

**Palestinian Liberation:
The Anti-war Movement
and the African American
Liberation Struggle**

Black Workers League



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The anti-war movement is at the center of world politics. It confronts as a central aspect of the US led global imperialist strategy, preemptive military strikes, regime changes, wars and occupations of countries.

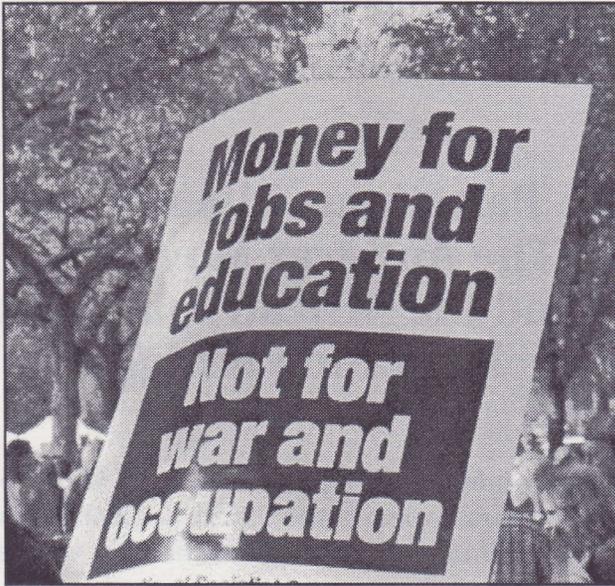
The dismantling of the Soviet Union and the defeat of the international socialist camp has enabled US led imperialism to carry out its current global strategy without a strong and consolidated international opposition from national governments and movements as was seen during the 1960s and 70s.

Likewise, the dismantling and repression of the revolutionary movements of African Americans and the other nationally oppressed, has weakened the US anti-imperialist movement.

The international anti-war movement has been able to sharpen contradictions between the imperialist countries that have helped to isolate US and British imperialism. However, it faces the same historical hurdles of dealing with the struggle against racism and the national questions that are necessary for consolidating a revolutionary anti-imperialist line, program and strategy. The question of the liberation of Palestine and indeed the crises facing the African Diaspora, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asian sub-continent are central to developing a revolutionary internationalist anti-imperialist movement.

Israel's occupation of Palestine and its expanding colonial system of Zionist Apartheid is a central part of the US imperialist strategy in the Middle East. The occupation of Iraq is a further step

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along the road to the subjugation of the whole Middle East region as a strategic base for US imperialism, which seeks to push through a political and economic reorganization of global capitalism in the interest of US capital. This will give the US ruling class a dominant global position over other major oil dependent and economically competitive countries.

“Conflicts in the Middle East have been very costly to the U.S., as well as to the rest of the world. ... Support for Israel comes to \$1.8 trillion, including special trade advantages, preferential contracts, or aid buried in other accounts. In addition to the financial outlay, U.S. aid to Israel costs some 275,000 American jobs each year.”¹

Yet, there are many working class and poor communities throughout the US, especially in the South and rural areas, where many still lack essential services, i.e., water and sewerage treatment, paved roads, hospitals and adequate funding for education. Every time people demand these services, the US government claims that there is no money.

Globalization/Imperialism seeks to promote a view that there is “no alternative” to capitalism. It seeks to prevent and defeat

progressive alliances between nations, radical working class ideas, and social movements and struggles that empower workers and oppressed peoples that lead in the direction of socialism.

However, the outright lies and government manipulation by the US and Britain about Iraq having “weapons of mass destruction” and relations to “terrorists” responsible for September 11th New York World Trade Center bombings, combined with the economic crises affecting millions within the imperialist countries, have created massive resentment and anger.

Hundreds of young men and women serving and dying as US led imperialist troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and thousands of Afghani and Iraqi civilians have been killed as a result. The corporate takeover of the US government led by the Bush administration and the rising fascism through the establishment of the PATRIOT ACT and other repressive measures, is becoming more apparent.

Anti-Semitism: What is the Truth?

A key part of the US/Israeli Middle East strategy, has been to make the issue of “anti-Semitism” and thus the defense of the state of Israel and “Jewish people”, the main problem in the Middle East and a primary basis for the emergence of “Arab terrorism” as the main international “threat” to global “democracy.”

