Here is the link to all OMNI topical newsletters:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/
For a knowledge-based peace, justice, and ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change. Here is the link to the Index: http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

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Is it 1984? Tell Israel: Reject the Levy Report!

Rabbi Alana Suskin, APN  
asuskin@peacenow.org  
via  
uark.edu

7-10-12 to jbennet

Dear Dick,

Is it 1984?

It seems to be. George Orwell gave us, in his book by that name, the term “Doublethink,” in which “war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength." The Levy Committee— an Israeli government Committee- with a straight face expects us to believe that occupation can be erased simply by defining it out of existence. But no one does believe it.

Reject Doublethink! Tell Ambassador Oren that Israel's future rests on rejecting the Levy Committee report.  
http://wfc2.wiredforchange.com/o/8682/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=8765

Yesterday we sent out a press release calling on the government of Israel to repudiate the recommendations of the Levy Committee. The committee's report states that Israel is not an occupier in the West Bank. It asserts that establishing settlements in the West Bank does not violate international law. It recommends legalizing illegal settlement construction. It suggests facilitating additional settlement in the West Bank. Finally, it recommends permitting Israeli settlers to register land ownership in the West Bank. This is outrageous!

It is crucially important to let Israel’s officials know how we feel about this dangerous report. Prime Minister Netanyahu is preparing the report for government discussion. Right now, some officials are planning to submit a bill to the Knesset that would enshrine the Levy committee’s recommendations in Israeli law. This must not go forward!

Demand that Ambassador Oren tell Israel’s officials that Israel must not become a country
whose government prefers land to peace, and ideology over law and justice.

Adopting the recommendations of the report would cause terrible damage to Israel’s international standing. The relationship between Israel and the United States would be deeply undermined. Prospects for peace with the Palestinians and the Arab world would be devastated. Adopting these recommendations would be a definitive statement that the current government has no respect for the rule of law, for the commitments of previous governments to remove illegal outposts, or for the interests of the 96% of Israelis who are not part of the ideological settlement enterprise.

Tell Ambassador Oren: The Levy Committee report cannot be accepted as law!

Thank you,

Rabbi Alana Suskin
Director of Strategic Communications
Americans for Peace Now

“Does it explode?”
Mazin Qumsiyeh mazin@qumsiyeh.org via uark.edu May 25, 2012
to jbennet,

Langston Hughes wrote a poem, "Lenox Avenue Mural" in the 1930s:
What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore-
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over-
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?
Our situation in Palestine is very dire indeed. Millions of Palestinians squeezed into concentration areas and money pours into a few of them to keep the lid on the rest of us. Among Palestinians and Israelis, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer (though the disparity of money allocation is still 10:1 in favor of Israeli Jews over the indigenous Palestinians). But it is also not just an economic issue: the issue is racism. Zionism, built on notions of privilege and chosenness cannot help but spread racism. The pogroms in Tel Aviv against Africans is just a small manifestation of the kind of pogroms and ethnic cleansing done against the native Palestinians. And it continues to be done. Even as Zionists celebrated occupying Jerusalem, studies show Israeli policies succeeded in creating the highest levels of poverty among Palestinians of Jerusalem. And the disastrous affects of the Oslo agreements continue to be felt throughout the occupied areas. Settlement building and destruction of lives and livelihood continue.

There is a process of slow transfer from most of the West Bank to the ghettos otherwise designated area A. The Palestinian "Authority" continues to have a charade of a "government" (appointing new "ministers" recently) while under occupation. And while talking for years about "reconciliation" and the need to revive the "peace" process (it is a process so the quotes are correctly placed only on "peace"). No consultation with people and no strategy of liberation is presented. An Israeli general once quipped to his fellow criminals "once we have settled the land, all the Arabs will be able to do is run around like drugged roaches in a bottle." Sharon used to call it with his thick English accent: the "piss process" and his right hand man Dov Weisglass correctly identified the purpose: to ensure there will never be a Palestinian state and to never discuss Palestinian rights. The only efficiency worth noting today for the PA is its ability to suppress any "friction" via the security cooperation with the Israeli army. Acts of armed and non-violent resistance are both successfully suppressed. The PA meticulously adheres to its obligations under Oslo (as subcontractors for the occupation) while Israel regularly invades area A that is nominally under PA "control" (the
12% of the WB or 2% of historic Palestine). Meanwhile, money and resources are taken from Palestinian lands and people to enrich the coffers of Israeli billionairs (including land developers) and the Israeli military. A profitable occupation indeed! The Palestinian dream of living in freedom and dignity is deferred yet again as the Zionist dominated media works feverishly to talk about Iran and other issues. Israeli authorities continue to think of ways to direct anger towards anything and anyone other than Zionism (the primary cause of instability in this part of the world). Billions of dollars keep moving and millions become poorer.

