



"Free Palestine" mural at the Starry Plough, Berkeley.
by Los Pobres Artistas, 2023.

Statements of Solidarity from the Latine Community of Northern California, USA

Collected in this pamphlet are a series of statements in solidarity with the people of Gaza and the rest of Palestine currently undergoing a genocide. The statements have been produced by some of the leading intellectual, cultural, and activist centers rooted in the Latine and Latin American diasporic communities of Northern California.

We are the products of the oldest and longest form of European colonialism in the modern world. The arrival of Christopher Columbus to the Caribbean in 1492 marked the foundation of the oldest colonial system in the West. Our peoples' resistance to this imperial colonial system also began at that very moment. Our opposition to this Western white supremacist patriarchal domination over the past half-millennium has in turn produced societies of resistance to western modernity and its genocidal violence. The Latine people were formed by the compounded traumas of conquest and destruction, slavery, genocide, pillaging, and continuous exploitation.

European colonization of Abya Yala, starting with the Spanish and Portuguese empires, followed by Dutch, French, Danish, British, and Anglo-American powers, was a modern outgrowth of the medieval Crusades against Islam by which scores of Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Palestine and neighboring regions were massacred. European expansionism over the territories of the Western hemisphere immediately followed the ethnic cleansing of the Iberian Peninsula's Muslim and Jewish inhabitants. Europe, and the dominions established by its colonizers in Abya Yala, Oceania, and elsewhere, became imperial center of the world. It is this modern world colonial system, which our ancestors have been struggling against since its inception, that laid the groundwork for Zionist colonialism in Palestine.

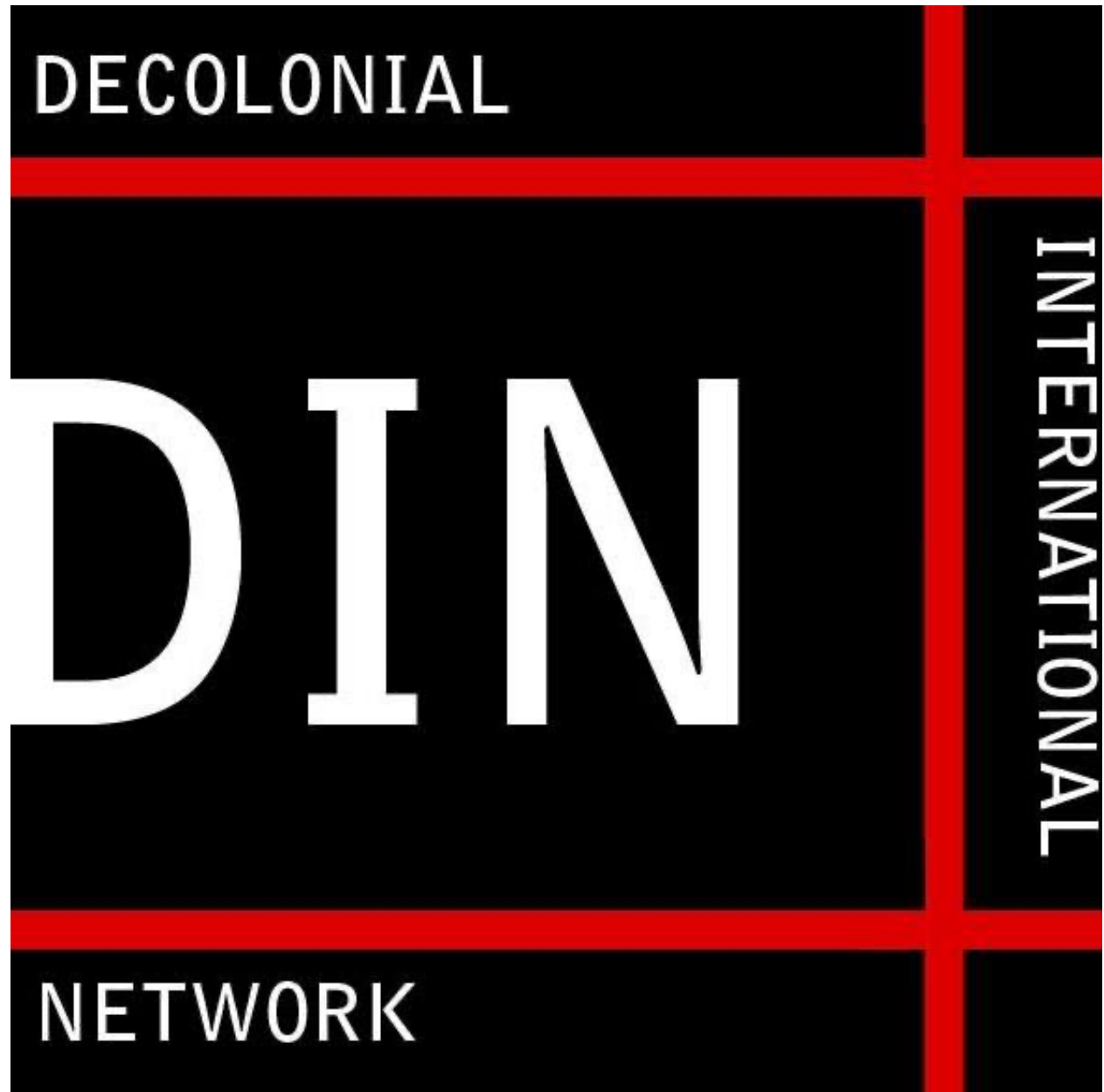
The U.S. Empire is the inheritor of the white European empires that preceded it. With the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the United States declared itself the only white colonizing power that would rule over the rest of our hemisphere—indirectly in some instances and directly in others—as its “back yard.” In 1848, the United States conquered half of Mexico's territory and have regarded its inhabitants as second-class citizens ever since. In 1898 the United States empire conquered Spain's remaining colonies (outside of Africa), Cuba, Puerto Rico (Borinken), and the Philippines, and continues to hold direct control over Borinken in the Caribbean as well as Guam and the Mariana Islands in Pacifica, to this day. These communities, strengthened in numbers by the many refugees fleeing U.S.-manufactured violence in Central and South America, continue the struggle from within the belly of the beast, surviving cultural repression and political disenfranchisement for centuries. US imperialism has adopted all the techniques of the European empires that preceded it, profiting from an economy generated by selling weapons to any and all sides, producing slavery as displaced and traumatized people become refugees and immigrants subject to extreme and raw extraction of their own bodily labor. Infantilized by a Spanish colonialism that sought to instill in us the idea that we were peoples incapable of governing ourselves, the United States reinforces this perception, undergirded by the white supremacist racialization of Latinx peoples as a mongrel race whose origins trace back to the American continent's indigenous population and African slaves transported to the Americas.

Five centuries of genocidal violence and enslavement inflicted upon Indigenous communities, kidnapped Africans, and their descendants who form the overwhelming majority of the region commonly known as Latin America, led to damaging cultural consequences. Origin stories, histories, and land-based ways of life were stolen from the bulk of the population as a technique of genocidal imperialism. An apartheid-like system of racial hierarchy was imposed where those deemed to be of white European racial stock lorded over those of indigenous, African, and mixed Afro-Indigenous ancestry. A cultural genocide took place through forced disavowal, shame, theft, rape, all in a calculated attempt to erase the collective consciousness of the non-white peoples of the Americas.

With the largest concentration of weaponry in the world, the US is also the producer of white phosphorous and other torture tools of genocidal violence. In this vein we recognize that Israel functions as a tool of US imperialism, essentially a distributor of US manufactured economy that profits from genocide. For decades, Israel has provided aid to the police forces of Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador, and for over twenty years, thousands in U.S. local, state and federal law enforcement have received training with Israeli military officials, learning and implementing similar techniques in racial profiling and violent suppression of its vulnerable populations as those used against the Palestinian people.

The racism and dehumanization that is conjoined with the genocidal violence Israel inflicts upon the people of Gaza specifically, and Palestine generally, is of common stock with the dehumanization and racialization with which we are confronted. Latine revolutionary leaders have recognized this connection for decades. We, who have been engaged in a 500-year struggle, wish to send this message to those struggling against the last European settler colonial project, commissioned at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th century. It is in this spirit of transnational solidarity in social justice that this pamphlet was put together.

Jibril Abdul-Rahman
Northern California Associate of the Decolonial International Network



<https://din.today/>

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La Peña Solidarity Statement with Palestine



La Peña Cultural Center recommits itself to the struggle for freedom, justice, and peace in Palestine as we have since our founding in 1974. As an anti-imperialist organization that nurtures grassroots social justice movements, **we demand a ceasefire in the Gaza strip**. Our mission is to move the needle forward for under-represented and oppressed groups through cultural resistance, education and movement building; we do not condone the killing of innocent lives taken and we support the right of all *pueblos* (peoples) to be able to live sovereignly with dignity.

We call our community to TAKE ACTION and to EDUCATE themselves to learn about how the state of Israel was created and to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine who are resisting oppression. Recent events did not occur in a vacuum but as a result of unrelenting colonial aggression, ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Palestinian people. We cannot allow recent events to justify the Israeli military's ongoing genocide of Palestinian people in Gaza.

In the words of our Jewish and Palestinian compañeras and compañeros:

"No Genocide in our name! Ceasefire now! We are American Jews demanding a ceasefire, a release of Israeli hostages, and an end to the siege on Gaza. We recognize that so long as the violence in Israel continues to be perpetrated in our name as Jews, we are called in to take responsibility. We know that so long as those threatening our safety continue to conflate Israelis and Jews, we are called in to take responsibility. " — [If Not Now](#), a Jewish-American anti-apartheid organization.

“What the mainstream English-language media refers to as the ‘Gaza-Israel’ war is in reality the struggle of a colonized people for liberation. End the siege on Gaza now! Palestinians have the right, enshrined under international law, to exist on our land and to resist annihilation by an invading colonial army. The blockade must be lifted. Supplies must be allowed in. And people must be allowed to return home.” — [Palestinian Youth Movement](#)

WE ASK OUR COMMUNITY TO TAKE ACTION:

1. Educate yourself on the subject, please visit & follow: [Jewish Voice for Peace](#), [Arab Resource and Organizing Center](#), [Middle East Children’s Alliance](#), [If Not Now Movement](#) and [Palestinian Youth Movement](#)
2. Call your Congressional [representative today](#) to let them know you demand a ceasefire in the Gaza strip.
3. Join the [National March on Washington](#) to FREE PALESTINE Nov. 4, 2023
4. Find out [what native land you’re on](#) and how you can be an ally on occupied land
5. Follow [Sogorea Te Land Trust](#), Ohlone women-led indigenous org (Bay Area)

We stand with Indigenous sovereignty from Huichun (East Bay) to Palestine to Wallmapu (Southern Chile)! In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

¡Que Viva Palestina Libre!

CPP Statement, Center for People Power/Centro del Poder Popular

<https://www.centerforpeoplepower.org/>



As survivors of the patriarchal systems of injustice and violence in the world, we collectively work to dismantle and change the injustices and disregard of human rights that we bear witness to in Palestine today. To say that we are disappointed and shocked at the silence of the advocacy community (in Sonoma County) is an understatement. We are appalled by the silence of advocates, doctors, and colleagues whose work we have supported and elevated for the last years. From now, we will no longer advocate individuals who side with the oppressor. Your silence in the slaughter and genocide of Palestinian women and children is complicity. There is no justice, or liberation of one. We mothers are whole, guardians of life, and of all earth's children, no matter their geographic location.

For the advancement of the survivor community, and in the very best interest of every child, we stand for humanity with the explicit understanding that we are each of equal value, and that the oppressions, injustices and violence we face are deeply intertwined and interconnected; as is our liberation and freedom. **It is with deep abiding love and responsibility to all children that we call on you to join us and demand an immediate ceasefire in Palestine, a permanent end to the occupation, and for the prioritization of human life, particularly of children's lives above patriarchal and capitalist vengeance, profit, and violence.**

Palestinian children are all our children, deserving of our advocacy and support. And their liberation is the catalyst for systemic change for the betterment of us all. With love, hope, and in solidarity,

The Collective at the [Center for People Power](#)

D+M Statement against Genocide in Gaza <https://www.demoxmedia.org/>

We at the D+M Lab stand with firm resolve now and always against genocide everywhere.

In Fall of 2023, we are witness to the cold calculations of genocide, a killing that the US and Israel immorally and willingly bring upon innocent people in their rules of subjugation, denial, and monetary profit. Since the foundation of the United States genocidal violence has been taking place, tracing its roots to 1492 with the colonial invasion of the lands that are known as Abya Yala, the American hemisphere.

Our work provides a space to connect the dots among anti-imperialist struggles in the hemisphere. We see the pattern of destruction by US imperialism in gross violations of the armed forces, weapons manufacturers, and chemical manufacturers, orchestrated coups against democratically elected socialist leaders to perpetuate mining and labor extraction at great harm to people and earth.

We join the collective grieving in witness of the repressive genocidal violence that is taking place against the Palestinian people and call for an immediate cease-fire and space to begin a process of healing. We stand with those who are mourning and who are outraged that our US representatives are perpetuating this horrific crime against humanity and earth, two simultaneous war crimes taking place before our eyes with such blatant disregard for lives lost.

Media manipulation and disinformation propaganda with unchecked profit motives has produced a culture of exclusion, hostility, and competition, rather than inclusion, healing, and sharing towards a better world for future generations. Part of the deception that we see is the denial and obvious abuse of power by media networks and surveillance that seek to erase the voices of difference, real communication among scholars, leaders, journalists, media makers in vital conversations of resistance taking place in living rooms, streets, and kitchens worldwide.

We seek to link struggles and share tools and resources, such that we move, not as victims, rather as protagonists at the tipping point of popular movements to recognize, condemn, and dismantle the material apparatus of war in order to build a new economy around peace derived from true justice, participatory political formations, grassroots problem solving and space to generate dialogue within our neighborhoods, regional centers, from the heart of the Bear state, from the heart of the public university, and from the heart of our sovereign bodies.

D+M

Tribunal Statement on Palestine

The Democracy+Media Lab stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemns the Israeli State's systemic human rights violations, discrimination, and the illegal occupation and blockade of Palestine which has now affected generations of Palestinians and the lands of Palestine.

From Abya Yala to Palestine, we say free the land!

Our Elders, Students, and Faculty call for an immediate cease-fire and end to war on the Palestinian people, and the unfolding genocide and ethnic cleansing campaign, which has killed thousands, and wounded thousands more, displacing nearly 2 million Palestinians in just the past month. We call for an end to the blockade on Gaza and an end to 75 years of Israeli occupation of Palestine. The US government sends billions in military aid to Israel to fund the continued systemic occupation, mass eviction, incarceration, torture and senseless killing of Palestinians at funerals, hospitals, peaceful demonstrations, and cultural celebrations, including the daily deprivation of rights and freedom.

It is our duty to resist the perpetuation of settler states that profit from racial colonial capitalism and the subjugation of Indigenous peoples from Turtle Island to Palestine. We must say: not in our name.

We say [#FreePalestine!](#) as liberation of all peoples from oppression. We understand that we are in a war-manufactured economy in which exports of weapons, data, and other materials and assistance in sales, and all those who benefit directly from the sale are held responsible for crimes against humanity. We call the entire chain of production of US weapons exports responsible for genocide and call for an immediate cease fire. We also condemn any kind of anti-Jewish violence and in no way condone or fall into a misconstrued trap of a call to stop genocide as equivalent with a call for any other form of harm against innocent people. We believe all people deserve decent housing, food, and healthcare for a sustainable way of life. We persist in our unwavering commitment alongside workers, students, artists, politicians, and academics in a circle of moral ground that recognizes that Indigenous struggles everywhere are connected and united against imperialism.

We feel the warnings of what this blatant display of violence of the state lays bare like the roots of a tree system that communicates a great danger to come. In this struggle to grasp the humanity that is lost, we are witness as thousands of stars light the fires within.

We are the same as our sisters and brothers, families, and children of the world. Interconnected in our struggles we are subject to the barbs of border walls, cages, and inhumanity from our borderlands. We are in war times, and as the proverb has said, they first come for the most dispossessed and now with threats of terrorism thrown at us for speaking out, doxing, and intimidation, we have reached a grave impasse of our very moral ground.

We will never be silent in the face of such violence. We recommit to education and hope, to uplift our people, our artists, and tremendous scholars for new visions of the world. We find courage to speak truth to power and in so to create a space for us all to gather, to share, to organize, for voices set free!

We stand unwaveringly and unconditionally with the people of Palestine in their fight for life and liberation and support oppressed people everywhere in their anticolonial struggles. In this moment of collective heartbreak, devastation, and despair, we encourage our community to amplify the stories of Palestinians in Gaza, share resources, heed calls to action from Palestinian activists, defend each other from repression by the powerful for standing in solidarity with the Palestinian freedom struggle, engage in collective study as well as comradely and loving self-reflection and conversations in community. Organize everywhere to stop the genocide.

In solidarity, The Tribunal Collective of the [Democracy + Media Lab](#)

