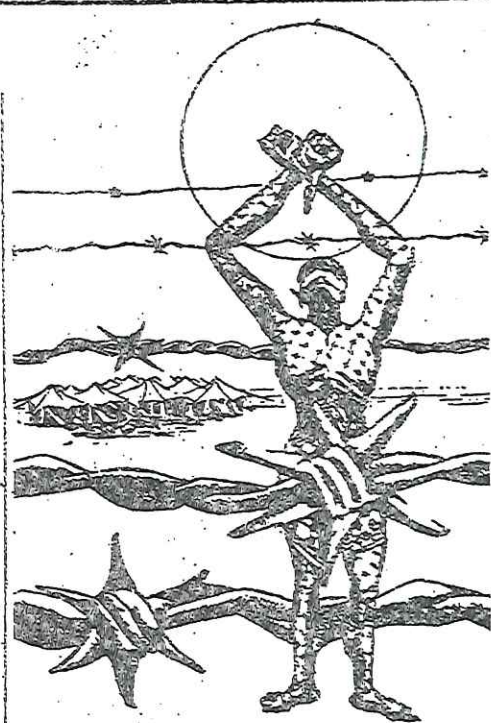
Ignoring the changes that have taken place in the stands of the PLO will prove that the government of Israel is an obstacle to peace and will harm Israel's international standing. It will also intensify violence in the territories.

WE CALL UPON THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO JOIN US IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE.

Peace Now advertisement in Ha'Aretz (December 15, 1988)

reprinted from Al-Fajr

5



Painting done by a former detainee after his release from the Ansar 3 detention camp at Ketziot in the Negev Desert.

reprinted from ADC Times

THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Political Resolutions, Excerpts

Based on its responsibility toward the Palestinian people and their national rights, and stemming from its desire for peace expressed in the Declaration of Independence proclaimed on 15 November 1988...the PNC affirms the commitment of the Palestine Liberation Organization to seek a comprehensive political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. This search for peace shall be within the framework of the United Nations Charter, the principles and provisions of international legality, the principles of international law, U.N. and Arab summit resolutions which guarantee the Palestinian Arab people the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish their independent state on their national soil with peace and security for all states in the region.

In the pursuit of these objectives, the PNC calls for:

1- The convening of an effective international peace conference on the Middle East and the Palestine question under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on equal footing with the other parties.

The international conference is to convene on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 coupled with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including above all their right to self-determination in accordance with the principles and provisions of the U.N. Charter relevant to the principle of national self-determination, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and according to U.N. resolutions relevant to the Palestine question.

2- Israeli withdrawal from all Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

3- The nullification of all annexation measures and the dismantlement of settlements established by Israel on Palestinian and Arab land since 1967.

4- The placement of the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, under U.N. supervision for a limited period of time to protect our people and create a climate conducive to the successful convening of the international peace conference and reaching a comprehensive political settlement to bring peace and security for all through mutual acceptance, and to enable the Palestinian State to exercise its effective authority over these territories.

5- Solving the Palestine refugee problem in accordance with pertinent U.N. resolutions.

6- The freedom of worship and religion and access to the holy places in Palestine are guaranteed for all faiths.

7- The Security Council shall establish and guarantee security arrangements between all the interested parties in the region, including the State of Palestine.

The PNC reaffirms its earlier resolutions concerning the distinctive fraternal relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. It also affirms that the future relation between the states of Jordan and Palestine shall be based on the concept of confederation and free and voluntary choice by both peoples to strengthen their historic ties and vital common interests.

The PNC also reaffirms its adherence to U.N. resolutions which approve of the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, imperialism and racial discrimination, and their right to struggle for independence. The Council proclaims anew its rejection of terrorism in all its forms, including state terrorism, in accordance with earlier resolutions on this matter and other pronouncements such as the Arab summit resolutions in Algiers in 1988, U.N. Resolutions 42/159 (1967) and 61/40 (1985), and the PLO Cairo Declaration of 7 November 1985. □

PALESTINIAN WORKERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Last November, the Palestinian Committee mailed a packet of information concerning violations of Palestinian union and workers rights by the Israelis to people in the Capital-area active in organized labor. We ask supporters of labor to stand in solidarity with with the Palestinian workers who bear the brunt of Israeli repression.

If you have not as yet signed on to the Labor Statement on Palestine, we urge you to consider doing so. Together we can help the Palestinian workers achieve their rights as both workers and citizens.

If you have not receive this package of information or if you have any questions concerning it, please contact us.

During the last few months, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has been successful in petitioning the US Trade Representative to schedule hearings on the Israel's brutal suppression of Palestinian workers' rights. The hearings had originally been scheduled to occur prior to the US elections but were postponed.

