## Calls to End the Gaza Genocide from the Latine Community of Northern California, USA Jibril Abdul-Rahman

The idea for producing this pamphlet developed over the course of time between the Stop the Genocide in Gaza San Francisco Bay Area Protest of Saturday, October 28, 2023 and the Ceasefire Mass Meeting held less than one month later at the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California on Sunday November 26.





Among the protest signs on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, two in particular struck me as especially significant for the work to which I am dedicated. One read "Decolonization does not Equal Anti-Semitism" and the other "Chicanas for Palestine."



A number of Latine organizations in and around the San Francisco Bay Area of Northern California had released statements re-affirming their long-standing commitment to the decolonization of Palestine, living as it does under an imperial colonial system born of a European racism the likes of which we were keenly familiar.



Initially, I thought it would be a good idea to get representatives from each of the major Latine cultural, political, and research centers who had released solidarity statements for the people of Gaza to read out their statements at the major protests taking place in San Francisco. A member of one of the local Arab grassroots movements organizing the protests suggested instead that it

might be more feasible for there to be a social media campaign promoting the solidarity statements, sharing links to them online, and printing out copies for distribution at various actions.



At the mass meeting of November 26<sup>th</sup>, I was made aware of the incredible work of the Freedom Archives in producing pamphlets that helped draw attention to the plight of political prisoners from Palestine, Puerto Rico, and people of color in the United States. At the same meeting, I became acquainted with organizations that were connected to people on the ground, in Gaza, who were, of course, prioritizing the facilitation of basic necessities for the people there, but who also spoke of the great need that Gazans have to be nourished by the knowledge that

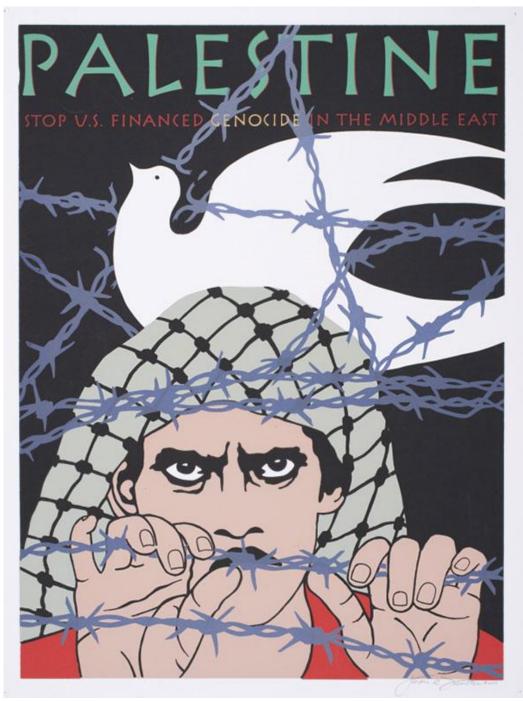
communities across the world, especially in the American hemisphere, sought to show their unrelenting support for a permanent ceasefire, and end to genocide, and a Free Palestine.



I then decided that what would work best was to design a pamphlet that would collect together as many of these local Latine statements for Gaza, translate them into Spanish and Arabic, and make them accessible to people throughout the Spanish-speaking and Arabic-speaking world.



Since at least as early as 1969, Latine activists, like the Boricua civil rights organization The Young Lords Party in New York City, demanded a **Free Palestine Now!** In San Francisco, Juan R. Fuentes was one of the first Chicano artists in Northern California to produce works on Palestine, beginning in the 1970s.



Palestine, silkscreen, 2001, 23" x 17.5"

This humble contribution is intended to be a continuation of that legacy of Latine transnational anti-imperial social justice activism. As future pro-Palestine pronouncements are produced, I hope to be able to make more translations available to all. I am grateful to the Decolonial International Network for providing the space where this collection of statements can be made accessible to the people of the world who most urgently need to receive these messages.