With painful irony, Israel has become the oppressor, but we cannot forget the depth of fear that pervades that nation. The Holocaust was and is ever-present in their hearts and minds. It would be well for us all to remember what Dag Hammarskjold wrote about fear and its resistance in 1956 following his trip to the Middle East to try to restore adherence to armistice agreements, when attacks and retaliations were increasing. And of course his words applied to all the Middle Eastern combatant nations, then and today.

“Why is war and fear of war in the headlines of every daily paper, if not because man fears man and nation, nation? . . . Can there be a greater challenge for us to work for such a recognition of the dignity of man as would eliminate the fear which is eating our world like a cancer?” See the full passage p. 249, Lipsey, Hammarskjold.
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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PALESTINIANS JOIN GENEVA CONVENTIONS
In a tiny report on a back back, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported that the Palestinian Authority signed letters of accession effective April 2, 25 years after making their first bid for membership. Israel opposed the move because one part of the Conventions prohibits colonizing occupied land. Here is a much fuller report from *Middle East Monitor*: [--Dick]

**Middle East Monitor - The Latest from the Middle East**

**Palestine accepted to Geneva Convention**

Saturday, 12 April 2014 15:17

The UN and the Swiss government have accepted requests from the Palestinian Authority (PA) to join 14 international treaties and conventions.
The Swiss government said on Friday that Palestine can accede to the Geneva conventions governing the rules of war and military occupations.

Spokesman of the Swiss foreign ministry, Pierre-Alain Eltschinger, said that the state of Palestine was acceded to the conventions on 2 April. Eltschinger said that all concerned countries were notified about this measure.

PA President Mahmoud Abbas said that the accession was a "historic day for the Palestinian people."

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said that Abbas had received a letter signed by the head of the Swiss Federation telling him that Palestine is now a party in the Geneva conventions for 1949 and in the additional protocol for 1977.
According to the letter, Erekat said that Palestine would become a full member in another 11 treaties on 2 May. The treaties include the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations, the convention on the rights of children, the convention against torture and an anti-corruption accord.

The State of Palestine would also be a full member of the convention against genocides on 2 July.

Meanwhile, the UN said that the Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon had agreed on the accession of Palestine to 13 treaties.

In wake of serious difficulties facing the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, Abbas decided to turn to international organisations and sign international treaties.
Israeli media have said that Palestinians are mainly interested in the fourth Geneva convention because it defines the duties of occupying powers and acknowledges the occupation of Palestinian territories.

It also prohibits forced transfer and deportation of populations or individuals, as well as the destruction of movable or immovable property, unless it is made "absolutely necessary by military operations."

Israeli authorities said this should not be applied in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip because they are no longer claimed by Egypt or Jordan, who ruled them before 1967. In addition, they claim that the Palestinian state has never existed.

Regarding East Jerusalem, Israeli authorities also said it should not be considered an occupied territory because Israel has extended citizenship rights to its Arab residents.
FOUR LETTERS FROM MAZIN QUMSIYEH

[Mazin Qumsiyeh’s visit to Fayetteville several years ago during his “Wheels of Justice” bus tour. He was a professor in the Act for human rights 4-27-14]

Mazin Qumsiyeh <mazin@qumsiyeh.org>

People asked me about the latest "reconciliation" agreement between Fatah and Hamas. Most Palestinians here are skeptical of the sincerity of leadership in Fatah and Hamas and most still think these leaders are driven by narrow factional and personal interests than by interest of Palestine. Noticeably absent was the popular Front For the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the largest secular faction after Fatah. Women leaders also complained about the exclusion of women voices. Youth were also absent as most of those politicians are my age or older. In my talks (and I give several every week to visiting delegations and local people), I emphasize that people must wake up and push politicians to do the right thing. That is how history changes: via people especially youth and women. Of course, many wish that politicians show some leadership for positive change but we the people have to act. Meanwhile, we have an ongoing slow genocide of the Palestinian people. 7.4 million are refugees/displaced people and that number keeps growing. Those of us who against all odds remain here are subjected to unspeakable restrictions and squeezed into ghettos/cantons by an apartheid regime worse than in Apartheid South Africa and the most profitable occupation in history (thanks partly to the Oslo accords). But I do see positive signs of people acting here and there regularly. So many internationals show so much solidarity because Palestine today is the lightning rod against western hypocrisy and racism in the same way that South Africa provided such a beacon in the 1980s.

