

# Solidarity through sovereignty - connecting our collective liberation

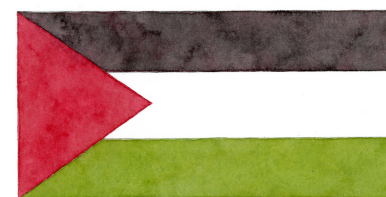
This series – Solidarity through sovereignty: connecting our collective liberation – gives background to the genocide we are witnessing in Palestine.

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.



# Indigenous sovereignty here & in Palestine



من نكبتنا إلى نكبتكم نضالنا واحد  
from our nakba to your invasion day  
we are one in struggle

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# What is Indigenous sovereignty?

Indigenous sovereignty is a felt, embodied belonging to the land and community that holds deep and varied meanings for Indigenous people. There is a stark difference between Indigenous sovereignty and the type of sovereignty claimed by nation states like Australia & Israel.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collective 'Still Here' speaks about Indigenous sovereignty as knowing, caring and being Country "we embody this land and its stories, we are country and country is us". This is the Indigenous connection to land we refer to in the saying "sovereignty never ceded".

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**‘Still Here’ contrasts state sovereignty as “a sovereignty built on monarchs, violence & dominion over land & people. This kind of power controls, destroys & colonises in a relentless pursuit of progress.” Indigenous sovereignty is resisting “Western ways of governing that exclude & dominate.”**

**When a settler colony like Australia is formed, settlers claim ownership of land through ‘state sovereignty’. Colonial state sovereignty requires violence to establish and maintain itself. We see this in the violent, ongoing colonisation on this continent that dominates Indigenous land & communities through extractive industries, mass incarceration, child theft & other forms of systemic oppression.**

# Colonialism & Palestinian Indigeneity

In its simplest political form, Indigeneity means a particular relationship to settler-colonialism. Indigenous people are those that pre-exist the arrival of colonists that seek to eliminate & dominate the existing population. Both Blackfullas & Palestinians predate the arrival of settlers who systematically discriminate against them in order to create a nation state built to benefit an exclusive group, such as a 'white Australia' or 'Jewish Israel'. Indigenous sovereignty, inherent in Blackfullas & Palestinians, challenges the legitimacy of the nation states of Australia & Israel.

Like the rest of the Mediterranean & SWANA (South West Asia North Africa) region, Palestinians have always been people with diverse ethnic connections & multiple faiths, including Judaism. Like Christians & Muslims, Jews have a historical & religious connection to the land of Palestine.

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Zionist colonialism sought exclusive control of land for Jews, specifically European Jews. Early Zionist settlers boasted of their European superiority over savage Palestinians & even non-European Jews, claiming a right to rule the land of Palestine based on interpretations of scripture.

Contemporary Zionism has added another element to the claim, arguing that Jews have a singular place of origin in Palestine & are Indigenous to the land. Many Zionists recharacterize settler-colonialism as European Jews 'coming home' to ancestral lands after being (largely) absent for 2000 years.

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While the contexts vary across the world, settlers claiming Indigeneity to justify their presence & subjugation of others is not unusual. It is common to hear Australian settlers claim to be Indigenous or 'from here' to justify their rights to land or contest Blackfulla sovereignty. This claim aims to deny settler colonialism & its inherent racial violence.

It is important to remember that Indigeneity fundamentally refers to the population that pre-exists the arrival of settlers. Both Blackfullas & Palestinians pre-exist & endure settler-states on their lands. It is these two groups that settler states (Australia & Israel) seek to kill, oppress & remove from the land in order to maintain power.

Blackfulla & Palestinian Indigenous sovereignty will always challenge the legitimacy of settler-colonial states.

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# More from our community

\*links in caption

Sovereignty statement, Still Here

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

Justice for Palestine Magan-djin Podcast, Radio Reversal

The Continuation of Zionist Settler Colonialism, Dr Jamal Nabulsi

Reclaiming Palestinian Indigenous Sovereignty, 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](#)

# Sources

- Jonathon Richards, The Secret War p51
- 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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