The cry of “anti-Semitism” in the US and Europe today for the most part is a “cynical ploy on the part of the Israeli [and US] governments to seal off the Zionist state from any criticism of its consistent brutality against the Palestinians. Criticism of Israel cannot and should not be equated with anti-Semitism. ... The fact is that Israel is not a weak, defenseless state. It is the strongest state in the region. Israel was created in 1948 by the British Empire and sustained by its American successor. It was a European settler-state. Its early leaders proclaimed the myth of ‘A Land without People for a People without land’, thus denying the presence of the Palestinians.”² The countries in this region “see in Israel as an aggressive, expansionist power that has occupied a piece of every country it borders”.³ This expansionism is a major source of Israel’s hostilities’ with Arab countries in the region.

This charge of anti-Semitism was also made against many Afri-

can Americans and progressives who criticized Israel for their support of the racist Apartheid regime in South Africa during the 1960s through the 1980s. This caused tensions and splits within many anti-Apartheid coalitions during that period.

The silence and sense of intimidation among left and progressives in the US labor and anti-war movements today around opposing Israel's occupation of Palestinian, speaks to the level of political and ideological confusion that Zionism has on the "white left" regarding the struggle against white supremacy. It contributes to the isolation of the Palestinian struggle, and to the desensitizing of people throughout the US about the violence and slaughter they face, that if not stopped, could lead to their genocide and destruction as a nation.

Statements are being made in some anti-war coalitions that more "education" on the Palestinian struggle is needed before including their demands, slogans and speakers in anti-war mobilizations; but this "education" never takes place. Remember this struggle is over 50 years old.

What masses will the demand to end the occupation of Palestine be "unacceptable" to? Is it Blacks and Latinos, who live in communities throughout the US experiencing a daily form of occupation from the police? Many of them are immigrants from countries throughout the African Diaspora and Latin America who know what it means to be victims of US supported repressive regimes as well as "trade" policies, that force them to the US in search of work, where they are denied democratic rights and suffer further repression.

There have been sharp criticisms among the left about Cuba's use of the death penalty against armed hijackers, about Mugabe's land seizures from white farmers, to cite a couple of examples. Yet these critics are not speaking out in the same way against Israel's Zionist expansionism and brutal occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people. The big question, is *why*?

The organized working class voices and movements of African Americans and other oppressed nationalities within the US, must come forward to build direct solidarity with the Palestinian and other struggles throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the US. This is an essential part of the global fight against

the racist character of imperialism.

In doing so, the African American liberation movement contributes to rebuilding an international climate and framework that enables it to more sharply define its own anti-imperialist character and to rebuild a more conscious revolutionary movement. This includes the demand for reparations.

It is important then, that we look at the history and role of Zionism as it expresses itself through the politics, alliances and actions of the state of Israel against the Palestinian people, throughout the Middle East and internationally.

Zionism: A Racist Component of Imperialism

Israel's creation as a state in 1948 grew out of Zionism, a separatist movement based on the belief that Jews can only find a safe home from persecution in an exclusively Jewish state. Zionism as a movement proceeded the tragic Holocaust that murdered half the world's Jews. Zionism uses this experience of the Holocaust to try to justify Israel's history and actions in the Middle East as defensive and non-aggressive.

"In 1897, the first Zionist Congress was held in Switzerland attended by 200 from seventeen countries, 69 of whom were delegates from various Zionist societies where the foundations for the Zionist political strategy were developed"⁴

"Zionism developed in a time of reinvigorated white supremacy in the latter part of the nineteenth century when European states were busily dividing up the land of Africa and Asia. In the confrontation with the indigenous people of Palestine, its ideology belongs within the history of European racial theories and, like the Afrikaner ideology of Jan Smuts, has little problem with seeing itself in the forefront of democracy and civilization in the Middle East while at the same time implementing and justifying the complete and utter subjugation of one its most prominent people."⁵

Theodor Herzl, first president of the World Zionist Organization and main architect of Zionism, stressed the necessity of winning consent of major imperialist governments for a "Jewish" state. "Theodor Herzl, in his 1896 pamphlet 'the Jewish State' wrote it would 'form a part of a wall of defense for Europe in Asia, an outpost of civilization against barbarism'. This is the same Herzl who



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stated that Zionist colonization would be 'representatives of Western civilization,' bringing 'cleanliness, order and the well-established customs of the Occident to this plague-ridden, blighted corner of the Orient'.⁶

The Berlin Conference held in Germany in November 1884, while focusing on carving up Africa among the major European countries, established guidelines that also allowed Zionism to eventually make its claim for a "national homeland" in the territory resided on by the Palestinians for more than 1,200 years. "The Berlin Act" created the rules for 'effective occupation' of conquered lands, allowing the European powers to justify dividing a continent among themselves, without considering the desires or histories of the indigenous peoples.

Zionism's historical development and links to European colonialism, should make it pretty clear, that the struggle against Zionism cannot be effectively waged without struggling against white supremacy and U.S. imperialism—they are intricately linked. This was essentially the position arrived at by thousands of delegates in

attendance at the World Conference Against Racism held in Durban, South Africa in August 2001 who said that *Zionism is racism*.

Israel's Occupation of Palestine

The US "war on terrorism" set the tone and direction for Israel's increased levels of military aggression against the Palestinians. The forced regime change of the Palestinian Authority, the bulldozing of communities identified with the more militant factions of the Palestinian liberation movement, and the planned assassinations carried out against Palestinian leaders, makes clear that Israel and the US government are not interested in a peaceful solution that results in a truly independent Palestinian state.

This point was emphasized by Israel's recent back to back assassinations of parapalegic spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin and Pediatrician Doctor Abdel Aziz Rantissi, two Hamas leaders.

Bush's announcement of the US support for Israel's right to carry out these and future assassinations, further aligns it with the US strategy in the Middle East against the so-called war on terrorism. This is demonstrated by the US role in Afghanistan and Iraq, which defines occupation as a counter terrorist necessity.

The Palestinian liberation movement is waging a valiant struggle against occupation and for self-determination. However, Israeli occupation, in addition to causing great suffering for the Palestinian people, is weakening and fragmenting the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) as the national liberation front of the Palestinian liberation movement and nation, which has become isolated and forced into greater compromises with Israel and US imperialism.

Israel's occupation seeks to destroy basic conditions for the survival and growth of the Palestinian oppressed nation into a viable self-governing and liberated nation.

One International Labor Organization (ILO) report said, "The escalation of violence and the military occupation of the [Palestinian] territories have caused great physical damage to the infrastructure and agricultural land ... The worsening economic conditions in the occupied territories can in part be traced to restrictive Israeli water policies...Estimates suggest that 'unemployment could have reached nearly 43 per cent in the occupied territories

during the first quarter (January-March) of 2002.”⁷ Some estimate that more than 60% of the population may now be living in poverty.

The Israeli Apartheid Wall projected to be 400 miles long when finished, is almost one-third complete. It is an insult to human dignity. “It snakes deep inside the West Bank, devouring fertile land into de facto Israeli-controlled areas, encircling residential areas and ghettoizing the Palestinian population...The United Nations has stated clearly that the wall is illegal and should be stopped and dismantled.”⁸

Israel’s denial of the right of return of millions of Palestinians forced out of Palestine into countries throughout the Middle East, Europe and the North America, is also a major part of the strategy to destroy the Palestinian nation and their right to self-determination.

Israel is an Advanced Capitalist State

Many forget or disregard that Israel is an advanced capitalist country controlled by a ruling class with strong ties to US and world imperialism. Israel ranks as the sixteenth wealthiest country in the world and represents a key link in the global imperialist economy.