I am especially encouraged by young people here. We just concluded a biomedical conference in Nablus where our students excelled in giving results of their research. The volunteers I work with in nature are excellent (I spent yesterday classifying butterflies with one such volunteer for our nascent natural history museum). We work with undergraduate and graduate students on issues ranging from pollution to infertility to biodiversity to cancer epidemiology.

I continue to send letters to editors and occasionally some are published. This one below is significant in that it was published 25 April in the
Israel and the Palestinian Christians: As Palestinian Christians we deal with the Israeli repression daily

Regarding Israel's U.N. Ambassador Ron Prosor's "The Middle East War on Christians" (op-ed, April 17): For brevity, I want to address one aspect, which is the supposed protection by Israel of Christians. As Palestinian Christians we deal with the Israeli repression daily. Even with my U.S. passport I was not allowed to enter Jerusalem for Easter as most Palestinians continue to be denied their religious freedom. Israel destroyed 530 Palestinian villages and towns and created the largest refugee population on earth after World War II. Churches and mosques were equally targeted for destruction. And in its expansion in the rest of Palestine, Israel started building colonial settlements after 1967 on our occupied lands (illegal per international law). Bethlehem is now a ghetto with a wall around it. Israel has over 50 laws that discriminate against non-Jewish Israelis and hundreds to discriminate against Palestinians in the occupied areas. For those interested in information from Christians, please look up the powerful statement by all Christian denominations here called "Kairos Palestine" (www.kairospalestine.ps) instead of Mr. Prosor's attempt to divert attention and mislead readers.

source http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303825604579515892375722808

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR HUMAN RIGHTS? http://qumsiyeh.org/whatyoucando/

6 year old Palestinian child abducted by occupation soldiers https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTxJb-HLp70
http://palsolidarity.org/

Martin Indyk and the moral crisis at heart of Obama's peace http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=692628

Elhaik genetics and the Khazars (shows that most European Jews have no genetic relationship to the Middle Eastern Jews or Arabs) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3595026/

Stay human and come visit us in the Bethlehem area

Mazin Qumsiyeh
Professor at Bethlehem University
A bedouin in cyberspace, a villager at home
Join me on facebook https://www.facebook.com/mazin.qumsiyeh.9

-------------- next part --------------
An HTML attachment was scrubbed...
HumanRights: Being Positive

Mazin Qumsiyeh mazinsiyyeh.org via uark.edu

From now on our posts will have more positive than negative links/stories. But first an unclassified note (time will tell impact): Israeli warplanes attacked Syria. The Palestinian negotiating team submitted its resignation following Israel's announcement of building thousands of new Jewish colonial settler homes on Palestinian lands and its announcement of thousands of home demolitions for native Jerusalemites. The significance is unknown since it seems these same guys keep going back to “negotiations” and have convinced themselves they have no options (to maintain their salaries). The definition of madness is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

Being Positive

Today (Saturday 11-5) we meet in Ramallah for a study day to work and organize for a positive future: one democratic secular state in
historic Paleatine. [One instead of two states has become Mazin’s hope, given the relentless growth of Israeli settlements and other subverions of a separate Palestinian state. –Dick]

29 Photos That Put All Of Our Struggles In Perspective
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/28/powerful-photos-life-on-earth_n_4123343.html

An Iraqi child is saved by an Australian women and sings “Imagine” by John Lennon
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrJyzkNg27k

Birth in Nature- Amazing gift of life
http://www.cienfuegoshoy.org/2013/10/10/el-parto-natural-de-simone-rodeada-de-toda-su-familia-por-favor-imagenes-explicitas-por-liber-y-barrueta-martinez/

Forget Survival of the Fittest: It Is Kindness That Counts
A psychologist probes how altruism, Darwinism and neurobiology mean that we can succeed by not being cutthroat.
http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=kindness-emotions-psychology&WT.mc_id=SA_sharetool_Facebook

A photographer documents as his wife fades away with breast cancer
http://www.viralnova.com/wifes-cancer/

[Great new book] Max Blumenthal's Goliath, Life and Loathing in Greater Israel
http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=10922

Classified Negative

NSA infiltrates links to Yahoo, Google data centers worldwide, Snowden documents say. [ofcourse all shared with Israel thanks to AIPAC]

Was ISRAEL behind the hacking of millions of French phones and NOT the U.S.? Extraordinary twist in spying saga revealed
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2477013

A Lopsided U.S. Visa-Waiver By YOUSEF MUNAYYER New York Times
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/29/opinion/international/a-lopsided-us-visa-waiver.html

Watch how Congress is occupied by Israel: I'd Dump the Israelis Tomorrow --Ex-CIA Michael Scheuer Tells Congress [as an Israeli prostitute try to silence him]
http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article36629.htm
3 ACTIONS and key information

Many items but lots of things happened and we included few key ones in this weekly message. You can simply pick items of interest and click and act.

