

Solidarity through sovereignty - connecting our collective liberation

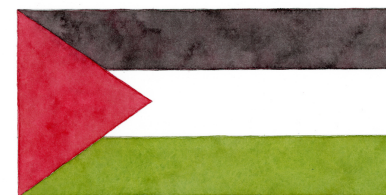
This series – Solidarity through sovereignty: connecting our collective liberation – gives background to the genocide we are witnessing in Palestine.

We speak from sovereign Yagera land in Magandjin/Brisbane, a place of ongoing colonisation, racial violence & Blackfulla resistance. This reality informs our solidarity with Palestine, led by Blackfullas who are also enduring colonial occupation & fighting for Indigenous futures.

We explain why Blackfullas & allies in Magandjin/Brisbane are taking action in solidarity with Palestine, & why Palestinians here are grounding their resistance in Blackfulla sovereignty.

We draw connections between colonial white supremacy oppressing Indigenous people here, in Palestine & across the world.

From Boundary streets to apartheid walls, missions to occupied territories, by naming, explaining & understanding these connections we can cut through colonial fictions to build our collective knowledge for resistance & liberation.



Israel as a settler-colonial state

Palestinians waiting at Taybeh checkpoint in the occupied West Bank: Mondoweiss



Nations founded & maintained with violence

Settler-colonial states like Australia are defined by the process of eliminating (through murder and/or displacement) the Indigenous population in order to claim the land so people from elsewhere can occupy it. Like Australia, Israel was founded on this idea, as the first Prime Minister of Israel stated “we must expel the Arabs & take their place”.

Both Australia & Israel were founded through colonial violence. Across this continent, settlers massacred & enslaved Indigenous people, rounding them up into missions in order to take their land. In Queensland, a specific police force was founded to ‘disperse’ Indigenous people through mass murder & dispossession. This force was “the single biggest killer of Aboriginal people in colonial Queensland”.

Founding Zionists like Jabotinsky were clear that the foundation of Israel would be dependent on violence against Indigenous Palestinians “without an armed force which will render physically impossible any attempt to destroy or prevent this colonisation, colonisation is impossible...it stands & falls by the question of an armed force.”

Nations founded & maintained with violence

This founding violence culminated in 1948 with what Palestinians call the Nakba (catastrophe). **The Nakba was a mass ethnic-cleansing that used massacres, systemic rape & other terror-tactics to destroy 420 Palestinian villages & expel 780,000 Palestinians from the land.** As a result, Israel pushed Palestinians that remained within what is now claimed as Israel into enclaves, & forced many others into designated 'Palestinian Territories' under Israeli control. Other Palestinians were forced to leave as refugees. Zionists used this violence to gain control of the land & found the state of Israel.

Palestinians commemorate Nakba Day as an annual day of mourning, while Zionists celebrate the foundation of Israel. This holds a **stark similarity to Australia's national celebration on January 26, also a day of mourning & resistance for Blackfullas.**

Ongoing Nakba: oppression & apartheid

As Blackfullas on this continent know well, colonisation is not confined to the frontier wars of the past. **Colonisation is a present, every day force embedded in government systems, practices & societal norms** that oppress Blackfullas & deny them control of their land & lives.

Today, this oppression takes many forms, including mass incarceration, child theft, the denial of healthcare & many other essential services. Until 1988 (when it was fully dismantled), Blackfullas in Queensland were subject to legislated racial controls & segregation called The Protection Act. **These laws controlled where Aboriginal people could live, if they could marry, if they could keep their children** (all Aboriginal children were legally wards of the state, so could be removed from their families at any time), & where they must work (though their wages were taken by the government).

Queensland's Protection Act was an inspiration for South African apartheid & its echoes are clear in Israel's laws. **Israel's apartheid is characterised by having two legal systems: one that privileges Israelis & another that oppresses Palestinians.**

Ongoing Nakba: oppression & apartheid

Whether they are Palestinians living in 'Israel', the West Bank or Gaza, no Palestinian has the same legal rights as an Israeli. This system is physically marked by the apartheid wall that divides the West Bank, cutting through Palestinian cities & villages, separating communities, families, people & their lands. Controlling the everyday lives of Palestinians is only possible because they are surrounded by Israel's military, which occupies the West Bank & holds Gaza under siege, where they control who & what (like food & water) enters.

Palestinians are also given markers of inferior status: different identity cards, a segregated road system (Palestinian cars have different registration plates that can only use certain roads) & require permission for movement granted by Israel.

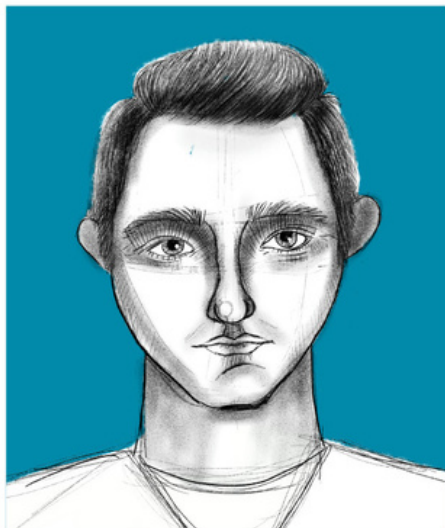
Ongoing Nakba: oppression & apartheid

This apartheid extends to **Palestinians in the diaspora who have no rights to return to the land where they or their ancestors were born.** In contrast, Israel gives any Jewish person around the world the right to settle there.

Israeli officials have been clear that their **laws are designed for the benefit of Jewish Israelis only**, with Prime Minister Netanyahu describing Israel as “the national state, not of all its citizens, but only of the Jewish people.” **This apartheid is designed to make Palestinians everyday lives so oppressed & precarious that they become unliveable. This ultimately serves Israel’s colonial goal to remove Palestinians from the land in order to occupy more & more of it.**

BORN UNEQUAL WEST BANK

ILAN



JEWISH CITIZEN OF ISRAEL
BORN IN AN ISRAELI
SETTLEMENT



MARIAM

PALESTINIAN ID HOLDER
BORN IN A PALESTINIAN
VILLAGE (AREA C)

CAN I HOP IN MY CAR AND DRIVE TO JERUSALEM?

YES

You can do so on roads designed to bypass Palestinian communities and facilitate your commute

NO

You need a rarely issued Israeli permit that's generally time limited. Even with a permit, you'll face checkpoints where you're likely to experience delays and humiliation

IF I'M ARRESTED, WILL I GET A FAIR TRIAL?

YES

You'll be tried in Israeli civil courts with full due process rights

NO

You'll be tried in an Israeli military court with a near 100% conviction rate, or possibly even held in administrative detention without trial or charge, based on secret evidence

DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH AND RIGHT TO PROTEST?

YES

Only speech with "near certainty" to "seriously jeopardize" vital security can be restricted. You can protest without fear of state repression

NO

Military orders restrict your right to free speech and right to protest. If you violate these vaguely worded orders, you could face up to 10 years in prison

CAN I BUILD A HOME?

YES

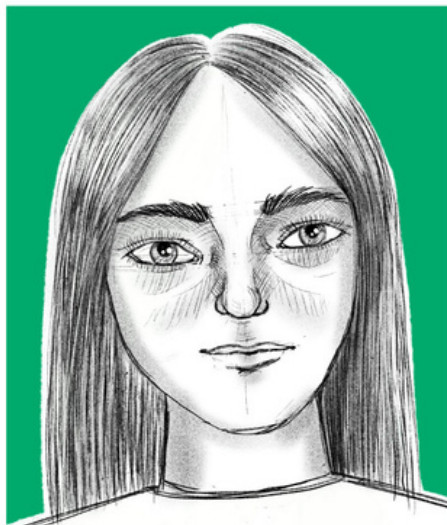
Israel has allocated large swaths of the West Bank to settlements, where plans have been approved to build thousands of homes

NO

Because you live in the 60% of the West Bank that is under exclusive Israeli control (Area C), it's virtually impossible. You may be more likely to have your home demolished than get a permit to build

BORN UNEQUAL NEGEV

NIRIT



**JEWISH
CITIZEN OF ISRAEL**
BORN IN AN ISRAELI TOWN



WISSAM

**PALESTINIAN
CITIZEN OF ISRAEL**
BORN IN UNRECOGNIZED
BEDOUIN VILLAGE

IS MY COMMUNITY RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT?

YES

As part of a policy to "Judaize the Negev", Israel actively nurtures the development of Jewish communities in the Negev

NO

Israel does not recognize 35 Palestinian Bedouin communities, making it impossible for 90,000 or so residents to live lawfully in their homes

CAN I ACCESS BASIC SERVICES?

YES

Likely without any obstacles, thanks to billions of shekels Israel has invested in major infrastructure projects to attract Jewish residents to the area

NO

Israel refuses to connect your unrecognized village to national electricity or water grids or provide basic services like paved roads, sewage systems and schools

CAN I STAY HERE FOR YEARS TO COME?

YES

Israel continues to make more and more land available to Jewish communities to encourage you to stay and raise your family here

MAYBE NOT

Israel seeks to concentrate Bedouins in government-planned townships. As a resident of an unrecognized village, you live under constant threat of home demolition

IF I WANT TO MOVE, DO I HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS?

YES

You can move to a big city or one of hundreds of other small Jewish towns across Israel

MAYBE NOT

Among other challenges, hundreds of small Jewish towns have admissions committees that have power by law to exclude Palestinian citizens from living there

BORN UNEQUAL ABROAD

HANNAH



JEWISH AMERICAN
BORN IN THE U.S.



LEILA

PALESTINIAN REFUGEE
BORN IN LEBANON

CAN I VISIT ISRAEL & THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY?

YES

You can visit Israel and most of the West Bank, and you'll find programs that may help fund your trip

NO

You are barred from entry to Israel, the West Bank or Gaza

CAN I MOVE THERE?

YES

Because you're Jewish, the 1950 Law of Return guarantees your right to live in Israel. Plus, you'll get a free flight and a bunch of perks if you do so

NO

As a Palestinian refugee, you're barred from returning and denied residency rights, even if you have family living there

CAN I BECOME AN ISRAELI CITIZEN?

YES

The 1952 Citizenship Law entitles you to automatic citizenship, even if you've never set foot in Israel before

NO

You are ineligible if your family became refugees between 1947 and 1949, even if they had lived there for generations before

CAN I PASS ON MY LEGAL STATUS TO MY SPOUSE IN ISRAEL OR THE OPT?

YES

Upon becoming a citizen, you can pass along legal status and even citizenship to your spouse (except if they're Palestinian from the OPT or from several Arab countries)

NO

You have no legal status and cannot gain one, even by marrying a citizen or resident of Israel

More from our community

*links in caption

Righting the history of Palestine, Dr Jamal Nabulsi

Frontier War Stories, Boe Spearim

Let's Talk: Blackfulla-Palestinian Solidarity, Triple A Murri

Justice for Palestine Magandjin Podcast, Radio Reversal

The Continuation of Zionist Settler Colonialism, Dr Jamal Nabulsi

Blackfulla-Palestinian Solidarity Symposium Film

Sources

- [Visualising Palestine](#)
- [Triple A Let's Talk Palestine Solidarity Series](#)
- [Radio Reversal Justice for Palestine podcast](#)
- [The Continuation of Zionist Settler-Colonialism](#)
- [Reclaiming Palestinian Indigenous Sovereignty](#)
- [Righting the history of Palestine](#)
- [Boe Spearim's Frontier War Stories](#)
- [Israeli forces poisoned Palestinian wells during the Nakba](#)
- [Israel pours concrete into well](#)
- [The occupation of water](#)
- [The myth of a tolerant, open society](#)
- [Anti-colonial solidarities in this moment](#)
- [Palestine, colonialism & global climate justice](#)
- [The Iron Wall](#)
- [Water undrinkable in many Indigenous communities](#)
- [Australia's legacy of denying water rights to Indigenous people](#)
- [Gaza's undrinkable water slowly poisoning people](#)
- [Australia's most toxic site](#)
- [Lesser known history of the Maralinga nuclear tests](#)
- [The environmental Nakba](#)
- [Scorched Earth policies in Palestine & the great plains](#)
- [Destruction of olive trees in the West Bank is an attack on Palestinian Sovereignty](#)

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Sources

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- Sergeant A Whittington (1965) The Queensland native mounted police. Journal of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland 7 (3) 508-520
- Decolonize Palestine
- Netanyahu says Israel is a state for the Jewish people & them alone
- An environmental Nakba
- Oppressive pines: uprooting Israel colonialism & implanting Palestinian A'wna
- Jordana Silverstein, Anxious Histories: Narrating the Holocaust in Jewish Communities at the Beginning of the Twenty First Century, Berghahn Books, 2015.
- Australia's extinct species
- Jordana Silverstein, 'From the Utter Depth of Degradation to the Apogee of Bliss': The Genderings of Diasporic Zionism & Jewish Holocaust Education, Journal of Modern Jewish Studies, 11, no. 3 (2012): 377-398.
- Sephardim in Israel: Israel from the standpoint of its Jewish victims
- The no-state solution: a conversation with Daniel Boyarin
- How the Kimberley nearly became the Jewish homeland
- The Palestinian cause & Argentina's equidistant policy
- Exploring the forgotten Uganda Scheme
- Sovereignty statement from Still Here
- Let's Talk Blackfulla-Palestinian Solidarity Archive
- Invention of the Mizrahim

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