“Israel has become a recognized world leader in technological innovation. The growth of Israel’s export sector has been helped by the unique standing of Israel in the world trade community. Israel is in the extremely rare yet enviable position of having free trade agreements in place with both the U.S. and the EU. Free trade agreements also exist between Israel and Canada, Turkey, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and EFTA countries. Israel is home to over 450 foreign companies.”⁹

* Among the U.S. companies with significant development and/or manufacturing activity in Israel are Data General Corporation, Digital Equipment Corp., ISD, Intel Corporation, IBM, KLA, Mast Industries Inc. (The Limited), Microsoft Corporation, Motorola, Sara Lee, Sun, Silicon Graphics and Vishay Inter-technology. Japanese companies....include Brother, the Mitsubishi Corporation, Tomen, Mazda, Sony, Sumitomo Trading, Nikken and Fuji, and they are also joined by such Korean giants as Hanwha, Hyundai, Kia, L. G. Group, Samsung and Samsung Electronics, as well as Taiwan’s Acer....European firms....includes Coqril Sambara Steel (Belgium); Danone, Jem Plus and Unilever (France); Bosch, Daimler Benz, DEG, Henkel, Siemens, Thyssen and Volkswagen (Germany); Generali Insurance (Italy); Volvo (Sweden) and Ares Sereno, Moevenpick and Nestle (Switzerland)

Israeli capitalism exploits Jewish workers in addition to super-exploiting the Palestinian, Arab and many immigrants from Africa, Southeast Asia (mainly Thailand and the Philippines), Turkey and Eastern Europe. There are an estimated 300,000 migrant workers in Israel, document and undocumented, accounting for about 10% of Israel's workforce.

"The propaganda of the immigration police against the foreign worker is developing into a cultural, humane and political atrocity. The television broadcast against foreigners is becoming more and more violent. The foreign workers are presented as 'people enemies'. Their humanity is transparent, non-existent. The fact that the Israelis 'imported them' and is taking advantage of them is being denied. The propaganda incite the unemployed to act against the foreign worker. The propaganda presents those who employ foreign workers as 'traitors'. If you insert the work 'Jew' instead of 'foreign worker' in this propaganda - you will get anti-Semitism."¹⁰

What about the principle of international labor solidarity? What about the demand for Palestinian and immigrant labor rights in Israel? Why isn't the US left and labor movement making these basic working class demands on the state of Israel?

Israel: Major Arms Producer and Military Fortress

Israel is the Middle East "region's largest and the world's sixth-largest exporter of arms and military technology, with billions of dollars of sales to 61 different countries ... Israel's air force is predominant throughout the region. It is the only country in the region to both develop and produce its own surface-to-surface missiles, combat aircraft, and tanks. "... states like Iran, Iraq, and Syria view the development and acquisition of chemical and biological weapons as a counterbalance to Israeli weapons acquisitions.

... Israel's refusal to sign the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, its maintenance of nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them, its disregard for international law, and its emphasis on preemptive military strikes, mobile weaponry, and quick-strike capabilities all reinforce this sentiment in a region with a historical tendency to solve dispute through violence.¹¹

Israel serves US imperialism in other regions of the world: "It

has been a conduit for U.S. arms to regimes and movements too unpopular in the United States for direct military assistance, such as apartheid South Africa, Iran's Islamic republic, Guatemala under its rightist juntas, and the Nicaraguan Contras. Israeli military advisors have assisted the Contras, the Salvadoran junta, and other movements and governments backed by the United States. Israel has missiles with ranges of thousands of miles and cooperates with the U.S. military-industrial complex¹² on numerous weapons systems. The South African Apartheid Government received major assistance from Israel between 1970 and 1979 to build up its military.

"In 1983, the United States and Israel established the Joint Political Military Group, which meets twice a year. Both the U.S. and Israel participate in joint military planning and combined exercises, and have collaborated on military research and weapons development."¹³

As long as Israel remains a colonial power and military fortress in the Middle East, the entire region is in danger of continued imperialist wars and invasion. Israel must also be held accountable to the same standard of weapons of mass destruction as Iraq, North Korea and others.