The US Trade Representative has the power to repeal Israel's duty-free trade status with the US if Israel is found to be employing improper labor practices.

Such a decision is considered unlikely in view of George Bush's anti-labor history.

THE STUDENT COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AT SUNY ALBANY

concluded its first active year with a pair of events. On November 29th, The International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People, Shelia Ryan from the New York City-based Middle East Peace Network presented a talk and answered questions focusing on the economic, political, and personal aspects of the Palestinian Uprising as well as the role the US assumes in the Middle East conflict. Following her talk, she presented her proposal for a Middle East Peace Campaign which would attempt to bridge the gap between public opinion and congressional action by gathering signatures on a two sentence statement endorsing a two state solution. The response to her campaign was enthusiastic and the committee will be following up on it in 1989.

The following week Amy Trabka presented a slide show highlighting the impact of the military occupation on Palestinians' daily lives and the creative actions the residents of the Occupied Territories have taken to combat Israeli repression. Ms. Trabka, who visited the West Bank this summer, has also presented her slides to student and faculty groups at Cornell University and RPI.

Activities to watch out for in the upcoming spring semester include participation in a debate/discussion presented by the Political Science Club, a lecture and slide show presentation February 2nd by Eyewitness for Israel delegate Craig Mokhiber, and our annual participation in World Week festivities - the Block Party on February 27th in the Campus Center Ballroom and a movie scheduled for March 1st.

The Student Committee also distributes literature in the Campus Center Lobby. We welcome new members, as there is certainly a lot to be done. For more information, call David at 482-7448.

MCNULTY REPLACES STRATTON IN CONGRESS

Democrat Michael McNulty was elected to the House of Representatives in Nov., replacing retiring Sam Stratton.

The Albany Student Press (ASP), a student newspaper at SUNY Albany, in its Nov. 1 edition, reported that McNulty was invited to speak at SUNY by the SUNYA

American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The ASP reported McNulty as saying he is opposed to the creation of an independent Palestinian state because "it poses an unacceptable threat to the security of the State of Israel." He also said that he opposes an international peace conference as long as Mr. Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization represent the Palestinians. The ASP also quoted the new representative as saying he endorses "the move of the United States embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem...the capital of Israel now and forever."

Mr. McNulty obviously needs a considerable amount of educating about the Palestinians, the PLO, and the Palestinian people's desire for a negotiated just peace. Please call or write to him. To obtain his new office addresses and phone numbers, call the Federal Information Center at 518-463-4421.

Correction: In the last newsletter, the CPR incorrectly credited the front page article. It was written by Don Betz of Oklahoma University.

-Briefly-

At an Israeli Defense Ministry sponsored US-Israeli Defense Industry Conference last fall, Strategic Defense Initiative director Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson boasted that "Israel is the first among allied nations in total value of contracts awarded for participation in SDI."

Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel continues his moral cowardice. The Jewish World reported (Oct. 20) that Mr. Wiesel said he would not judge Israel or criticize it over the methods used to respond to the Intifada.

On Dec. 22, the Rev. Jesse Jackson called upon Israel to join with the Palestine Liberation Organization in its renunciation of terrorism. He said there must be a joint commitment.

In a case involving Palestinians, a US District Judge, on Dec. 22, declared unconstitutional two sections of the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act, a vicious anti-free speech law passed at the height of the anti-communist hysteria following World War Two.

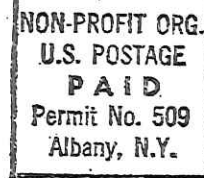
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, Mar. 3 meetings of the Palestinian Committee are held at 7PM at the Social Justice Center, 33 Central Avenue in Albany
- Feb. 2 - Craig Mokhiber slide show and lecture on the Intifada at SUNY Albany, uptown campus, lecture center 22 at 7:30 PM
- Jan. 26 at 7:30 PM Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism meeting at the Urban League, corner of Livingston Avenue and Ten Broeck in Albany

- Jan. 29 at 7 PM - A Salvadoran Music Night at the Unitarian Church, 405 Washington Avenue in Albany. \$5 and \$7. For info. call 518-434-4037. Benefit for Radio Farabundo Marti.
- Jan. 31 at 8PM Exiled editor Donald Woods of South Africa will lecture on "Apartheid and the Trajedy of South Africa." At the Siena College Alumni Center in Loudonville.
- Feb. 25. Social Justice Center fundraising Bowlathon. Be on the Palestinian team. For info. call 518-434-4037.
- April 13-16 in Washington D.C. - The 6th National Conference of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. For info. call 202-244-2990.