But back to Hughes question: does a dream deferred sag or does it expode?

Jerusalem Day 2012: Unprecedented Deterioration in East Jerusalem: The prolonged policies that created 78% poverty rates and a frail job market in East Jerusalem.
http://www.acri.org.il/en/2012/05/16/poverty-in-east-jerusalem/
(for Europeans who came here illegally and expelled the indigenous people to make a Khazar State, this turn of events is ironic).

How I survived a Tel Aviv mob attack
http://972mag.com/how-i-survived-a-tel-aviv-mob-attack/46587/

(Worth reading. Note: title usually chosen by editors not author) Not All Israeli Citizens Are Equal
http://imeu.createsend1.com/t/r-l-hryuthy-oikkddhd-i/

Israel's Mabo - Israel/Palestine
http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=49jBz2kR8Ts

Nakba documentary on Aljazeerah
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bm7dMhE80dw
Good news: "Art is a hammer to shape reality": PalFest breaks the siege of Gaza
http://electronicintifada.net/content/art-hammer-shape-reality-palfest-breaks-siege-gaza/11318

Mazin Qumsiyeh, PhD
A Bedouin in Cyberspace, a villager at home
http://qumsiyeh.org

HumanRights newsletter
http://lists.qumsiyeh.org/mailman/listinfo/humanrights
This message was sent to jbennet@uark.edu.

[HumanRights] 650,000 Jewish settlers

Mazin Qumsiyeh mazin@qumsiyeh.org via uark.edu
to jbennet,

More than 15,000 Jewish settlers were added in one year to bring the total colonial settlers living in the West Bank to 650,000. Does any one still think a two-state solution is possible? In parallel, settler violence increased many folds in the past few years (see When settlers attack: A sobering study of the skyrocketing Jewish colonial settler attacks on native Palestinians http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/32678 ). Israel is enjoying unprecedented Western government support. The US Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney is making his pilgrimage here to pay homage to those who will help elect him. This has become a ritual among US presidential candidates hoping to live in the White House in Israeli-occupied Washington. Not to be out-staged, President Obama signed an enhanced "security" arrangement with Apartheid Israel the day before Romney lands here. More tax money is thus diverted to Israel and Israel
promoted wars while the US economy keeps suffering. Romney will also meet with Salam Fayyad who seems content to keep repeating that we want a state in 1967 borders (and not mentioning the refugees which is THE central issue) but in his interview with the independent seemed resigned that Palestine is now marginalized. European and other Western governments hold meetings about Syria and abuses of human rights there (while supporting such abuses both in Syria and elsewhere). No one demanded such meetings about Israel and its abuses (see the recent article by Saul Landau http://www.counterpunch.org/2012/07/20/does-it-matter-what-israelis-do/) or Bahrain or Saudi Arabia or Rohingyas or Libya post Qaddafi or others.

Even when these governments know that there are abuses they continue business as usual. For example the British government reported widespread abuse of Palestinian Children (http://worldpressnetwork.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=18513) but business is business and British officials continue to cooperate economically and in other ways with apartheid. The European Union leadership considers Jewish colonial settlements to be violations of International law and yet give Israel a most favored nation status and regularly trade! Everyone likes to pretend there are no problems and the status quo can continue. The monarchies of Arabia (or the gang of kleptocracies) seem content in their dictatorships untouched by the Arab spring and seem happy that they are now using it to their advantage; witness “Saudi” Arabia’s junta dibbing their hands into Syria and claiming they want to promote “democracy.” They seem satisfied. The Kings of Jordan and Morocco give some power to governments that they hope will absorb public discontent. The USA supports all these ruling families. Everyone pretends that the people’s discontent can be absorbed for a long time or manipulated to serve Western and Israeli interests. Even Hamas and Fatah leadership (though not many of their members) pretend that continuing down the path of the last few years will be OK and are not willing to “rock the boat”. Many are bidding time and hoping for some outside miracle. Maybe Obama will be better in his second
term. Maybe the Arab Spring will work in our favor. Maybe this or that will happen. Meanwhile, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer and our mother earth is devastated.

As in all human history, the only positive changes come from citizens finally realizing that they hold power in their hands. Once people realize that tyranny only lasts as long as apathy dominates, that is when revolutionary change happens. We the people, not governments, made history in the past and will make history in the future. Many ask what common people like us can do about certain issues like the pivotal problem of Palestine. Here are 64 suggestions for this issue (one for every year of the ongoing Nakba) but many can be equally applicable to environmental issues or to human rights violations in Bahrain or Saudi Arabia:

http://gumsiyeh.org/whatyoucando/

Palestinian Investments Require Divestment, Sam Bahour  July 27,12
Over the years, not only has Israel prohibited the emergence of a new Palestinian economy -- it structurally and systematically has made certain that even the buds of such a productive economy would never see the light of day…. Palestinian civil society and Palestinians -- Christians and Muslims alike -- have urged everyone interested in seeing peace with justice to divest from the occupation.


Israel coined the term "Nakba" and is still implementing it by Ilan Pappe

http://electronicintifada.net/content/israel-coined-term-nakba-and-still-implementing-it/11518

(Action) Thirsting for Justice: Join the Campaign for Palestinian Water Rights

https://www.mecaforpeace.org/projects/maia-project/thirsting-justice-campaign
With Sudden Greenland Ice Melt, Reiterating Declaration of Planetary Ecological Emergency by Dr. Glen Barry
http://www.countercurrents.org/barry250712.htm

NASA reported that Satellites see Unprecedented Greenland Ice Sheet Melt

Stay human
Mazin Qumsiyeh, PhD
http://qumsiyeh.org

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PALESTINIAN NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE

Democracy Now: New Film "5 Broken Cameras" Captures Palestinian Village's Nonviolent Resistance

The new documentary film, "5 Broken Cameras," tells the story of Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat, who documented the residents of his village Bil'in resisting the Israeli separation wall.
http://www.democracynow.org/2012/6/8/part_2_acclaimed_new_film_5
See below for more.

RESISTANCE FIGHTER


The hijackings, the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, opposition to Oslo process, and today.

Another 'Palestinian Gandhi' Ignored by U.S. Media

Posted on 07/18/2012 by Chad Rosenbloom

In recent years, corporate media pundits like Tom Friedman and Nicholas Kristof have expressed deep concern over what they claim is a lack of peaceful elements within the Palestinian resistance to the 44-year Israeli occupation. Where is the "Palestinian Gandhi" who could inspire the violent Arab masses to lay down their weapons and pursue a more
Either the many examples of Palestinians successfully using nonviolent direct action to confront their occupiers have gone unnoticed or are being deliberately ignored in mainstream reports. Another amazing victory for peaceful resistance occurred last Tuesday, when Palestinian professional soccer player Mahmoud Sarsak was released from Israeli prison after a three-month hunger strike.

Sarsak had been imprisoned for three years without charge or trial, based on a claim by the Israeli security forces that he was a member of Islamic Jihad. He was subjected to "administrative detention"—imprisonment without trial—when Israeli authorities failed to produce enough evidence to formally prosecute him.

Sarsak's release came several months after 33-year-old baker Khader Adnan also won his freedom after a hunger strike.

Despite the pundits' assurances that a nonviolent Palestinian movement would attract journalists' attention, Sarsak's release—like Adnan's—received little attention in U.S. corporate media. According to a search of the Nexis news database, his release was not mentioned on television. In fact the only U.S. publication that mentioned Sarsak's release was the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (7/10/12), which gave the story a few sentences in a news brief feature in the Sports section.

And here's how that article—based on an AP dispatch—introduced the case:

Dozens of Islamic militants fired rifles in the air today in a rousing homecoming for a member of the Palestinian national soccer team who was released by Israel after being held for three years without formal charges.

Rather than stressing the fact that Sarsak was illegally detained like so many other Palestinians, the Post-Gazette's wire dispatch evokes an image of violent militants welcoming home one of their released comrades.

If the corporate media have truly been waiting for examples of peaceful Palestinian resistance to embrace, than why have Sarsak's case and the many other instances of individuals nonviolently risking their lives for national liberation been essentially ignored?

From the West Bank village of Budrus to the deep recesses of Israeli jails, literally thousands of Palestinians have rejected violence as the most effective
means by which to fight the apartheid structure that has divided and oppressed them for decades. But establishment media in the U.S. clearly do not find what Sarsak called the "revolution of empty stomachs" newsworthy.

NAKBA


BEDISHA, BEYOND THE WALL: WRITING A PATH THROUGH PALESTINE.
Seagull, 2012.
Palestinians and international workers and activists tell of an occupation rife with Kafkaesque regulations, endless checkpoint queues, and the resilience of ordinary people determined to gain dignity and freedom.

CHRISTIAN ZIONISM—FILM

WITH GOD ON OUR SIDE, Directed by Porter Speakman Jr. 82 min. How the theology of Christian Zionism has led some Christians to support Israeli policies that privilege Jews at the expense of Palestinians. Speakman shows an alternative theology that promotes peace and reconciliation.

FILM: PALESTINIAN GIRL IN WAR ZONE

MIRAL. Directed by Julian Schnabel. 2010. 106 min. Based on novel by Julian Jebreal. After death of her mother, Miral lives in an orphanage whose director believes in peace through education. But she struggles with the violence and injustices that surround her.
5 BROKEN CAMERAS

DIRECTED BY EMAD BURNAT & GUY DAVIDI

Emad Burnat is a Palestinian farmer who lives with his wife and four small children in the village of Bil'in in the central West Bank. Teamed with Israeli filmmaker Guy Davidi, the two men document Burnat’s experiences with his neighbors, the Israeli army, and Israeli activists as his village is increasingly drawn into a multi-year conflict over the construction of a barrier that will confiscate much of the village’s cultivated land. His “five broken cameras” are all shot or smashed in the course of nonviolent demonstrations by the villagers: olive trees are burnt; buildings are bulldozed and lives are lost. A prize-winning film at both Sundance and IDFA (Amsterdam’s famed documentary festival), 5 BROKEN CAMERAS takes an international tragedy and reframes it in light of its impact on one family’s life. The film illuminates the warning of Israeli Knesset member Daniel Ben-Simon: “Israel is making a mistake in its unwillingness to recognize a Palestinian state.”

ISRAEL / PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES / FRANCE / NETHERLAND • 2011
90 MINS. • IN ARABIC, ENGLISH & HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
KINO LORBER

REVIEWS

top

[4 Stars]

“Critic's Pick. “Eye-opening! Sharpened into an adrenalinizing narrative by co-director Guy Davidi. A proudly defiant work... a work that, obliquely, captures so many largely unreported details.”

– Joshua Rothkopf, Time Out New York
Click here to read the full review.

“Necessary, if difficult viewing.... Partly a piece of advocacy journalism. But it's also a visual essay in autobiography and, as such, a modest, rigorous and moving work of art... (The) video diary of his daily life is especially poignant and intimate. 5 BROKEN CAMERAS deserves to be appreciated for the lyrical delicacy of his voice and the precision of his eye...”

Click here to read the full review.

“Startlingly intimate and direct. Shot with such precision and visual ingenuity under such plainly chaotic conditions.”

– Mark Holcomb, Village Voice
“An engrossing, out-of-the-ordinary film about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”
   – Deborah Young, The Hollywood Reporter

“Displays both distinction and the emergence of significant talent. Working with co-director Guy Davidi, an Israeli, Burnat has crafted a moving film that is poised on the brink of despair… Presents vivid witness to the power of the image to help with…healing.”
   – George Robinson, The Jewish Week

“(A) powerful record of the Palestinian village of Bil’in’s course of civil disobedience from 2005 to the present, as the residents collectively resist the building of Israeli settlements.”
   - Leslie Felperin, Variety

“A compelling personal tale.”

WATCH 5 BROKEN CAMERAS filmmakers Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi on Democracy

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Iceland Recognizes Palestinian State
Plight of Arab Israelis
Baltzer: November 29 Palestinian Solidarity
Opposition to Study Abroad in Israel
Global March to Jerusalem
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Michael Lerner, Embracing Israel/Palestine
Eyal Press, Beautiful Souls
Hedges, “Israel and Palestine”
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Obama
Qumsiyeh’s Newsletter from Palestine
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END ISRAEL-PALESTINE NEWSLETTER #5