

Learning from 65 years of Solidarity Between Black America + Palestine



Dr. Sam Anderson


“I think it’s important to have this brief and broad historical understanding of the development of solidarity between the Palestinian People and Black America.”

“IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL
THE NEWSPAPERS
WILL HAVE YOU
HATING THE PEOPLE
WHO ARE BEING
OPPRESSED
& LOVING THE PEOPLE
WHO ARE DOING
THE OPPRESSING”

Photo: Rangzeb Hussain
www.iambirmingham.co.uk

Presentation at Battling The IHRA Definition:
Theory & Activism, 10/14/23





We need to begin with how African Americans have experienced religious persecutions.... When we came as enslaved Africans during the 250 years of chattel slavery, we were of many religions—including Islam... White slave owners and sellers found a myriad of ways to undo the “Muslim” within our captive ancestors.

It did not succeed.

Islam prevailed within Black America in various forms—overtly and covertly. By the early 1900s and the rise of a more militant “New Negro” Movement, thousands of practicing Muslims were a leading force within this new movement. Islam was not a distant and obscure religion with Black America – even though it was mainly Christian.

From the New Negro Movement came the Garvey Movement of the 1920s and 30s... a global mobilization of people of African descent of all religions in all of the African and Caribbean colonies as well as Latin and South America. UNIA had, at one time, at least a million members and a weekly multilanguage newspaper circulated throughout the African Diaspora.

From this powerful movement rose in the 1940s the Nation of Islam ... with the rise of the leadership of Malcolm X, the Nation of Islam (NOI) grew by the thousands.

Its weekly newspaper covered the news of the world and the US from a Black progressive perspective. It was read by tens of thousands of African Americans... By the 1960s, it covered the ongoing struggles of the Palestinians against the various Zionist onslaughts.



Some of the strongest support for the Palestinian liberation movement from Black leaders and organizations came during the radical upsurge of the 1960s and 70s.

Malcolm X was a staunch opponent of Zionism... In the Egyptian Gazette in 1964, Malcolm X notes the parallels between the subjugation of Palestinians and Africans. He points out the strategic value of Israel to world imperialism, "The ever-scheming European imperialists wisely placed Israel where she could geographically divide the Arab world, infiltrate & sow the seed of dissension among African leaders & also divide the Africans against the Asians."

Zionist logic

By Malcolm X,

THE Zionist armies that now occupy Palestine claim their ancient Jewish prophets predicted that in the "last days of this world" their own God would raise them up a "messiah" who would lead them to their promised land, and they would set up their own


mastered the science of dolla-rism : the ability to come posing as a friend and benefactor, bearing gifts and all other forms of economic aid and offers of technical assistance. Thus, the power and influence of Zionist Israel in many of the newly independent African nations has fast-become even more unshakable than that of the 19th century European colonialists... and this new kind of Zionist colonialism differs only in form and method, but never in motive or objective.

pologists say the Africans originally came to the sub-continent of Africa and could return to it to place its 300 million as a handful of Zionists have done to their brothers and sisters in Palestine.

In short the Zionists' argument to justify Israel's occupation of Arab lands is no intelligent or logical history... not even religion !

At the close of the 19th cen-

Where is their



One of the first workers' organizations to take up the cause of Palestinian liberation was the **League of Revolutionary Black Workers**, based in Detroit. Black and Arab autoworkers there jointly participated in LRBW and led wildcat strikes. The group's solidarity with Palestine became a point of struggle with the city's ruling class. The LRBW had transformed Wayne State University's student newspaper into a radical citywide paper, but after publishing pro-Palestine articles the administration **used false charges of antisemitism to launch an all-out attack on the LRBW on campus.**

<http://liberationschool.org/the-long-history-of-black-and-palestinian-solidarity/>

AN APPEAL BY BLACK AMERICANS AGAINST UNITED STATES SUPPORT OF THE ZIONIST GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL



WE, the Black American signatories of this advertisement are in complete solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters, who like us, are struggling for self-determination and an end to racist oppression.

The recent bloodbath in Jordan, resulting in tens of thousands of dead and wounded Palestinians, would not have been possible without the encouragement, armaments and financial aid of the United States Government.

America's support for King Hussein's slaughter of Palestinian refugees and freedom-fighters is consistent with its support of reactionary dictatorships throughout the world—from Cambodia and Vietnam to South Africa, Greece and Iran.

We stand with the Palestinian people in their efforts to preserve their revolution, and oppose its attempted destruction by American imperialism aided by Zionists and Arab reactionaries.

WE STATE that we are not anti-Jewish. We are anti-Zionist and against the Zionist State of Israel, the outpost of American imperialism in the Middle East. Zionism is a reactionary racist ideology that justifies the expulsion of the Palestinian people from their homes and lands, and attempts to enlist the Jewish masses of Israel and elsewhere in the service of imperialism to hold back the Middle East revolution.

The Zionist Organization of America in an ad in the New York Times of Sept. 17, 1970 stated: "It is appropriate for the United States to begin to treat Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, as a de facto ally for the safeguarding of American interests."

According to the National Observer of May 18, 1970, the world Zionist movement is big business. "When the blood flows, the money flows," observes Gottlieb Hammer, chief Zionist fund collector in this country.

WE STATE that the Palestinian Revolution is the vanguard of the Arab Revolution and is part of the anti-colonial revolution which is going on in places such as Vietnam, Mozambique, Angola, Brazil, Laos, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Because of its alliance with imperialism, Zionism opposes that anti-colonial revolution and especially revolutionary change in the Middle East.

WE STATE that Israel, Rhodesia, and South Africa are three privileged white settler-states that came into existence by displacing indigenous peoples from their lands. Israel and South Africa each have about 4,500 political prisoners—most of whom have not been brought to trial.