Action 1: Defend free speech and human rights and support the BDS

Action 2: Boycott SodaStream Days of Action Nov. 29-December 10
http://www.endtheoccupation.org/section.php?id=456
(PS Sales of this apartheid company are disappointing and stock price is shaky, let us push harder)

Action 3 (for USA citizens): The Friends of Wadi Foquin Need Your Help!

INFORMATION

Thanks to efforts of activists, the City of St. Louis did not hire Veolia to manage its Water Division. This is a major Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions victory
http://www.stl-psc.org/?p=567

Latin American writers say Israel must abandon “colonial” Zionist ideology
This and other good news and action items at the website of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel
http://pacbi.org

Ahmed Kathrada, one of the longest serving political prisoners of the South African anti-apartheid struggle and current spokesman for the Mandela family, appeals for the release of Marwan Barghouti and all other Palestinian political prisoners.
http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/10/unconditional-release-marwan-barghouti-
Swiss forensic report on Arafat's death: The 108-page report by Swiss scientists who say their data supports the theory that Arafat was poisoned with polonium. 

(on a side note, in 2004 I was at Yale Medical School and presented this case briefly to a group of hematopathologists/colleagues who all concluded that such rapid deterioration without any evidence of an underlying pathology in an otherwise healthy individual is most consistent with toxic chemical or radiation exposure)

26 pictures of Palestine from 120 years ago in color lithographs (before Zionist colonization)

I work with bats (my first book was published in 1985 and was on “The Bats of Egypt”) and we measure echolocation frequencies as ways of identification. He is a child who went blind from retinoblastoma early in childhood and who developed echolocation as a way to “see” the world around him. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLLGbsL7uY0

[Colonialism goes on as the charade goes on…] Abbas promises Kerry not to pull out of peace talks: Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat denies threats to resign and cause collapse of talks over new settlements. “On Thursday, Channel 10 and Palestinian news agency Ma’an reported Erekat tendered his resignation before Abbas but that the latter rejected it. What actually transpired was a little different. According to Israeli officials, Erekat did not deliver a resignation letter, but instead tossed out a verbal statement at a PLO meeting.”

see also
http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/PA-denies-Palestinian-peace-envoys-quit-over-Israeli-settlement-building-330428

Analysis: What future for the Oslo Model? 
http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=644460

Note: I will be in Belgium the next few days and so out of reach by phone but will respond to emails
On Friday, all demonstrations in many Palestinian villages had the theme against the Prawer Plan. On Saturday in 30 countries, events were held to counter this plan to ethnically cleanse 40,000 Palestinians from the Negev in the 65 year colonial Zionist program to make Palestine a “Jewish state”. The demonstrations locally in Palestine were held in Haifa, the Triangle, Jerusalem, AlBireh, and the Negeb with the same message: Prawer shall not be passed or implemented and we emphasize the unity of all 12 million Palestinians. All local demonstrations were attacked viciously by the apartheid forces. I personally noted the absence of the key symbols of the Palestinian authority which should have joined the demonstration in Jerusalem (many of the leaders have VIP cards and can travel to Jerusalem). Will these “leaders” finally listen to the people instead of listening to the oppressors?

Saturday we had a meeting to evaluate 5 years of our master of biotechnology program (joint program by Bethlehem University and Polytechnic University). Sunday, we had Bethlehem tree lighting ceremony and we welcomes a Gaza child who will be rehabilitated here (spinal cord cancer that was mostly resolved but that left the 8 year old child unable to walk). Monday we decorated a tree in the manger square with spent tear gas canisters and stun grenades (made in America, used by Israel). We posted signs that showed our displeasure at the USAID giving money to the municipality for Christmas celebrations! Typical hypocrisy of the US funding our starvation and killing while also giving symbolically to celebrations and roads to make life under occupation a bit more tolerable. Unfortunately the “Palestinian police” removed our exhibit. They act as subcontractors for the Israeli occupation preventing free speech and carry8ing out a policy of Mahmoud Abbas friendly to US policies (a policy made in Tel Aviv).