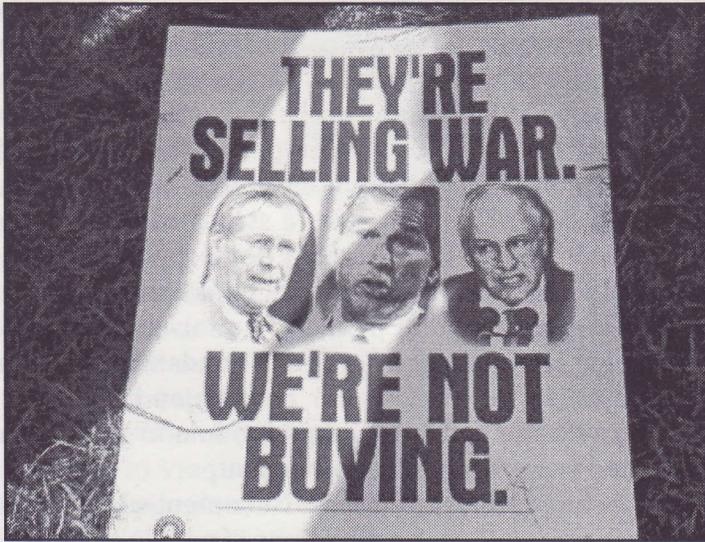
US Labor's Collaboration With Palestinian Oppression

Why is the AFL-CIO and some of its support organizations refusing to support the Palestinian liberation struggle or oppose Israeli occupation of the Palestinians? Is it because their members are not ready to oppose the suffering and brutal attacks on the Palestinian people?

The National Committee for Labor, Israel's director, estimates that "the American labor community holds \$5 billion in Israel bonds. [In] 1977 the Teamsters bought \$26,000,000 worth out of total American union purchases of \$100,000,000.

"... in November, the Israeli bonds sellers will hold a tribute dinner for Terence O'sullivan, president of the the 800,000-strong Laborers Union, according to the Israel Bonds National Labor Division's web site...

"... A later tribute is being organized for the A. Philip Randolph Institute, headed by Norman Hill, also a member of the Israeli bonds



Labor Advisory Board, which is co-chaired by Barbara Easterling Secretary-Treasurer of the Communication Workers Union...

“... In 1999, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka called on unionists ‘to invest in the [Israeli] bonds that are such a tangible link between our movement and the continuing struggle to nurture and protect the State of Israel.’”¹⁴

Israel bonds support the racist Apartheid treatment of Palestinians. “Within Israel, bond money is unfairly distributed. Infrastructure projects primarily benefit Jewish communities. Palestinian neighborhoods inside Israel are isolated and routinely discriminated against at every level. Israeli law dictates that Jewish-Israelis, who own 93% of Israeli land, may not sell land to Palestinian-Israelis...Israel also uses bond money to resettle new immigrants from around the world, including the United States. Many of these immigrants are encouraged to move to Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza through economic incentives. At the same time, Israel bans millions of Palestinian refugees from returning home.”¹⁵

“There are approximately 9,500 pension funds, 3,500 banks, 1,500 labor unions, and 500 insurance companies in the United States that invest in Israel Bonds. School districts, municipalities,

and other large institutions also purchase them. One of the largest sources of institutional investment capital in Israel is from U.S. pension funds through the purchase of Israeli government bonds.¹⁶

To be crystal clear, African Americans and working people in general, need trade unions to help empower them in struggles for workplace and community democracy and radical transformation of society. However, there must be a strong rank-and-file democratic and anti-imperialist movement developed in the US trade unions, demanding an end to Israel's occupation of Palestine and to all oppressed nations and peoples. A rank-and-file movement demanding that labor divest from Israeli bonds would be a powerful contribution to the struggle for Palestinian liberation. Black and workers of color must play a major role in developing and providing leadership for such a movement.

It's bad enough when labor tries to be neutral and not take a position against atrocities and violations of people's human rights, but collaboration is an outright betrayal to the principles of "Worker Solidarity" and "An Injury to One is an Injury to All."

Palestinians Speak for Themselves

In preparation for the March 20th Global Day of Action that mobilized millions around the world on the one year anniversary of the US led war against Iraq, brought about major discussions, meetings, agreements, disagreements and tensions among the various anti-war groups about including the demand to end Israel's occupation of Palestine as an official slogan.

On January 20, 2004, there was an "Open Letter to the US Anti-war Movement" initiated by Arab-American and Muslim organizations in the United States and Canada, with now more than 222 signers including Palestinian organizations in Palestine and refugee camps through the Middle East. It called attention to the urgency for the US anti-war movement to build support for the Palestinian struggle against occupation and for self-determination.