Capital District Committee for
Palestinian Rights -
A Project of the Social Justice
Center in Albany, Inc.
33 Central Avenue
Albany, New York USA 12210



WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS?

Get more information. Teach others.
Voice your opinions to elected officials. Write letters to newspapers and magazines. Call in to radio talk shows. Call us at 518-434-4037. Get involved. There is much to be done. Give us your ideas.
Enclosed is my contribution of \$ ____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

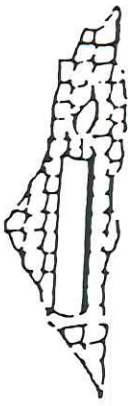
Telephone: _____

From "Interrogation"

by Hanan Mikhail-Ashrawi

Yes, I confess to a
More subtle change than even
You can invent — or comprehend —
That I have dared plan
My garden and intend to remain
To pick the fruits as they ripen...
But I acknowledge the healing
Power of rain (in all its
Different forms), of a visit
From a loved one,
the return of an exile,
And a child's glance of disdain at
A soldier's blood-stained truncheon —
And so much more...

reprinted from Middle East
Peace Network



capital district committee for palestinian rights

A Project of the
Social Justice Center of Albany, Inc.
33 Central Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210/ 434-4037

Newsletter

APRIL-MAY 1989
labor donated

THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The U.S. State Department on February 8th released it's annual report to the U.S. Congress on the status of Human Rights in various foreign countries. In the report the State Department heavily criticized Israel's behavior in the occupied West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip. The State Department acknowledged Israel's behavior contravenes the Forth Geneva Convention, International Law and recognized human rights standards.

The report accuses Israel for using excessive force and excessive punishment in dealing with Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. Israel has "frequently used gunfire in situations that did not present mortal danger to troops causing many avoidable deaths and injuries". It highlights torture and other cruel punishment; arbitrary arrest; detention and exile; denial of fair public trial; collective punishment; lack of respect for civil liberties; and political killings. The report details a situation that has been well known to anyone who cared to know what has been going on.

Al Haq / Law in the Service of Man in a statement released february 10th said "that despite serious flaws and omissions, the State Department had decreased it's use of loaded language and reduced it's tendency to justify Israel's violation of human rights". This is the first time since 1967 that the U.S. State Department has offered the American Public a "glimpse of what occurs on a daily basis in the Occupied Territories".

There is an attempt to assign partial blame on the Palestinians and there is an element of special pleading for the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). The report stated, "the IDF, caught by surprise and untrained and inexperienced in riot control". The IDF were not caught off guard. The Intifada is the inevitable result of denying the Palestinians their rights. Nor is there any reason why the IDF would be untrained and inexperienced. They have been suppressing the Palestinians for over twenty years. Many violations were also excluded such as the closure of schools, charitable institutions, labor unions offices, as well as the cutting off of international telephone lines and domestic communications.

The State Department is mandated to issue a report to the U.S. Congress by Public Law 94-329 for all countries the Executive Branch is proposing to give military or economic aid to any country whose government "engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights" It is the United States which has provided the money, the arms, and the vital political support which allows the Israeli Government to carry out it's oppressive measures.

*** ACTION ALERT ON PAGE NINE ***

-2-

LOCAL ZIONISTS, "DECISIVE FACTOR" IN JIM BLEIKAMP'S FIRING

Former WGY (81AM) late evening talk show host Jim Bleikamp stated a local Zionist organization was a "decisive factor" in his being fired. The Shield of David, a recently formed pro-Israeli organization claimed responsibility in an interview with UPI. On his 3 hour show, Mr. Bleikamp frequently stated his support for a Palestinian state. The Shield of David said Bleikamp's stance made him an anti-Semite.

Jim Bleikamp had received many callers on his program labeling him as an anti-Semite. One caller, Al Herman, clashed with Jim on the air and it led to Jim banning Herman from the show. Bleikamp said Herman's arrogance and constant inaccuracy on the facts caused the ban. Many local people would agree with Jim's perception of Herman. Unfortunately, the banning of a caller gave the management of the radio station an "easy out" to fire Jim.

Prior to the termination of Bleikamp's employment, Stanford Rosenblum, a local attorney, said he had contacted the station threatening to take legal action if something was not done about Bleikamp. Dennis Israel, owner of WGY, said he questioned Jim's use of the word "genocide" to describe the policies of Israel toward the Palestinians.

Fred Dicker, a well-known reporter who used to be with the New York Post, and a strong supporter of Israel, defended Bleikamp, saying Jim was neither anti-Semitic nor anti-Israel. WGY's management has denied any outside pressure was involved in their decision to fire Bleikamp. Dennis Israel, a Republican Party activist, said it was Jim's insubordination that caused his being fired. It is well known that Mr. Israel was very angry with Bleikamp's on-the-air criticism of Presidential candidate George Bush last fall.

