

Solidarity presents:

# Why Palestine Matters to the Antiwar Movement

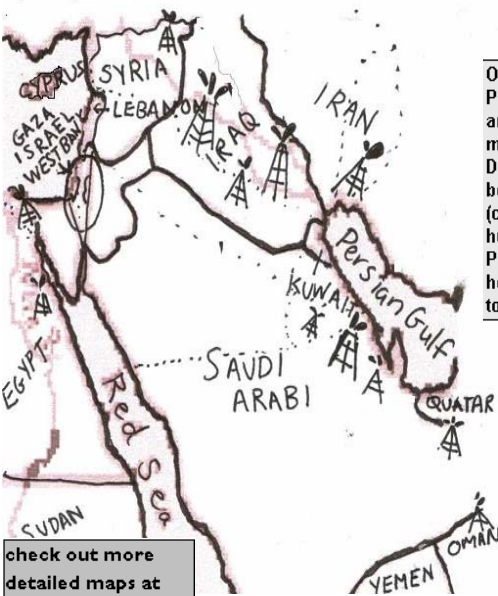


Well, when Katrina hit, most of the Louisiana National guard and their equipment were deployed in Iraq. Those resources were needed to rescue people on the Gulf Coast, not to occupy a country that wants them to leave. The U.S. policy is a double disaster for us and for the people in Iraq. Why would we think that the foreign policy is different anywhere else in the Middle East?



True, but it sits in an area swimming in oil and it's strategically important to U.S. foreign policy.

Imagine a population double what was evacuated from New Orleans. Well, in 1948 it wasn't a hurricane, but rather, what Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, in which they were driven from their homes by terror. They lost their homes, but more, they lost their citizenship. Many wait to go back but aren't allowed, despite the UN Declaration on the right of all displaced peoples to return.



On April 9, 1948 over 100 Palestinian men, women, and children were massacred in the village of Deir Yassin. This marks the beginning of the Nakba (catastrophe) in which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled their homes and hundreds of towns were destroyed.



Sounds like how the Native American people were driven from their ancestral lands in this country. But what does that have to do with us, now? We aren't occupying Palestine.

check out more detailed maps at [nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/](http://nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/)

Trail of Tears by Robert Lindneux (1942)



Washington provides \$5 billion year after year to Israel, essentially funding the occupation of Palestine. How can there be peace when people live under torture, checkpoints, house demolitions, curfew, not to mention the 2nd class citizenship of Palestinians living within Israel?



**Where do Palestinians live now?**

Today there are almost 7 million



About 1.5 million live in Israel, nearly a quarter of its citizens. 2 million live in the Occupied Territories of the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Others live in refugee camps in neighboring countries like Syria and Lebanon. Palestinians live all over the world, many waiting to return to their homeland, which everyone's legal right.



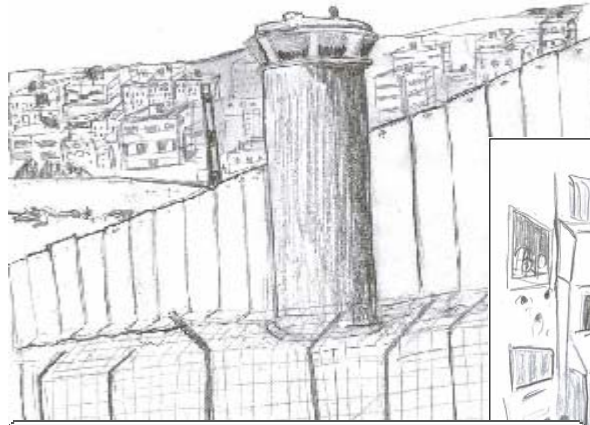
But didn't Sharon withdraw all the settlements from Gaza last summer? Wasn't that the first step of Israel's disengagement?



See [www.icahd.org](http://www.icahd.org) for detailed map of settlements

Well, that was a withdrawal of relatively small settlements that the Israeli government didn't consider strategically viable or important. Also, Israel maintains control of the airspace and borders above and around Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel continues to build settlements, bypass roads, and an enormous wall that separates Palestinian towns from their fields, hospitals, and shops.



The result: the imprisonment of entire populations. The intifada is the Palestinian resistance to this oppression.



**I get it. No Justice, No Peace!**



Rachel Corrie, an American activist killed in 2003 by an Israeli bulldozer.



Exactly. Military occupation doesn't lead to peace in either Iraq or Palestine. It has led to torture, arbitrary arrest, death, displacement, and instability. So we have to call on our government to withdraw from Iraq and to stop supporting the Israeli military. Washington has to stop justifying the assassination of Palestinian leaders. And it has to stop threatening to starve Palestinians when they vote for a party that Washington doesn't like!



**Palestinians and Israelis of all religions or none at all can find away to live together.**

In fact, there are many Palestinians and Israelis who have proposals to end the repression. Basically, it could happen through either a two- state solution (an Israeli state with equal rights for all citizens alongside a Palestinian state to be established in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem) or with a single bi-national country.

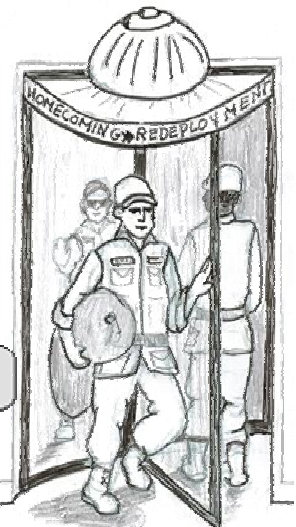


**Do you think either are possible?**

That could only result from a dialogue and a decision freely decided by the people themselves. It's our obligation here to stop our tax dollars from being used to repress others.



**I'm starting to see the larger picture of U.S. policy throughout the Middle East. I wouldn't want my brother to come home from Iraq only to be redeployed to some other country.**



**But how could Palestinians and Israelis live together?**

Hanthala by Haji Al- Ali



**How do we oppose repressive policies in our names?**

1. Learn the Facts.
2. Hold the U.S. accountable.

Solidarity, a revolutionary, socialist, democratic, feminist, anti-racist organization.

[www.solidarity-us.org](http://www.solidarity-us.org)  
313-841-0160

- Helpful websites:  
 Alternative Information Center [www.alternativenews.org](http://www.alternativenews.org)  
 Btselem [www.btselem.org](http://www.btselem.org)  
 Gush Shalom [www.gush-shalom.org](http://www.gush-shalom.org)  
 Health and development Information Project [www.hdip.org](http://www.hdip.org)  
 Israeli Committee Against House Demolition [www.icahd.org](http://www.icahd.org)  
 Palestine Monitor [www.palestinemonitor.org](http://www.palestinemonitor.org)  
 Taayush [www.taayush.org](http://www.taayush.org)  
 Electronic Intifada [www.electronicintifada.net](http://www.electronicintifada.net)  
 International Solidarity Movement [www.palsolidarity.org](http://www.palsolidarity.org)

By Dianne Feeley and Megan Finn