The people of Nablus meantime buried their latest victim of Israeli
racism. An Israeli simply shot him at point blank range. The murderer claimed he was looking for illegal Palestinian workers and that the Palestinian guy acted aggressively. Family and friends on the other hand point to the fact that this young worker was two weeks away from his wedding, had a legal job with Israelis in the area now named Ramat Gan, and had good friendly relations to Israelis who were invited to his wedding. He would have no reason to attack Israelis two weeks before his wedding. But let us face it, his killer is free and he will be added to the list of >70,000 Palestinians killed by Israel for being a Palestinian in Palestine, a country being transformed to a Jewish state of Israel. From occupiers we know what to expect but from the Palestinian authority to work like this is SHAMEFUL.

Saturday we celebrated the 4th anniversary of the launch of Kairos Palestine, a moment of truth (see http://www.kairos palestine.ps). As Palestinian Christians around the world come to this season of joy and celebration in December and January, we Palestinian Christians with help of our fellow Muslim and Jewish human rights activists remind all to work to end Israeli racist apartheid. We must end this suffering that lasted some 65 years and that left 7 million refugees and displaced people in order to create this monstrosity called the “Jewish state of Israel”, a racist apartheid state. We must evolve towards a secular pluralistic democracy with a clear affirmative action plan to restore the rights of the native Palestinians.

Meeting this Thursday at 11 AM at Izbet Tabib (Qalqilia district) to discuss plans to deels with the Israeli military just blocking the road to the village.

Videos from various locations
Jerusalem http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IkZIUcPhL I http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inABG6AJo8Y
Haifa http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRj7FFdyVSk http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCNGs8j4jHU
Jaffa http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39wN0YokQTM
Nebi Saleh http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rx25ItuoIF4
Gaza http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v24gxkdMTrQ
Near Ramallah http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2AaNMCho2o
Roma http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4Bm-K1SdfI
London http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGoD_kBj2Ew
Kuwait http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNfpR2O41C8

Pictures from around the world http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek0NTW3LLHE
UNRWA released its archives material including photographs of Palestinian refugees right after the Nakba
http://archive.unrwa.org/license/home/unrwa.do

[End Qumsiyeh]


TIME/WORLD, Middle East

Israel Plans More Than 1,500 New Settlement Homes

By AP / Josef Federman Oct. 30, 2013 6 Comments
(JERUSALEM) — Israel announced plans Wednesday to build more than 1,500 homes in Jewish settlements in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, dealing a setback to newly relaunched peace efforts hours after it had freed a group of long-serving Palestinian prisoners.

The construction plans drew angry condemnations from Palestinian officials, who accused Israel of undermining the U.S.-led talks by expanding settlements on the lands where they hope to establish an independent state. U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon also condemned the Israeli decision, and Washington said it would not create a “positive environment” for the negotiations.

Israel had freed the 26 Palestinian prisoners as part of a U.S.-brokered agreement to restart the talks. The construction was meant to blunt anger over the release of the prisoners, all of whom had been convicted of murder in the deaths of Israelis.

Israel’s Interior Ministry said 1,500 apartments would be built in Ramat Shlomo, a large settlement in east Jerusalem, the section of the holy city claimed by the Palestinians as their capital. It also announced plans for archaeology and tourism projects near the Old City, home to Jerusalem’s most sensitive holy sites.

Israel first announced the Ramat Shlomo plan in 2010 during a visit to Israel by U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, sparking a diplomatic rift with Washington that took months to mend. Wednesday’s decision is the final approval needed, and construction can begin immediately, officials said.

Ofir Akunis, a lawmaker from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud Party, said construction also had been approved for several West Bank settlements.

“The building in Judea and Samaria will continue and be intensified,” said Akunis, using the biblical term for the West Bank.
In addition, he told parliament that Netanyahu had given orders to “advance plans” for more than 2,000 homes in a longer list of settlements across the West Bank.

While these projects still need additional bureaucratic approvals, they are especially provocative because several of the settlements are deep inside the West Bank and almost certainly would have to be dismantled as part of a peace deal.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for a future state.

The Palestinians, along with virtually all of the international community, consider the settlements to be illegal or illegitimate.

Nabil Abu Rdeneh, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, condemned the settlement plans, saying they were “destructive to the peace efforts and will only lead to more tensions.”

“It’s a message to the international community that Israel is a state that doesn’t abide by international law and continues to put obstacles in the way of peace,” he said.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said, “We do not consider continued settlement activity or East Jerusalem construction to be steps that create a positive environment for the negotiations.”

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said the secretary-general “deplores” the Israeli announcement.

“Settlement activity is contrary to international law and constitutes an obstacle to peace,” Nesirky said. “Any measures that prejudge final status issues will not be recognized by the international community.”
The previous round of peace talks broke down in late 2008 and remained frozen for nearly five years, in large part because of Palestinian objections to settlement construction.

The Palestinians say continued expansion of settlements, now home to more than 500,000 Israelis, makes it increasingly difficult to divide the land between Israel and a Palestinian state. [Masterful understatement surely meant to be ironic. The reality of half-million illegal settlers suffocated Mazin's hope for a two-state solution. –Dick]

Under heavy U.S. pressure, the Palestinians dropped a longstanding demand for a settlement freeze over the summer and agreed to resume negotiations with the understanding that Israel would slow construction.

As part of that arrangement, Israel agreed to release 104 of the longest-serving Palestinian prisoners, most of whom had committed their crimes before a landmark interim peace deal was reached in 1993. Wednesday’s release was the second of four groups in the coming months.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have been meeting secretly since late July. Under orders from U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to keep quiet, they have said little about the discussions, although Palestinian officials say all core issues are being discussed. [The ADG version ends here. –Dick]

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of Kerry’s orders, said the talks are currently focusing on Israeli security demands and the contours of future borders.

The future of the settlements would fit heavily into those discussions. It remains difficult to see how the U.S. can bridge the wide gaps between the sides.

Netanyahu opposes a full withdrawal from the West Bank, saying Israel would need to keep significant portions of the territory for security needs.
He also has vowed never to divide Jerusalem. Israel has built a series of settlements around east Jerusalem, including Ramat Shlomo, to solidify its control.

Israel considers east Jerusalem settlements to be “neighborhoods” of its capital, but Israel’s annexation of east Jerusalem is not internationally recognized.

Danny Danon, a hard-line member of Netanyahu’s party, said the U.S. should focus its energies on stopping Iran’s suspected nuclear program instead of trying to broker a peace deal by next May.

“To finish the conflict with the Palestinians by May 2014 is wishful thinking,” he told foreign journalists in Jerusalem. “I would say let’s finish with the threat coming from Iran by May 2014 and then go to the negotiation table and speak with the Palestinians.”

Israel has a long history of lopsided prisoner exchanges with its Arab adversaries. But this week’s release appeared especially charged because Israel appeared to be receiving little in return except for the opportunity to conduct negotiations that few people believe will succeed.

In the West Bank and Gaza, thousands celebrated long into the night as they welcomed the released prisoners. Abbas greeted them at his West Bank headquarters early Wednesday.

While Israel views the prisoners as terrorists, the Palestinians see them as heroes in a struggle against Israeli occupation.

“There will be no final agreement without the release of all the prisoners,” Abbas told the raucous crowd.

Read more: Israel Plans More Than 1,500 New Settlement Homes | TIME.com http://world.time.com/2013/10/30/israel-plans-more-than-1500-new-settlement-homes/#ixzz2jck6PzJG
Chris Hedges, Imploding the Myth of Israel. 04 November 13, Reader Supported News

Chris Hedges, Truthdig
Hedges writes: "Israel has been poisoned by the psychosis of permanent war."
READ MORE

David D forwarded this article and adds this comment:

Chris Hedges' article primarily critiques and cites from Max Blumenthal's courageous new book. "Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel"

Chris Hedges' article can be accessed thru the live link in the article above or directly here: http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/imploding_the_myth_of_israel_20131103/#.Ungse7RD0vA.em

from the article:
"Leibowitz, whom Isaiah Berlin called "the conscience of Israel," warned that if Israel did not separate church and state it would give rise to a corrupt rabbinate that would warp Judaism into a fascistic cult"

'Uri Avnery, a left-wing politician and journalist, says: "Israel's very existence is threatened by fascism."'
Chomsky: Don't Be Distracted by One-State/Two-State 'Debate' on Israel - Something Much More Nefarious Is Going On

Noam Chomsky, AlterNet, Nov. 5, 2013 Reader Supported News. Chomsky writes: "The near inevitable outcome, 'one state for two nations,' will pose 'an immediate existential threat of the erasure of the identity of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state,' soon with a Palestinian-Arab majority."

READ MORE

Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel

by Max Blumenthal

In Goliath, New York Times bestselling author Max Blumenthal takes us on a journey through the badlands and high roads of Israel-Palestine, painting a startling portrait of Israeli society under the siege of increasingly authoritarian politics as the occupation of the Palestinians deepens.

Beginning with the national elections carried out during Israel's war on Gaza in 2008-09, which brought into power the country's most right-wing government to date, Blumenthal tells the story of Israel in the wake of the collapse of the Oslo peace process.