J. Weitz, director of the Department of Colonization of the Jewish Agency for Israel, stated . . . "The only possible solution lies in creating a Palestine . . . without Arabs . . . and there is no other way to do this than to transfer all the Arabs to neighboring countries, to move all of them out of here."—Davar (Pub. in Israel), Sept. 29, 1967.

The South African Government supported Israel during the June, 1967, war. Dr. Vorster's government not only permitted South African volunteers to work in civilian and paramilitary capacities in Israel, but more than \$28 million was raised by pro-apartheid South African Zionists and sent to Israel. "After the June 1967 Middle-East war, there was considerable speculation about an Israel-type action against Zambia and Tanzania, countries which share a firm anti-apartheid policy and support the African Liberation Movement . . . In September 1967, South Africa's top Army and Air Force officers learned at first hand

- Manohar Abhad**
Professor, Brown Univ
Providence, R.I.
- Mohd. Mohamed Ahmad**
1434 104th St
Jamaica, N. Y.
- Ben Alimogh**
All-African Peoples Union
Detroit, Mich.
- E. A. Anderson**
Black Leadership Initiative
Baltimore, Md.
- George Banks**
Pres. of the Berkeley Branch of
the National Alliance of Arab
Students, Calif.
- Joseph Beal**
Black World Women Alliance
New York City
- Vince Benson**
Co-Editor of the National Student
Association of Black Students
Washington, D. C.
- Gene Berger**
Detroit, Mich.
- James Berger**
Detroit, Mich.
- Paul S. Boudette**
Chairman, C.O.C.A.F.A.M.S.
Hartford, Conn.
- Ronald C. Boudette**
Assistant, Dept. of
Political Science
Hartford, Conn.
- Lee Campbell**
101 St.
Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Delores Cassin**
Professor, Black Studies Center
and President, Black College
San Francisco, Calif.
- Cynthia Chambers**
Director of Academic Programs of
Teachers and Vice-President of
Black Leadership Initiative
Newark, N. J.
- Ray, Albert S. Chase**
Executive Director, Black Studies
Detroit, Mich.
- Flo Collins**
Professor of Afro-American
Studies
Hartford, Conn.
- Richard Dabney**
Assistant Secretary, Party candidate
for Governor of New York state
- Arthur G. Davis**
Anti-Zionism Association
Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Richard Dunn**
Black Studies Dept.
Columbia State College
Los Angeles, Calif.
- Herman Fagg**
Executive Secretary, Party candidate
for Governor of California
- Frank G. Ganswood**
Student, S.F.P.C. Communicator
Los Angeles, Calif.
- John Hawkins**
Student, Black Studies Center
Detroit, Mich.
- Charles Hightower**
Washington Director, American
Students Union
Washington, D. C.
- Ron Hovay**
Student Director, Black W
Illinois
Los Angeles, Calif.
- Phil Hutchings**
Former Chairman of S.F.P.C.
- Kathy (L. McCallister)**
Black Study Dept.
Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Florance R. Kennedy**
Student, Black Studies
New York City
- James C. Lewis**
Student, Black Studies Center
Hartford, Conn.
- Conrad Lyon**
Student
New York City
- Pauline Mason**
Black Study Dept.
Los Angeles, Calif.
- Maurice McKinnor**
Black Studies Dept.
Columbia State College
Los Angeles, Calif.
- Leah R. Milhouse**
Student, Black Studies Center
Hartford, Conn.
- Steven Miller**
Student, Black Studies Center
Columbia State College
Los Angeles, Calif.
- Ray G. Miller**
Student, Black Studies Center
Hartford, Conn.
- Charles J. Neary**
Black Studies Center
Los Angeles, Calif.
- Ronald Nichols**
Co-Editor of the National Student
Association of Black Students
Washington, D. C.
- Earl Obid**
Student of the Afro-

By 1970, there was a critical mass of activist Black scholars in the US making a significant difference regarding social justice. Prof William Strickland of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and myself spent two months organizing for a pro-Palestine ad in the NY Times.

WE STATE that the exploitation experienced by Afro-Americans, Native Americans (Indians), Puerto Ricans, and Chicanos (Mexican-Americans) is similar to the annihilation of Palestinian Arabs and Oriental Jews by

Once published, I was fired from my Sarah Lawrence College job as Black Studies Director and Math Professor... and over the years in academia been intellectually harassed for standing in solidarity with Palestine and speaking out against Zionism as a surrogate apartheid cop for imperialism.

Congress in 1969: "The Palestine National Congress will struggle for a popular democratic Palestinian state where Arabs and Jews enjoy equal

Image: AllThingsHarlem/YouTube.com



In August 2014, Ferguson, Missouri erupted in protests after the murder-by-cop of a Black youth, Michael Brown, while thousands of miles away, war raged in Israel & Gaza.

From this confluence of events emerged a new movement of Black-Palestinian solidarity.

In 2015, “over 1,000 Black activists, artists, scholars, students, and organizations have launched a statement expressing their solidarity & commitment to ensuring justice for Palestinians. Signatories to the statement span a wide cross-section of Black activists, scholars, and organizations.”

Read the statement: tinyurl.com/y8fbqnam

One thing is for certain: You cannot intimidate an oppressed people who have had 400 years of daily racist terrorism thrown at them on both an institutional and personal basis!



Image: Mondoweiss.net



Today, I am before you, in solidarity with you, because of the long and solid and principled legacy of Black American Solidarity with Palestine!

**- Dr. Sam Anderson
October 14, 2023**

Image: [linkedin.com/pulse/i-got-time-today-deconstructing-colonizer-mentality-my-jay-he-him-](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/i-got-time-today-deconstructing-colonizer-mentality-my-jay-he-him-)