RACIST ISRAELI VIGILANTISM AND THE SUBJUGATION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

By Uhuru B. Rowe
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On the 18th of October, 2015, an early twenty-something Eritrean migrant by the name of Habton Zerhom, was unjustly shot by an Israeli security guard and then beaten by a mob of racist Isaeli vigilantes in the town of Beersheba, which is located to the southwest of Jerusalem. Zerhom later died from his wounds. Zerhom's murder was the result of an earlier event where an Arab-Israeli citizen with a gun and knife allegedly killed an Israeli soldier, stole his weapon and opended fire on a crowd injuring nine. In the mayhem that followed, a video shows Zerhom crawling for cover when a security guard walks up and shoots him at close proximity. As Zerhom laid in a pool of his own blood he is cursed, kicked and hit with a rack of chairs by a mob of Israeli Jews. It was later reported that the security guard mistook Zerhom for an attacker.

According to other news reports Zerhom worked in a plant nursery and was in Beersheba to renew his work visa. Zerhom, who migrated to Israel to seek a better way of life, "was a modest man, quiet, and he tried to do his job as best as he could", said his employer, Sagi Malachi.

Immediately following the incident, Yaakov Amidror, the former national security adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stated "It is a disgrace to Israeli society, and those that carried out this lynching need to be found and brought to justice." What is interesting is that Amidror used the word lynching to describe the brutal murder of Zerhom but not the ethnic-cleansing of tens of thousands of Palestinians since 1947.

The settler-state of Israel, specifically its capital, Jerusalem, located in the central part of the West Bank, has been rocked by knife-wielding Palestinian protesters reacting to rumors that the Israeli government was planning a hostile takeover of Jerusalem's Temple Mount which is Islam's third most holiest site- the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Israel has occupied this mosque since 1967. But the current Israeli/Palestinian conflict is rooted deeper than Israel's occupation of the Temple Mount and its supposed plan to ban Palestinians from worshipping at the site. It is rooted in historical land-theft, genocide and colonization of the Palestinian people by the imperialist Israeli settler-state.

Israel's rise to power and dominance in Palestine began in the late 1800s when European Jews formed a movement called Zionism which sought to establish a Jewish state in Palestine by any means necessary. Jews began arriving en masse in the early 1900s angering the Arab population who had been the majority in the region since A.D. 600.

In 1947, to quell a potential uprising by Arab Palestinians, the United Nations proposed dividing the region into an Arab state and a Jewish state occupying most of the land, including Jerusalem. The Palestians rejected this proposal. Not to be deterred from inhabiting a land which it felt it was entitled to based upon Bible prophecy, the settler/occupying state of Israel forcibly came into being on May 14, 1948.

By 1967, after countless wars of aggression against a defenseless Palestinian people, Israel captured and occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian intifadas (uprisings) is a natural reaction to almost seven dacades of brutal Israeli occupation of their homeland. Palestinian Revolutionary Nationalism developed as a response to Zionism and its frequent land thefts and unauthorized settlement ex-

pansions into Palestinian territories. But Israel's bullying, colonization and subjugation of the Palestinian people wouldn't be possible without the nearly $3 billion Israel receives annually in U.S. military aid. This aid guarantees the U.S. a strategic military ally in the Middle East which it can use to wage proxy wars against surrounding Muslim countries.

Clearly the U.S. is an accomplice to the crime of genocide committed by Israel against the Palestinian people. Don't think its genocide? According to the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948, genocide means "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the national, ethnic, racial or religious group, such as: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." Taking the United Nations' definition of genocide into consideration, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that the settler/occupying state of Israel in committing mass genocide agianst the Palestinian people via outright murder, bombing campaigns, embargos, land theft, forced migrations, unlawful arrests and detentions, and political assassinations of key Palestinian leaders. A Jewish people who once suffered genocide at the hands of Hitler and his Nazi regime have assumed the role of neo-nazis by committing nazi-like terror and genocide against the Palestinian Arabs because of their ethnic and religious background.

The Israeli colonialism/imperialism that the Palestinian people are currently confronted with is equal in its intensity and brutality to the English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Portu-

guese variety which wiped out entire populations of First Nations (Natives) in Central & South America and Mexico beginning in 1492 and 1519 respectively; the abduction of Afrikans from their homeland for capitalist profit beginning in the 15th Century; the enslavement, lynching and mass incarceration of Afrikans in Amerikkka beginning in 1619; and which the Hatian people successfully resisted during the Hatian Revolution (led by Toussaint L'Overture) from 1790-1802, leading to their independence and the establishment of the first Black Republic in the world in 1804.

Those of us who embrace and practice Proletarian Internationalism and Revolutionary Intercommunalism must stand in solidarity with the Palestinians and oppressed people all over the world who are engaged in national liberation struggles for thier right to self-determination. ALL POWER TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE!

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