Jim Bleikamp subscribed to an unwritten rule - when a guest on the show was speaking up for peace and justice for the Palestinians, you must have a Zionist counter guest. When committee member Tom Ellis, was a guest on the show, Jim Bleikamp tried unsuccessfully to have a pro-Israeli on the same show. Michael Winograd of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith refused to appear and other Zionists were not available on short notice. When Shelia Ryan, the director of the Middle East Campaign, was a guest, Jim was able to get Steven Berk, a history professor at Union College, to present the a pro-Israeli point of view.

Letters of protest should be sent to Dennis Israel, WGY, P. O. Box 1410, Schenectady, New York 12301. The phone number is 518-381-4800. We at the Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights consider this incident to be very serious. We must stop the intimidation of supporters of Palestinian rights. Advocating a Palestinian state is not an anti-Semitic act. We have every right to criticize and condemn the vicious and sadistic policies of Israel. CPR members should inform their friends about the unjustified firing of Jim Bleikamp.

David Aube

ANTI-RACISM FRONT PROTESTS KAHANE AT SUNYA

75 people from area organizations gathered in front of Page Hall (downtown) on Feb. 13 to protest a lecture given by the notorious Meir Kahane. Signs were carried stating "Kahanism is Racism," "Kahane Preaches Hate," and "Kahane doesn't Speak for this Jew," and chants and shouts were exchanged with about 25 pro-Kahane demonstrators.

The lecture, which was announced only a week in advance, activated many organizations and individuals. The Student Committee for Palestinian Rights organized and educated groups on the campus and CPR did likewise in the community. The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism activated their phone list and had a strong vocal presence. The Minority Affairs Council of SUNYA confronted SUNYA's President on the issue. New Jewish Agen-



(con't on page 8)

LONG LIVE THE INTIFADAH

Entering its 16th month, the Palestinian intifadah has set a course of liberating the occupied territories from Israeli occupation and towards the fulfillment of a Palestinian State. The "children of the stones" have fought back with enormous fortitude and imagination, posing the greatest challenge to Zionist expansionism. Israel has yet to put forth concise, reasonable, peace initiatives comparable to the PLO's peace plan. Until it does the political violence will continue, possibly to levels we have not seen.

Motivated by the same desires and aspirations for peace, freedom, and justice as all the world's people, Palestinians have fought with rocks against M-16's, victory gardens against captive markets, and general strikes against slave labor. Paraphrasing a colleague's recent statement- you can't relegate the indigenous population to the floral and fauna of the environment and expect them to go away and not struggle.

The editorial in the March-April issue of Middle East Report states clearly the Intifadah's revolutionary dimension. "The Uprising continues because it embodies a social revolution that has irreversibly altered relations between men and women, old and young, village, camp, and city, rich and poor. And between Palestinian and Israeli. It is this revolutionary dimension that has empowered the Palestinians to fight against awesome odds to break the colonial regime- a regime imposed by Israel but extending back into earlier decades of Jordanian and British rule."

In its Feb. 16th issue, the locally published Jewish World newspaper reported how a B'nai B'rith international spokesperson had said that group will print a retraction to 14,000 persons who had received a fundraising letter which said "The Arab presence on the [U.S.] college campus is poisoning the minds of our young people."

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) had criticized the letter, which was signed by B'nai B'rith President Seymour Reich.

On March 2, Faris Bouhafa, Director of Media and Public Relations for the ADC said that the promised letter of apology had not been seen yet "by anybody on their [B'nai B'rith] mailing list or by the press."

The B'nai B'rith is the world's largest Jewish organization, to which the Anti Defamation League (ADL) is affiliated. For well over 20 years the ADL has been printing racist comments about Arabs similar to what was contained in the B'nai B'rith letter.

It is really tragic that the world's largest Jewish organization in the US can wantonly display intense hatred towards Arabs. The ADL has been, for decades, producing reports on racism and anti-semitism. They should take a serious look at racism within the Jewish community.

Tom Ellis

The Palestinian Declaration of Independence has given birth to the State of Palestine. Now it is up to us, the supporters of Palestinian national rights, to increase our actions to remove the Israeli occupation and establish Palestinian sovereignty

David Aube

EYEWITNESS REPORT: "NO ONE IS IMMUNE FROM BEATINGS!!"

Craig Mokhiber gave a lecture at Suny Albany on Feb. 2. The event was sponsored by the Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights and the Student Committee for Palestinian Rights.

Mr. Mokhiber participated in the "Eyewitness Israel" program organized by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). His visit to Palestine and Israel last summer was sponsored by the Buffalo chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

He said the Israeli abuse of Palestinians is so overwhelming that "documenting human rights violations in the West Bank is like looking for sand in the desert."

Mr. Mokhiber said, "There is no way to describe the smell of rotting garbage, open sewers and burning tires or the sound of mothers pleading to Israeli soldiers for their sons, or clubs hitting people's head."

He said the "streets are literally littered with tear gas canisters and bullets."

In response to oft-heard claim that soldiers and settlers do not routinely violate international law, he said doctors frequently report systematic and sadistic beatings, gas is used extensively and in enclosed areas. "There is a total denial of legal due process" and that "razor wire is everywhere."

He said no one is immune from beatings, leaflets appear out of nowhere and that "Israeli run hospitals in the territories are sewers, toilets."

He explained that while Israel nearly crushed Palestinian resistance from 1967-87, today the Palestinians are dug in for a long struggle. He said "terror and horror are everywhere but the people are optimistic and will never go back to the 1967-87 complacency."

In his conversations with peace-loving Israeli's he was told that more and more Israeli's are becoming right-wing. In conclusion he said the solution to the conflict will come from the U.S, not from within Israel.

Mr Mokhiber impressed a student from RPI that he has been invited to speak to the RPI campus on March 30th, Land Day.

Tom Ellis

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

The Social Justice Center will have office space available on their 3rd floor. The key aspects of the office space: low cost; shared office equipment and resources; up to 750 square feet; meeting space; and prime location (on Central Ave. between Lark and Northern Blvd.).

The Social Justice Center, formed in 1981, is an umbrella organization for peace and social justice groups in the Capital District.

For more information please contact Donna DeMaria or David Easter at 434-4037, 33 Central Ave., Albany, New York.



FREE NAMIBIA!

The Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism, of which CPR is an active and supportive member, is organizing a community forum titled, "Crisis in Southern Africa", Friday, March 31 7:30 pm, at the Macedonia Baptist Church (172 N. Allen St., Albany).

Speakers will include a representative of the African National Congress (ANC), another from the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO), and a representative from the nation of Angola. In addition, a cultural presentation will be performed by students from the Street Academy.

The Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights has endorsed this event and strongly encouraged members to make every effort to attend and participate. For more information about the event call (518) 436-0562.

Namibia, formerly known as South West Africa, and Palestine, are the only nations left from the Mandate system which have yet to gain their independence. SWAPO is the sole authentic representatives of the Namibian people, and is the national independence movement of Namibia.

Namibia was colonized by Germany in the 1880's. After WWI, the League of Nations then gave South Africa a Mandate for the region where, throughout the 20th Century, South Africa has promoted its brand of white supremacist rule. In 1966 Namibia was placed directly under the U.N. and South African rule of the region was regarded as illegal. However, South Africa refused to leave. In 1978 the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 435 which called for the total independence of Namibia.

SWAPO's liberation ideology cuts across racial, religious, ethnic and cultural lines and mobilizes all Namibians. SWAPO's political support inside Namibia is extensive, and if a free, fair and democratic election were held in Namibia SWAPO would win hands down.

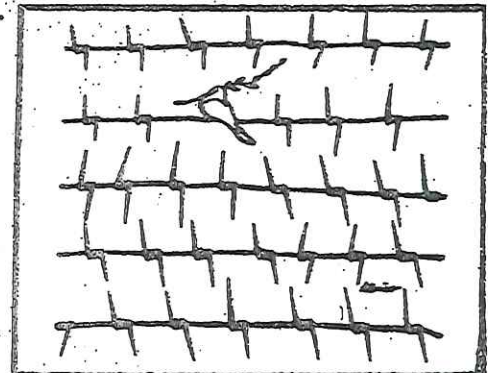
The Brazzaville Accords were signed in December, 1988, by Cuba, Angola, and South Africa. These accords called for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution #435. Recently decisions by the Security Council, however, have threatened the proposed Namibian elections, setting the stage for ongoing South African interference

PALESTINIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

On March 4th in a meeting held at a member's house, CPR organized a subcommittee titled, the Palestinian Cultural Association (PCA). PCA was organized to allow the committee's work at upcoming cultural and international festival to be more effective and efficient. Many decisions were made concerning the objectives and purpose of the subcommittee, and the work involved, such as the preparing, buying, and selling of food.

Important decisions that were made include preparing a list of relevant information, e.g. dates, addresses, to all PCA volunteers. This should help to aid people in scheduling work days, and help distribute the labor. Because the work is labor intensive, PCA will make an attempt to increase the number of volunteers. Help is needed. It is an excellent opportunity for people to involve themselves in the work of the committee.

Participating in cultural and international festivals has proven to be an excellent vehicle for community outreach and fundraising. The first two events will be held on the weekend of May 13 and 14. On May 13th PCA will participate in the Adridronack International Festival in Glens Falls, and on May 14th PCA will participate in Albany's City Pinxterfest in Washington Park. Later events will be held in Troy and Schenectady. For more information or to volunteer please call Sami Massoud at 434-4037.



IT'S TIME FOR A PALESTINIAN STATE

Settlers Militia Prepare for Civil War

Two Knesset Members, Dedu Zucker and Yossi Sareed of the Civil Rights Party, recently wrote a letter to Israeli Attorney General Yoseff Harish. They stated Jewish settlers militia have been preparing for civil war and should be disbanded.

The militia is organized in local units of platoon or company strength, led by a central headquarters and coordinated by technologically sophisticated communication systems. The militias often conduct intimidating and punitive operations against the Palestinians; Such as: entering houses, destroying property, burning agricultural fields and orchards, and molesting and beating the Palestinian people.

The letter stated that the settlers' militia draw encouragement from the "permissive attitude on the part of the security forces and law enforcement agencies", as well as from the support of right-wing parties and elements in the government.

Israel Publishes, "Verses"

I couldn't help but notice that Israel decided to publish The Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie. Is this a question of protecting civil liberties or to agitate the Islamic community in Palestine? I believe the latter. Israel was praised by the evangelicals in the US for banning the movie The Last Temptation of Christ. Israel has also banned over 2,000 books in the Occupied Territories.

How long will it take for the Israeli propagandists to claim it was the PLO that put a death threat on Rushdie? This incident has allowed some people to truly show their ignorance towards Islam and vent out anger that would be unacceptable to any other organized religion. When will the international community condemn Ariel Sharon for announcing a death threat against Yasir Arafat because he disagrees with Arafat's politics?

David Aube

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On Our Land

SUNY Albany held it's annual World Week from Feb. 27 to March 3. The Student Committee for Palestinian Rights sold food during the day on Feb. 27 and showed a film on Feb. 28.

The film titled "On Our Land", was attended by approximately 30 people. The film tells the story of the forgotten section of the Palestinian people; the Palestinians inside the 1948 borders. It is a bit outdated, but it provided a great deal of information. Prof. Edward Said states, "In it's beautifully crafted 55 minutes On Our Land says more about the question of Palestine than many hundred pages."

The film centered on Umm el-Fahm, whose mayor was recently upsetted by an Islamic Bloc, (the largest Arab village inside Israel). Once a peasant farming community, they have lost most of their land to Israeli settlements and been turned into wage laborers commuting to Israeli cities or working on Israel's farms.

The Student Committee for Palestinian Rights will have a meeting in the future. Help is greatly needed. Please call for more information and date of meeting. Ask for David at 434-4037.

Coming soon... a special report from the
National Lawyers Guild



International Human Rights Law
and Israel's Efforts to Suppress
the Palestinian Uprising

Available in January

\$10.00 per copy (includes shipping and handling)

Write to NLG-Middle East Subcommittee
P.O. Box 4892
Washington D.C. 20006

Check payable to NLG-Middle East Subcommittee

RECOGNIZE PALESTINE NOW

MIDDLE EAST PEACE CAMPAIGN

CPR has decided to participate in the Middle East Peace Campaign, a state-wide, year long project of the Middle East Peace Network. The purpose of the campaign is to amass support on a call for the United States Government to recognize the right of the Palestinians to an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, alongside Israel. The campaign will solicit signatures and endorsements from a cross section of the community; faith based, peace and justice, ethnic, student and Professors, unions, arts, professional, human rights, and community organizations. The campaign will unify our support and give that support a louder voice.

The campaign will signify a shift of CPR's emphasis from education to political action. The situation in Palestine and the movement in this country has changed dramatically. NOW IS THE TIME TO MOVE. CPR is depending upon its members to make the campaign effective. CPR will prepare a special packet on the campaign and it will be mailed in the near future.

CPR WILL MEET REP. McNULTY

On March 3rd, CPR wrote to newly-elected US Representative Michael McNulty saying we disagreed with his position on the Middle East conflict and would like to meet to discuss it.

On the 13th, his office contacted the CPR. A meeting was scheduled for the following Monday but was postponed by McNulty because he is taking a trip to Africa. The meeting will be re-scheduled for April. If you would like to participate, call Tom at 463-7962 or 489-6632.

On March 7th, Mr. McNulty wrote Mr. Gorbachev urging freer emigration policies for Soviet Jews. He said there are Jewish women Refusniks, many of whom "have been waiting for more than ten years for permission to emigrate, so that they may be reunited with their families."

When we visit with McNulty, CPR members will tell him about Palestinian families that have been separated for 40 years, due to policies of Israel, supported by the United States.

APRIL 6th WED. on
WHMX at 10:00 ch.45
"LETTER FROM PALE-
STINE" A half hour
documentary about
Palestinian medical
workers in the West
Bank.

672 homes destroyed since Dec. 87

BOOKS!

BOOKS!

BOOKS!

BOOKS!

The Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights has wide selection of books available. The books are priced almost at cost. Please mail for a free listing. We do have the much requested book, The Birth of Israel Simha Flapan (\$5.00+ p&h). Mail to 33 Central Ave, Albany N.Y. 12210 or call (518) 434-4037.

Elections dispel myths

Israeli statistics on the Jerusalem municipal elections showed that less than four percent (some reports said not even one percent) of eligible Palestinian voters (eligible by reason of Israel's illegal annexation of East Jerusalem, not by Palestinians feeling as citizens of Israel) cast a vote in last week's elections.

The message in this should be clear: even after 20 years of occupation and annexation, Palestinians in East Jerusalem do not feel any affiliation to the Israeli state, not even on the municipal level.

Veteran West Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek ran for re-elections on the One Jerusalem list. His motto was a united Jerusalem with equal services for the city's 300,000 Jewish and 120,000 Arab residents. The Jews live in West Jerusalem and the Arabs live in East Jerusalem.

Teddy Kollek's all-Jewish municipal council tried to convince East Jerusalem's Palestinian population to vote for him. He cited services provided for East Jerusalem as proof of his evenhanded policy and supposed equality of services for Jews and Arabs. Yet, less than four percent went to the polls this year, most of them employees of the municipality and their families who probably feared Kollek would dismiss them from their jobs if their identity cards did not show a stamp proving that they voted.

The reasons the Palestinians did not participate in this year's elections (previous years also showed a relatively small percentage of Palestinians voting in the municipal elections) are political and otherwise. Political, in the sense that Palestinians have never felt part of Israel and have continued to await for salvation through an end to occupation and the creation of the independent Palestinian state. Voting for city council or anything else meant they gave up this dream and accepted the occupation, something the vast majority of Palestinians do not want.

Otherwise, in the sense that Palestinians in East Jerusalem, through their past 20-year experience under occupation, have never felt they have been treated equally to the Jewish population of West Jerusalem. Services have always been lacking and the municipality and government in general never lost an opportunity to undermine Palestinian infrastructure, whether it was industry, education, health, housing, roads or business in general. Even though Palestinians in East Jerusalem have paid taxes throughout the occupation years, the services they received in return were nothing compared to the amount of money they paid.

Kollek ran on the theme of a united Jerusalem, but election results showed that Palestinians do not agree with him. The elections showed that a united Jerusalem is only an Israeli dream, not a reality on the ground. The story of Jerusalem should tell the story of the entire occupied territories. No matter what Israel says about life in the occupied areas, it is clear Palestinians do not agree and would rather see the occupation go away.



KAHANE (con't from pg. 2)

da activated their phone list, attended in full, and distributed a leaflet titled "Kahane's Kippah (yarmulke) Doesn't Cover His Racism." It was an excellent example of unity in confronting and isolating avowed racists. The committee thanks everyone who took part and help to make it a successful event.

Rabbi Meir Kahane is the American born founder of the Jewish Defense League (JDL) and the Kach party in Israel. Kach party has called for the removal of Palestinians from Israel and the West Bank and Gaza. Kahane has advocated the destruction of the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem.

Kahane constantly tours the U.S. raising money for his hate campaigns. He has three fund raising organizations in the U.S.: "Kach International," "Institute for the Authentic Jewish Idea," and the "Jewish Overveiw." There has been a consumer boycott of Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream as founder and chairman Reuban Mattus has made vast financial contributions to Kahane and the JDL.

The JDL was created in 1968 as a vigilante organization, it later escalated to harassing Soviet cultural events and firebombing Soviet missions in New York City. Recent JDL terror is almost solely directed at Palestinian students and Arab-Americans. A federal grand jury in 1987 in Brooklyn investigated the JDL in connection with bombings, extortion, homicides, and kidnapping; including the 1985 bombing of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) office in Santa Anna, CA, killing Alex Odeh.

Kahane's appearance on the campus has done absolutely nothing to heal the wounds of racism. The Revisionist Zionist Alternative showed complete irresponsibility as the event will lead to further polarization on campus.

Many people spoke out in the lecture, which was poorly attended, and a few were thrown out. The demonstration received excellent coverage by the electronic and printed media. The next time Kahane appears in the Capital District we should have 200 people demonstrating.



