Palestinians Express "Solidarity with the People of Ferguson" in Mike Brown Statement

Submitted by Rana Baker on Fri, 08/15/2014 - 16:25

Palestinian groups and individuals inside and outside of historic Palestine have signed the following statement in solidarity with their brethren in Ferguson, Missouri.

Unsurprisingly, many of the police deployed to crush unarmed protesters demanding justice for the brutal murder of eighteen-year-old black American Mike Brown are Israel-trained. Despotic tactics Palestinians largely associate with Israel’s colonial military, such as tear-gassing protesters and harassing journalists, have all been implemented in Ferguson.

Although Ferguson and Palestine are two different contexts, both places and their people are fighting against white supremacist regimes of oppression which continue to view them as “disposable others” and act accordingly.

The individuals who signed the statement below may not all know or agree with each other. However, the undersigned all believe that it is the moral responsibility of every Palestinian to support and foster relations with the struggles of the oppressed all over the world.

It is also worth noting that the Palestinian struggle for freedom is not a copy of the struggle of our black brothers and sisters both in the past and present. Neither is the black struggle a homogeneous one. Finally, the struggle of our black brethren is not a simple tool to “popularize” ours.

But the Civil Rights, anti-apartheid and anti-colonial movements in the United States, South Africa and foreign colonies across the African continent in the past offer us various models from which we should learn. In the present, Palestinians (though this does not apply to sell-outs such as Mahmoud Abbas and his minions) stand up against the despotism which the US, the settler-colony known as Israel, and various European and Arab governments embody.

**Full statement**

We the undersigned Palestinian individuals and groups express our solidarity with the family of Michael Brown, a young unarmed black man gunned down by police on August 9th in Ferguson, Missouri. We wish to express our support and solidarity with the people of Ferguson who have taken their struggle to the street, facing a militarized police occupation.
From all factions and sectors of our dislocated society, we send you our commitment to stand with you in your hour of pain and time of struggle against the oppression that continues to target our black brothers and sisters in nearly every aspect of their lives.

We understand your moral outrage. We empathize with your hurt and anger. We understand the impulse to rebel against the infrastructure of a racist capitalist system that systematically pushes you to the margins of humanity.

And we stand with you.

We recognize the disregard and disrespect for black bodies and black life endemic to the supremacist system that rules the land with wanton brutality. Your struggles through the ages have been an inspiration to us as we fight our own battles for basic human dignities. We continue to find inspiration and strength from your struggles through the ages and your revolutionary leaders, like Malcolm X, Huey Newton, Kwame Ture, Angela Davis, Fred Hampton, Bobby Seale and others.

We honor the life of Michael Brown, cut short less than a week before he was due to begin university. And we honor the far too many more killed in similar circumstances, motivated by racism and contempt for black life: Ezell Ford, John Crawford, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Tarika Wilson, Malcolm Ferguson, Renisha McBride, Amadou Diallo, Yvette Smith, Oscar Grant, Sean Bell, Kathryn Johnston, Rekia Boyd and too many others to count.

With a Black Power fist in the air, we salute the people of Ferguson and join in your demands for justice.

