

May 1st, 2024 | A Statement on Palestine

The occupation of the Palestinian people is something we have witnessed for decades. The countless horrors and atrocities they have faced are immeasurable. We may be here physically, but our hearts and minds are with them. Our entire belief system has been shaken to its core over the past 200+ days, bearing witness to a live-streamed genocide with no end in sight.

What can we do? Who can we turn to? Where can we go? It is an overwhelming feeling of helplessness and hopelessness. We are calling, writing, donating, supporting, begging, crying, shouting, challenging, taking to the streets, but those in power are deaf. Their refusal to acknowledge what we have all seen and then taking active steps to fund this genocide prove, not only their complicity, but that they knew this would happen and would allow it to happen.

Over 34,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 7th- almost half of which were children, some as young as infants. Human rights and human life are meaningless when it comes to capitalism and the same white supremacist colonial ideologies that have caused immeasurable pain and suffering throughout the world over the course of history. The media attempts to share twisted and false narratives that paint the aggressor as the victims and the actual victims as the aggressors.

Our brothers and sisters in South Africa who fought apartheid, know this story; our Indigenous Native tribes who were robbed of their land, know this story; our African American brothers and sisters who were enslaved, know this story; our Jewish siblings who've endured the Holocaust, know this story. If we can recognize the grave injustices of these atrocities, we should be able to recognize the stark parallels now and do everything in our power to demand an end to the persecution of the Palestinian people. Freedom, justice, and liberation are inalienable rights for every single person on this earth and it is our responsibility to not only protect those rights, but to defend them every time they are threatened.

It should give all of us hope to see that this movement continues to gain momentum and plants the seeds for the unavoidable revolution that is to come, InshAllah (God Willing). Youth movements have always proven to be on the right side of history. Make no mistake, like Mandela and MLK, the protesters that are being vilified today will be applauded and celebrated tomorrow in the history books of our grandchildren. That's the funny thing about history...it constantly repeats itself to serve as a reminder but we refuse to learn. We have seen this very moment in history time and time again and we know the ending. It is the people who will always win. Their sacrifices today will be credited for a better tomorrow. They will make history and they will own it!



It's time for everyone, not just the youth, to speak up and take a stand for the Palestinian people. They have suffered countless injustices that we can't even imagine. Our own freedom and justice, as people of color, is inexplicably tied to the liberation of the Palestinians.

There is no turning back now...

"The power of the people is much stronger than the people in power." -Wael Ghonim

"You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore." -Cesar Chavez

Please join the collective public voices to write the future that so many innocent Palestinian children deserve to see and live in. We owe it to them.

Shahla Chohan, Director of Engagement Muslimahs in Policy