This initiative was an expression of Palestinian self-determination within the anti-imperialist struggle. The Open Letter places the Palestinian struggle within the context of the struggle against US and world imperialism and puts forth 5 demands to the US anti-war movement regarding the March 20th Global Day of Action:

"In confronting war, the people of Palestine and Iraq have paid dearly. They stand against the imperial project shoulder to shoulder with communities of color and the working class in the United States, along with great many subjugated peoples



around the globe - from Afghanistan to Colombia, and from the Philippines to Vieques, and on. Without a doubt, the Palestinian and Iraqi people are both welded together in an inextricable unity at the forefront of the global anti-war movement, transforming themselves as a whole as its embodiment and paying in its defense with the dearest of all - their very existence.

"In the United States, we, Arab-Americans and Muslims have been maliciously targeted, stripped of our rights, and positioned outside the constitutional framework of this country. A new COINTELPRO has been unleashed against our homes and living rooms, as our fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters are plucked away and thrown into unknown prison cells. Thus, in a continuum of history, we stand with African Americans, Japanese Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and all others in the painful struggle for justice. From them all, we take our cue, for they are our predecessors and our partners in this long march.

"We are firm on these principles for the March 20th mobilization and beyond as we call on all communities and organizations to mobilize and stand in force under the following unifying five slogans. Black and workers of color must play a major role in developing and providing leadership in this movement.

1. We do not accept delinking the struggle of the Palestinian people from the anti-war movement, and regard the struggle in Palestine, as it is viewed worldwide, to be central to any peace and justice mobilization.

2. We insist that the Palestinian right to return and to self-determination are the key anchors of the Palestinian struggle, and that organizations that attempt to diminish, sidetrack, or abrogate these rights, regardless of any other position they may take on Palestine, are acting contrary to the will and aspiration of the Palestinian people.

3. We view all attempts to relegate our collective presence to the margin and to tokenize our participation in the movement to be racist in character. In its attempt to silence the Arab and Muslim voices for decades, particularly that of the Palestinian people, the movement in the US has stood alone in the global movement for justice. We see ourselves as full partners in leading the movement as signified in the heavy price we continue to pay along the way, and reject any attempt to objectify our presence.

4. We regard the positions that the "colonial occupation of Iraq must be internationalized", or that ending the occupation must be conducted over a period of time until the "Iraqis are able to secure their democracy", as implicitly colonial and racist. These are positions that are rooted in the construct of "manifest destiny" and the "white man's burden" to "civilize".

5. We call on our people everywhere to hold all organizations accountable to the positions they take, especially those that depict racist attitudes towards us, implicitly or otherwise, particularly those that tokenize and objectify our struggle. Any organization or movement that finds it acceptable to minimize or disregard for political expediency the struggle of any people should not be allowed to function within the global justice movement. Justice is neither selective, nor partial or conditional."¹⁷

Revolutionaries must help to deepen and promote this initiative and call for support by the Palestinian liberation movement beyond the issue of the slogans in the March 20th mobilization. There needs to be direct links made between the Palestinian liberation movement and other anti-imperialist movements against national oppression inside of the US.

Black Liberation and Palestinian Self-Determination

It is important that forces in the Black liberation movement, not communicate a message of "silence" or "reluctance" to the African American people on the question of support for the Palestinian struggle. Struggles against national oppression and for self-determination must not be divided from each other.

The Zionist and US corporate attacks on African American political leaders and activists for their criticisms of US foreign policies, and particularly for speaking out against US support of Israel's occupation of Palestine, is a major attack on African American and Palestinian self-determination.

Their aim is to prevent direct solidarity from developing between these two liberation movements and to intimidate and weaken the self-determination and internationalism of the African American liberation movement as a key section of the US anti-imperialist movement to challenge the US power structure. These attacks also affect the democratic and social movements championed by Black leadership.

For example, the political defeat of former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney was a major blow to the struggles for African American democracy and self-determination, workers power, women's emancipation, environmental justice, immigrant rights and national healthcare, for which she was a leading fighter. She received a 100% voting record from the AFL-CIO for 2001.

Amiri Baraka a leader in the African American liberation and Black Arts movement, who was named Poet Laureate of the state of New Jersey in 2002, has been falsely accused of being "anti-



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Semitic" by Zionist forces, including attempts to remove him as Poet Laureate for reading his acclaimed poem "Who Blew Up America." This is not only a blatant attack on "free speech" it is a form of Zionist censorship, which is a key part of the US strategy in the Middle East.

The fragmentation of the African American liberation movement is obviously a main factor allowing this vulnerability for progressive Black officials and leaders, but the failure to struggle against racism and Zionism by the broader anti-imperialist and progressive movement, is also a major factor.

Yes, there is some confusion in the Black communities sewn by some religious teachings regarding Israel. But the bottom line in most cases for African Americans, even those with strong religious beliefs, is the issue of justice.

African Americans have only to be reminded of 22 year old Amoudou Diallo, 74 year old Eleanor Bumpers and many other unarmed and innocent Black people, youth in particular, murdered by the police, who claim they were in fear of their lives. Driving while Black or Brown, random searches, followed in the department stores, last hired and first fired and many other examples, are said to be in the interest of "security." Showing some of the commonalities of the two struggles is very important to building unity and support.

The spontaneous reactions of the Black community to these Zionist attacks on Black officials are cautioned by many progressive forces against being "anti-Semitic." However, many of these same forces who attacked Black nationalism as being "divisive" and "reactionary", showed little concern about the impact their criticisms and attacks have on strengthen the charges of white supremacists about "reversed" discrimination around the democratic demands of African American liberation movement. In the struggle against imperialism, revolutionaries must make a "distinction between the nationalism of oppressed and an oppressor nations."¹⁸

The African American liberation movement and other oppressed national movements inside the US must play a major role in helping to educate and build support for the Palestinian liberation struggle. In addition to mobilizing for national anti-war demonstrations, there must also be a direct focus on anti-war work in

the Black communities. The efforts by Washington DC based Black Voices for Peace at the national level and the North Carolina Black Solidarity Against the War (BSAW) with its planned ongoing Black & Palestinian Dialogue and a campaign to stop military recruitment in the public schools and colleges, are small but important efforts.

Yes, we must oppose and be careful not to promote anti-Semitism. However, we must not allow this Zionist strategy of intimidation and protecting racist privilege, national chauvinism and imperialism to make us defensive or silent about demanding liberation and justice for the Palestinians or about criticizing the oppressive actions of Israel. This must be a clear obligation of all anti-imperialists and revolutionaries.

We must recognize the necessity and importance of tactics. However, we must not allow tactics to become a mask for avoiding or procrastinating around principled struggles and fundamental questions of human rights and liberation. Correct tactics should aimed at moving the struggles of the oppressed forward, not to make endless concessions to racism, national chauvinism and weaknesses in the class-consciousness of white workers.

Discussion and education around the Palestinian struggle should be promoted within coalitions. Activists should bring leaflets and literature opposing Israel's occupation of Palestine to programs and events. There should be forums within the Black community and joint activities with Palestinian organizations where possible. There must be a closing of ranks against Zionist attacks on Black elected officials, community and religious leaders and activists for speaking out against Israel's occupation of Palestine and injustices anywhere in the world.

Like the Palestinian liberation movement, the African American liberation movement has also undergone major attacks and setbacks, having many leaders and activists assassinated, jailed and exiled. The fragmentation of our movement has made it less effective in mobilizing the Black community nationally, including in opposition to US imperialist war and occupation. But history has verified that once the African American liberation movement mobilizes against US oppression, that it can be a powerful ally for other struggles against US imperialist oppression at home and abroad.

Forces within the African American liberation movement must begin an open dialogue and come together to build strategies in struggling against the racist character of globalization. This requires that the movement for reparations takes on a stronger anti-imperialist character. The imperialist super-exploitation of the former colonies and oppressed nations and the concentration of international capital resulting from the restructuring of the global economy, will make reparations an increasing demand throughout the 3rd world as part of the struggle for self-determination and socialism. This includes the Palestinian liberation struggle. The African American liberation movement has a central and leading role to play.

Self-determination for the Palestinian Nation!

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