



US Campaign to  
**End the Israeli Occupation**

"We aim to change those US policies that both sustain Israel's 43-year occupation of the Palestinian West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and deny equal rights for all."

**Letter to Black America on Palestinian Rights and June 10th March & Rally  
May 2007**

*To Black America:*

*It is time for our people to once again demand that the silence be broken on the injustices faced by the Palestinian people resulting from the Israeli occupation.*

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the national coalition known as the **US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation** ([endtheoccupation.org](http://endtheoccupation.org)) will be spearheading a march and rally to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. We, the signatories of this appeal, ask that Black America again take a leading role in this effort as well as the broader work to bring attention to this 40 year travesty of justice.

United Nations resolutions have called for the Israeli withdrawal, yet the Israeli government, with the backing of the USA, has ignored them. The Israeli government has appropriated Palestinian land in open defiance of international law and overwhelming international condemnation.

Within the USA anyone who speaks in favor of Palestinian rights and justice is immediately condemned as being allegedly anti-Israel (and frequently allegedly anti-Semitic), shutting down legitimate discussion. A case in point can be seen in the current furor surrounding former President Jimmy Carter who was criticized for his assertion in his best-selling book, ***Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid***, that Israeli obstructionism lies at the root of the failure to achieve a just Palestinian/Israeli settlement.

As Nobel prizewinner Archbishop Desmond Tutu has written, "People are scared in the US, to say 'wrong is wrong,' because the pro-Israeli lobby is powerful--very powerful. Well, so what? For goodness sake, this is God's world! We live in a moral universe. The apartheid government was very powerful, but today it no longer exists."

Many of those who most outspokenly agree with President Carter and Archbishop Tutu are American Jews. And many American Jews, including the national organization Jewish Voice for Peace, will be among those rallying for Palestinian rights on June 10<sup>th</sup> – as will many other Americans, including member groups of the leading anti-war coalition United for Peace and Justice.

Leaders from Black America have repeatedly and historically been among the most outspoken proponents of justice for the Palestinian people. Our leaders have defended the Palestinian people's right to full self-determination and an end to the Occupation as central to peace in the region. Our leaders have not criticized the Jewish people but they have expressed outrage at the Israeli government that collaborated with the apartheid South African government (including in the development of weapons of mass destruction) and emulated South Africa's treatment of its Black majority in its own treatment of the Palestinian people.

As we struggle to build our country's support for Palestinian human rights, we widen the door for both Arab and Black Americans to deal with the issues that join them together, as well as those that separate them. We will help to energize - and to heal - both communities.

June tenth and Juneteenth: will our struggles lead the way to a new emancipation of others? Our own integrity as a people, let alone our own experience with massive injustice and oppression, demand that we step forward, speak out, and insist on a change in US policy towards the Palestinian people. Since when have an illegally occupied people been wrong in demanding and fighting for their human rights and land? Since when have such people and their cause not been worthy of our support?

Please join us on June 10<sup>th</sup>!

**Signed by** (*affiliation for identification purposes only*):

- *Salih Booker*, former Executive Director of Africa Action
  - *Khephra Burns*, author, editor, playwright
  - *Horace G. Campbell*, Professor of African American Studies and Political Science
  - *Dr. Ron Daniels*, President, Institute of the Black World 21st Century
  - *Bill Fletcher*, labor and international activist, and writer
  - *George Friday*, United for Peace and Justice Co-Chair, National Coordinator, Independent Progressive Politics Network
  - *Rev. Graylan Scott Hagler*, Senior Minister, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; National President, Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice of the United Church of Christ
  - *Mahmood Mamdani*, Herbert Lehman Professor of Government in the Departments of Anthropology, Political Science and Public and International Affairs
  - *Manning Marable*, Professor of Public Affairs, Political Science, History and African-American Studies
  - *George Paz Martin*, National Co-Chair of United for Peace and Justice and Green Party U.S. Activist
  - *E. Ethelbert Miller*, literary activist; board chair, Institute for Policy Studies
  - *Prexy Nesbitt*, speaker and educator on Africa, foreign policy, and racism
  - *Barbara Ransby*, Associate Professor of History and African-American Studies
  - *Cedric Robinson*, Professor, Department of Black Studies
  - *The Rev. Canon Edward W. Rodman* MDiv.LCH,DD. Professor of Pastoral Theology and Urban Ministry at the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma.
  - *Jamala Rogers*, Black Radical Congress
  - *Don Rojas*, former director of communications for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
  - *Zoharah Simmons*, human rights activist
  - *Chuck Turner*, Boston City Councilor
  - *Hollis Watkins*, Former Freedom Singer and staff member of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; human rights activist (1961 – present)
  - *Dr. Cornel West*
  - *Emira Woods*, co-director, Foreign Policy In Focus, Institute for Policy Studies
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## Co-Signed By:

1. Anisa Abd El Fattah, Chairwoman, National Association of Muslim American Women
2. Rana Abdelqader, Creator, Palestine—The Voices of the Next Generation
3. Hodari Abdul Ali, Executive Director, Give Peace a Chance Coalition
4. Imam Al-Hajj Talib 'Abdur-Rashid, Deputy Amir, Muslim Alliance in North America, and Imam, Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood, Inc.
5. Kali Akuno, National Organizer, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
6. Nadim Ali, Amir/Chairman, Community Masjid of Atlanta
7. Siraj Ali
8. Barry Amundson, Network Admin, Peaceful Tomorrows
9. Don Anderson
10. George Armstrong
11. Siamak Azadi, Coordinator, Committee in Solidarity with the People of Iran (CISPI)
12. Magdi Badawy, Manager, Quincy Builders LLC
13. Ellen Barfield, Board Member, Veterans for Peace
14. Lettie Barge, Social Justice Advocate
15. Bertiz Benhamid
16. Judith Beris
17. Diane Brelsford, Revered, Episcopal Church
18. Bianca Burzer, Agent, Allstate Insurance Company
19. T. Bruce Carpenter, Chair, Church and Society Committee, St. Mark's United Methodist Church
20. Damon Coleman, Manager, Friends, Inc.
21. Brian Corr, National Co-Chair, Peace Action
22. David Covin, Professor Emeritus, CSU Sacramento
23. James Crockett, US Navy (Retired)
24. Michael Davis, Executive Director, Universal Human Rights Network
25. Ibrahim Diawara, Student, Rutgers University
26. Elaine Donovan, Co-Founder, Concerned Citizens for Peace
27. Felicia Eaves, Chair, Black Voices for Peace
28. Paul Ferrell, Jr., Retired Burlington County Prosecutor
29. Aisha Finch, Graduate Student, New York University
30. Craig Foster, CEO, Friends, Inc.
31. Monika Foster, Paralegal, Law Offices of Ronald B. Thompson
32. Yasmin Gado
33. John Gebhardt, Member, County Committee, Democratic Party
34. Tala Ghantous, Social Worker
35. John Wheat Gibson, Lawyer, No Child Left Behind Bars
36. Angela Gilliam, Faculty Emerita, Evergreen State College
37. Jeannie Guglielmino, Member, Connecticut Coalition for Peace
38. Peter Gunther, Founder, Progressive Archivists
39. Joanna Hamil, Psychiatric Social Worker, NASW
40. Robert Harris, Jr., Attorney at Law
41. Wm. Robt. Henry, World Issues Teacher, Sierra Friends Center
42. Nyree Herbert, Esthetician, An Army of Me
43. George Hutchinson, Co-Chair, Pacific Green Party (Oregon)
44. Dr. F. Javier Iribarren, Academic Researcher/Human Rights Activist, No-Child-left-Behind-Bars
45. Michael and Dolores Jackson
46. Mohamed Jagani, President, Aims Environmental
47. William Jastromb
48. Michael Jefferson, Founder, Kiyama
49. David Jones, First Vice President, Staten Island African American Political Association
50. Ava Jordan, St. Louis Treasurer, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
51. Ronald Abdelmoutaleb Judy, Professor of Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Pittsburgh/Editorial Collective, Boundary 2
52. Laveen Kanal, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland
53. Sister Elaine Kelley, Administrative Officer, Friends of Sabeel-North America
54. Nancy Kelly, Member, Fresno Center for Nonviolence
55. Camille Kent
56. Cagla Kiraz
57. G. Kortes
58. Leila Larkin, Retired Home Maker
59. Sylvia Leach, Teacher, Wellesley Community Children's Center
60. Carol Lems-Dworking, President, World Music Center, Inc.
61. VeLora Lilly, Psychologist
62. Eve Lopez
63. Dan Mahoney, President, JD Mahoney Construction, Inc.
64. Joachim Martillo, President, Telford Tools, Inc.
65. Tinoire Martis, Founder, Progressive Independent
66. Sheldon A. Maskin
67. Richard Mosley, Jr., Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church
68. Luci Murphy, Network Convenor, Grey Panthers of Metropolitan Washington
69. Ray Nakley, Spokesman, Arab American Community of Youngstown
70. Robert Nolan
71. Efia Nwangaza, Esq., Founder/Director, Malcom X Center for Self-Determination
72. Valerie Ozsu, Owner, Healing the Healer
73. Kevin Padden
74. Burnis Parker, Sergeant At Arms, Afrikan World Study Group
75. Martha Perez, General Political Activist
76. Pierrette Mimi Poinsett, MD FAAP, Pediatrician and Buddhist, Private Consultant
77. Mary Price
78. Joyce Pritchard, Member, Holy Family Church
79. Hassan Rahmouni, Lead Engineer
80. Brian Ramsey, Convenor, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East
81. Andrea Roberts, Church Council, Calvary United Methodist Church
82. Lawrence Saltzman
83. Mark Sannino
84. Maryam Shabazz
85. Suhail Shafi, Member, Western New York Peace Center
86. Dorothy Shaw, District 4 County Chairperson, Gwinnett, GA Democratic Party
87. Shehnaz Sheik Abdeljaber, Student, Rutgers University
88. John Stitzer, Young Friend, Baltimore Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends
89. Kathy Stone, Member, Women Against Military Madness
90. Candie Stuart
91. James Taylor, Peace Facilitator, Help Increase the Peace Process
92. Baxter Thomas, CEO, Divine Consultant
93. Sharon Thomas
94. Sanna Towns, Twin Cities Coalition for Palestinian Rights
95. Robert Trabold
96. Peter Viering, Attorney at Law, Council for the National Interest Foundation
97. Michael Wolff, Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
98. Lih Young, Life Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
99. Peter Yuslum, Member, Pax Christi
100. Wieslaw Zdaniewski, Partner, Patria