ACTION ALERT

CALL FOR OPEN HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN THE ISRAELI OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Note: Take 5 minutes now to write your congressperson. Then copy this Alert and send it to 5 others

Sample Letter

Honorable Congressperson _____
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Mr./Mrs. _____

I am writing to request your support in convening "Open Public Hearings on Human Rights Conditions in the Israeli Occupied Palestinian territories" (West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem) as soon as possible. The human rights situation continues to deteriorate and the suffering must come to an end. In January 1989 alone, there were 26 deaths of those over 50% were under the age of eighteen.

The United States State Department "Country Report on Human Rights" (1988) stated clearly that there was "a substantial increase in human rights violations" (in the occupied territories). These human rights violations by Israel are continuing. Please do whatever you can to convene these hearings at the earliest possible time. I look forward to hearing from you on this vital issue.

very sincerely

name _____
address _____

Social Justice Center

Bowl - A - Thon

Sane/Freeze, the largest peace organization in the United States which resulted from a recent merger of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and the Nuclear Freeze Campaign, passed its first resolution on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict at its 2nd congress in Atlanta, Georgia, in December. The resolution, passed by a huge majority, reads: "Be it resolved that Sane/Freeze call upon the U.S. government to: 1) support the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and a state of their own in the West Bank and Gaza alongside Israel, with peace and security for both states; 2) recognize the PLO as the chosen representative of the Palestinians; and 3) support the convening of an international peace conference with the participation of the PLO, Israel, the neighboring Arab states, the United States, and the Soviet Union." Sane/Freeze's resolution is evidence that the peace movement has begun to move on Palestinian rights. ☐

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The Social Justice Center held its 3rd Annual "Bowl for Peace" Bowl-a-thon on Sat., February 25th, at the Playdium Bowling Center, Ontario St., Albany. This year's bowl-a-thon was the SJC's most successful. 42 teams bowled and over \$8,000 was pledged. The event displayed great activist community spirit and all participants had a very good time!

The Committee for Palestinian Rights would like to thank our team members - * Susan Frank, Sami Massoud, David Aube and Adrian Wilson - and all those who pledged to support them. Also, we would like to thank the SJC's Bowl-a-thon Committee for all their work in making the event the tremendous success that it was.

* Note to team members: please begin to collect your pledges and to turn in the money to the team coordinator.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

-Apr. 7, Apr. 21, May 19, & June 2 meetings of the Palestinian Committee are held at 7PM at the Social Justice Center 33 Central Ave. in Albany.
-Craig Mokhiber slide show on the Intifada at RPI in rm CII 3039 March 30.
-March 31 Crisis in Southern Africa 7PM see page 5 for more info.
-April 1&2 Peace Fair at RPI. Troy booths, lectures, & concerts. call 274-7793
-April 5, May 3, & June 7 Amnesty International meetings at Albany Public Lib.
-April 5 Korean Dinner and Culture Night 6:30PM St. Andrews Church call 434-4037.
-April 29 Readings Against End of the World, 24Hour Peace Performance. call 438-6314. 14 Willet St. 8th Step.

-April 13-16 in Washington D.C. ADC Conference For info call (202) 244-2990.
-April 27 meeting for Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism call 436-0562.
-Continuing Action: Wed. 5-6PM Vigil in front of Israeli Mission in New York City. sponsored by Palestine Solidarity Committee (212) 964-7299.
-Future Events Mel King will speak on May 5th.
Organizing meeting for Middle East Peace Campaign at Albany Public Library.

CAPITAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS
A PROJECT OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTER OF ALBANY, INC.
33 CENTRAL AVE. ALBANY, N.Y. 12210

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WHO ARE WE

The Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights (CDCPR) was organized in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon during the summer of 1982. The purpose of the committee is two folds: 1) to educate the Capital District about the just cause of the Palestinian people, and 2) to organize active support for the Palestinian demand. Our focus is on human rights, self-determination and the right of the Palestinian people to choose their own leadership and to gain sovereignty over their declared, independent nation.

Among the activities of the CDCPR is to invite speakers to discuss the Palestinian / Israeli conflict, publishing a newsletter 6 times a year, organizing and participating in demonstration, displaying Palestinian arts and crafts, participating in international and cultural festivals, supply information to area officials and media, meet with elected officials, network with people; local; nationally and around the world. The committee resources include speakers, books, and other educational materials.

CDCPR holds two meetings a month at the Social Justice Center (located at 33 Central Avenue, Albany, between Northern Blvd and Lark Street). We welcome and encourage new members. For time and date of meetings, and further information; please call (518) 434-4037.