As Blumenthal reveals, Israel has become a country where right-wing leaders like Avigdor Lieberman and Bibi Netanyahu are sacrificing democracy on the altar of their power politics; where the loyal opposition largely and passively stands aside and watches the organized assault on civil liberties; where state-funded Orthodox rabbis publish books that provide instructions on how and when to kill Gentiles; where half of Jewish youth declare their refusal to sit in a classroom with an Arab; and where mob violence targets Palestinians and African asylum seekers scapegoated by leading government officials as "demographic
Immersing himself like few other journalists inside the world of hardline political leaders and movements, Blumenthal interviews the demagogues and divas in their homes, in the Knesset, and in the watering holes where their young acolytes hang out, and speaks with those political leaders behind the organized assault on civil liberties. As his journey deepens, he painstakingly reports on the occupied Palestinians challenging schemes of demographic separation through unarmed protest. He talks at length to the leaders and youth of Palestinian society inside Israel now targeted by security service dragnets and legislation suppressing their speech, and provides in-depth reporting on the small band of Jewish Israeli dissidents who have shaken off a conformist mindset that permeates the media, schools, and the military.

Through his far-ranging travels, Blumenthal illuminates the present by uncovering the ghosts of the past—the histories of Palestinian neighborhoods and villages now gone and forgotten; how that history has set the stage for the current crisis of Israeli society; and how the Holocaust has been turned into justification for occupation.

[from Amazon]

ALI ABUNIMAH


BY ALI ABUNIMAH

Efforts to achieve a “two-state solution” have finally collapsed; the struggle for justice in Palestine is at a crossroads. As Israel and its advocates lurch toward greater extremism, many ask where the struggle is headed. This book offers a clear analysis of this crossroads moment and looks forward with urgency down the path to a more hopeful future.

ALI ABUNIMAH is the author of One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli Palestinian Impasse, the widely acclaimed publication The Electronic Intifada. Based in the United States, he has written hundreds of articles and been an active part of the movement for justice in Palestine for 20 years. He is the recipient of a 2013 Lannan Cultural Freedom Fellowship.

"Every community that stands fast, loving its people and its land, its customs and its ways, will be seen, evaluated, cherished because it is our own humanity we are learning from, our own value. There will also arise a special voice that is brave, trustworthy and true. In The Battle for Justice in Palestine it is the voice of Ali Abunimah, fierce, wise - a witness..."
someone whose large heart, one senses, beyond his calm, is constantly on fire. A pragmatist but also a poet. This is the book to read to understand the present bizarre and ongoing complexity of the Palestine/Israel tragedy. And though it is filled with the grim reality of this long and deadly, ugly and dehumanizing, conflict, it also offers hope: that as more people awaken to the shocking reality of what has for decades been going on, we can bring understanding and restitution to the Palestinian people. Their struggle to exist in dignity and peace in their own homeland - and this may be the biggest surprise of Abunimah's book - is mirrored in the struggles for survival of us.

—Alice Walker

"This is the best book on Palestine in the last decade. No existing book presents the staggering details that Abunimah’s book offers. Abunimah’s scope includes an analysis of the politics, economics, environmental relations, academic scholarship and activism, global solidarity, and official and unofficial lobbies that have come to bear on Palestine and the Palestinians. The Battle for Justice in Palestine is the most comprehensive treatment of Palestinian suffering and the only possible way to end it. It is a must read for anyone seeking to understand the current situation of the Palestinians.

—Joseph Massad, Columbia University

The Peace Index December 2013

The Israel Democracy Institute

Graph of the month: Do you support or oppose the United States exerting pressure on both sides, Israeli and Palestinian, to push them toward reaching an agreement? (% support, according to self-placement on the right-left spectrum)
ن قمع قوات الحتلل مسيرة برافر
موقع سلم
برافر لن يمر
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2013
القدس
النقب
اعتقالت واشتباكات عنيفة، حرق إطارات ورشق حجارة في يوم الغضب
لي دار علي برافر لن يمر المهاجمة و المواجهة
ل باعتقال متظاهر فلسطيني ضد برافر قرب مستوطنة بيت إيل شمال رام
J-STREET PAC

Dear James Bennett,

Thank you for your generous contribution. Your support of pro-Israel, pro-peace candidates is making a difference in our work.

Please feel free to be in touch with us at info@jstreetpac.org if you have any questions about your contribution.

Thanks again, Jeremy Ben-Ami, President, JStreetPAC

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