Signatories

- Susan Abulhawa, novelist and activist
- Linah Alsaafin, graduate student, SOAS
- Budour Hassan
- Rinad Abdulla, Professor, Birzeit University
- Ramzy Baroud, Managing Editor, Middle East Eye
- Diana Buttu, Lawyer, Palestine
- Rana Baker, graduate student, SOAS
- Abbas Hamideh, activist and organizer
- Abir Kopty
- Ahlam Muhtaseb, Professor, CSU
- Alaa Milbes, Ramallah, Palestine
- Alaa Marwan, Ramallah, Palestine
- Nour Joudah, Washington DC
- Ali Zbeidat, Sakhnin, Palestine
- Areej Alragabi, Jerusalem, Palestine
- Areej Saeb, student, Jerusalem
- Asma Jaber
- Beesan Ramadan, Nablus
- Dina Zbidat, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Dr Jess Ghannam, UCSF
- Huwaida Arraf, Attorney, New York
- Nejma Awad, Tetra Tech DPK
- Monadel Herzallah, USPCN, San Francisco Bay Area
- Ghassan Hussein
- Dinna Omar
- Randa C. Issa
- Amal Khoury, MD MPH, Washington, DC
- Amani Barakat Moorpark, California
- Fadi Quran
- Fajr Harb
- Falastine Dwikat, PCACBI
- Hala Gabriel
- Khaled Jarrar
- Osama Ahmad, AMP Bay Area director
- Hala Turjman
- Halla Shoaibi, Birzeit University
- Harun Arsalai
- Zaid Shuaibi
- Hurriyah Ziada
- Dima Eleiwa, Shujaiyah, Gaza, Palestine
- Jamil Salem, Birzeit University
- Karam Saleem, International Solidarity Movement, Palestine
• Khaled Barakat
• Khuzama Hanoun, Palestine
• Laila Awartani, Ramallah, Palestine
• Lana Habash, Let’s Go There Collective
• Lana Khoury, Washington DC
• Yousef Aljamal, University of Malaysia
• Safwan Hamdi
• Leena Barakat
• Lema Nazeeh, lawyer
• Yara Kayyali Abbas, Palestine
• Mariam Barghouti, Birzeit University
• Mohammad Ayyad, graduate student, SOAS
• Nader Elkhuzundar
• Nancy Mansour, Existence is Resistance, New York/Palestine
• Mohammed Alkhader, Birzeit University
• Nazik Hassan, attorney, Riverside, California
• Nora Taha
• Rena Zuabi
• Roleen Tafakji-Haidami
• Samera Sood
• Sana Ibrahim
• Sherene Seikaly, UCSB
• Taher Herzallah
• Tamara Reem, Washington DC
• Ahmad Nimer, Palestine
• Riya Al’sanah, journalist, London
• Alaa Milbes, Ramallah
• Belal Dabour, Gaza doctor
• Huda Asfour, PhD, Durham NC
• Iyad Afaq, Irvine, CA
• Ruba Leech, Portland, OR
• Rashad Al-Dabbagh, Network of Arab American Professionals
• Maysoun Suleiman-Khatib, Civil Rights Specialist
• Diana Alzeer, Ramallah, Palestine
• Mona Kadah, Boston MA
• Lucy Garbett, Jerusalem, Palestine
• Hadeel Assali, Columbia University, NYC
• Magid Shihade, Oakland, CA
• Tamara Tamimi, Palestine
• Hammam Farah, psychotherapist and editor
• Dina Elmuti, Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture
• Laila Hamdan, Portland OR
• Bushra Shamma, VA, USA
• Rev. Fahed Abuakel, Presbyterian minister, Atlanta, GA
• Rehab Nazzal, artist, Canada
• Ezees Silwady, Palestine
• Dua’ Nakhala, freelance researcher, Belgium
• Amal Oweis, Palestine
• Shaheen Nassar, UCR
• Amin Dallal, youth counselor
• Dr. Tariq Shadid, surgeon
• Zaha Hassan, Esq
• Randa Issa, PhD
• Murad Saleh, GED
• Lila Sharif, Ph.D
• Sa’ed Atshan, Ph.D
• Rasha Khoury, MD Jerusalem
• Hadeel Assali, Columbia University, NYC
• Rabab Ibrahim Abdulhadi, Associate Professor of Race and Resistance Studies, San Francisco University
• Tanya Keilani
• Shahd Abusalama

Organizations

• American Muslims for Palestine
• Free Amer Jubran Campaign
• International Solidarity Movement, Palestine
• Let’s Go There Collective
• Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network
• Students for Justice in Palestine, University of New Mexico
- The Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa’adat
- Bay Area Intifada, Bay Area
- PAWA, Palestinian American Women Association
- NSJP, National Students for Justice in Palestine
- Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights
- Mashjar Juthour, Palestine
- Harvard Palestine Solidarity Committee
- Al-Awda NY, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition
- Stop the Wall
- The US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel