

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: NYU Law School Groups Endorse Palestinian Terrorism
Date: April 11, 2022 at 10:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Hi all,

While we acknowledge that engaging on COASES is challenging, the NYU LSJP Board feels that it is imperative to address the blatant inaccuracies, fallacies, and misrepresentations contained in the recent email sent by [REDACTED]

First and foremost, the narrative espoused by LSFI in this email is one that flips the realities of aggressor and victim on its head. Israel is not a “victim” that needs saving from Palestinian “terror;” rather, **Israel is an apartheid regime that colonized Palestinian land by forcefully removing much of the Palestinian population and forcing those remaining to live in a constant state of fear and oppression by denying them their basic human rights and dignity.**

While this is not the space to provide an entire history of Zionist colonization and oppression, if you would like to learn more about the real history of Israeli persecution of Palestinians please take a look at Decolonize Palestine’s [“Palestine 101.”](#)

We now want to address some of the specific misrepresentations and fallacies in the email:

Violence, Hatred, and Delegitimization

Zionism is, by design, an ideology that promotes violence against, and hatred and delegitimization of Palestinians. Embedded in the Zionist supremacy narrative is the orientalist, Islamophobic idea that Azkenazi Jewish whiteness is fundamentally superior to Palestinian lives, culture, and identity. The Zionist mission was not only to colonize “a land without a people” (thus denying the sheer existence of Palestinians or, at most, referring to them as “savage” and “barbarians” who need to be “conquered,” in the words of Moshe Sharett, first Prime Minister of Israel), but also to create a national identity that the Western world would perceive as legitimate and superior to that of Palestinians and surrounding Arab communities. The unwavering support that Israel receives to this day from almost every Western superpower is evidence enough that this mission was a resounding success. Therefore, to say that Israel is the one who faces violence, hatred, and delegitimization is to delusionally deny the realities of the Zionist mission and the lived experience of Palestinians.

For more of how Zionism is used as a tool to delegitimize Palestinians and justify violence and hatred perpetrated against them see:

- [“The Idea of Palestine in the West”](#)
- [“Islam Through Western Eyes”](#)

For more on the language Zionist leaders have and continue to use to dehumanize Palestinians see:

- <https://www.palestineremembered.com/Acre/Famous-Zionist-Quotes/Story637.html>

Death Counts

Human lives of course cannot be measured by comparing death tallies. The loss of Palestinian and Israeli lives as a result of the Israeli occupation is a tragedy. However, it is imperative to emphasize that the loss of any lives is a direct result of the Israeli occupation, not the resistance of those who are occupied. To call it anything else is, in fact, a technique of dehumanizing Palestinians.

Zionists falsely equate Palestinian resistance and Israeli oppression as a “conflict” with two sides. Instead, every single day Palestinians die at the hands of the state of Israel, whether [while in a prison cell](#), [walking down the street](#), [seeking](#) or [providing](#) medical care, [inside their own home](#), or [while observing Ramadan](#). However, the Islamophobic, Zionist-funded US and Western media don’t talk about these deaths. Instead, the headlines we see are whitewashed ones that support the US agenda of valuing their ally’s lives more than Palestinians. If Palestinian deaths are not reported, they can be portrayed as the aggressor and the terrorist (just as this email does) and not as a beautiful, vibrant community who are the victims of Israel’s ongoing oppression and apartheid.

For more on the media misrepresentation of Palestinian lives versus Israeli ones see:

- FILM: [“Occupation of the American Mind”](#)
 - See below for information on an upcoming LSJP screening of this film

“Security”

Regarding the quote from Justice Brennan about Israel, we must underscore that this idea that Israel is merely “defending itself” is one of the most overutilized fallacies used to garner support for the apartheid regime. Israel is home to the most adept “security” system in the world. When you compare this to the lack of resources Palestinians have access to as a displaced people whose entire livelihood is controlled by the Israeli regime, using a David and Goliath analogy doesn’t even adequately encapsulate the disparities we are

looking at. When your enemy is a fraction of your size and strength, using the most adept “security” system against them every day is certainly not self-defense – it is a racist colonial exploit.

Israel has also effectively framed the violence in occupied Palestine to reverse cause and effect. The root of the violence we see today is the violent founding of the Israeli state, which was carried out through massacres and the forced displacement of over 700,000 Palestinians in 1948. Any Palestinian resistance should be understood with reference to this foundational violence - a concept American media seems to have no trouble applying to the Ukrainian response to Russia. First-hand accounts of the founding of Israel, including members of the Haganah and the Irgun (the Zionist paramilitaries that eventually became the IDF), reflect this reality.

This documentary includes some of those accounts and powerfully illustrates the experience of Palestinians who lived through this violent founding:

- [1948: Creation and Catastrophe](#)

Framing is everything and the Zionist grip on the media is omnipresent. Thus, they are able to craft a narrative of necessary “self-defense” and “security” by making it seem like Palestinians are the perpetrators and suppressing evidence of their own violence, occupation, and dehumanization.

People living under occupation have a right to resist their violent occupation. The world, particularly the U.S., has essentially promised not to discipline Israel. Palestinians are not obligated to engage in [racialized “nonviolence” theory](#) and wait around for a United Nations action that will never come as their homes are taken from them, as they stay trapped in the world’s largest open-air prison, or as they are brutalized and killed by Israeli state agents and settlers.

For more information on the myth of Israeli “self-defense” see:

- [Myth: Israel is Defending Itself](#)
- [“Israel’s big lie: This isn’t self-defense – it’s a war crime, aided and abetted by the US”](#)

Israel’s Bipartisan Support

The fact that Israel has in fact “enjoyed bipartisan support in the United States” is no reflection at all of the realities in Palestine. Instead, it is merely a reflection of the aforementioned hold Zionism has on the narrative in the US and Western world. US politicians are certainly not beacons of truth; rather, they are reflections of the political and social sphere in the US and thus bipartisan support is neither surprising nor morally important. In fact, the fact that US politicians on both sides of the aisle co-sign Israel’s occupation and violence is indicative only of the violence and hatred perpetrated by the US government.

More importantly is the ironic notion espoused by LSFI that Israel is a democracy that supports human rights. Being a democracy and supporting human rights fundamentally entail providing equal rights to ALL peoples, not just the ones that look like you. Zionism is inherently incompatible with both of these notions. One simply cannot be an apartheid state and even come close to resembling a democracy or supporting human rights. In fact, there are over [65 Israeli laws](#) that discriminate either directly or indirectly against Palestinian citizens of Israel on the basis of their national belonging.

For more on the myth of Israel being a democracy that supports human rights see:

- [Myth: Israel is a democracy](#)
- [Myth: Israel holds itself responsible for human rights violations](#)

Indigeneity

Finally, invoking indigeneity while defending a settler colonial state is egregious and disturbing. Just because the “Middle East” may be big enough does not mean indigenous Palestinians deserve to be forcibly removed and pushed out of their homes, relegated to second-class citizens at best, and subject to a violent apartheid regime.

For more on Palestinian indigeneity see:

- [Myth: My people were here before your people](#)
- [“The New Zionism”](#)
- Massoud Hayoun’s book [“When We Were Arabs”](#) (on Zionism’s erasure of Jewish-Arab identities)

NYU Law Students for Justice in Palestine stands unequivocally with Palestinians resisting their oppression. We denounce the Israeli apartheid state and settler violence against the Palestinian people. We affirm the right of Palestinians to return to and live on their land, and we remain in solidarity with Palestinians in their struggle for liberation from ongoing settler colonial occupation and violence.

More Resources:

Major organizations that have correctly labelled Israel as a apartheid state:

- [Amnesty International](#)
- [Human Rights Watch](#)

- [Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic](#)
- [Human Rights Watch](#)
- [United Nations Special Rapporteur](#)

General resource guides:

- Jewish Voice for Peace's [Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 101](#)
- Decolonize Palestine's [Reading List](#)
- [Visualizing Palestine 101](#)

LSJP will be hosting a film screening "Occupation of the American Mind" with a Q+A for those interested in learning more about how the aforementioned fallacies and misrepresentations are embedded in US media and culture and used as a tool to delegitimize Palestinian humanity and their story. Please stay tuned for forthcoming details.

In Solidarity,

NYU Law Students for Justice in Palestine

[Redacted content]