



CAMPAIGN FOR PSYCH ABOLITION

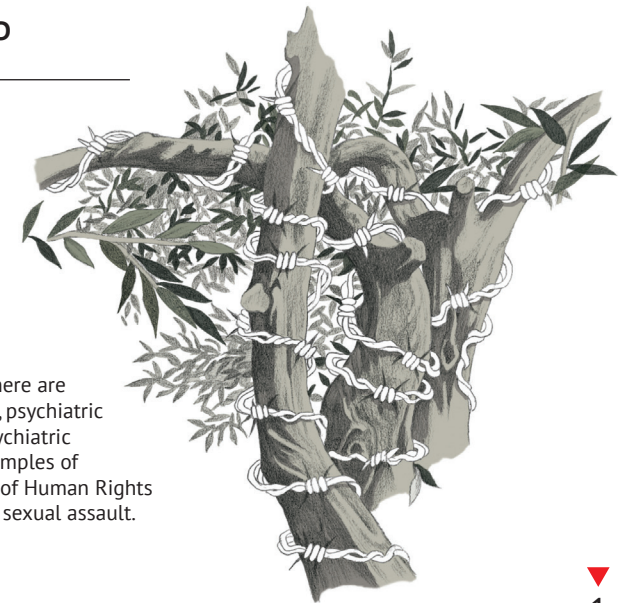
PSYCHIATRY'S ROLE IN THE OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE

A critical understanding of psychiatry
as a pillar of Zionism, dismantling
Western mental health frameworks
and depathologising resistance

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Content Note: Throughout this zine, there are writings referring to torture, genocide, psychiatric and colonial violence. Medical and Psychiatric Violence in Palestine has detailed examples of torture. On page 12 (Western Critique of Human Rights section), there is a specific mention of sexual assault.



INTRODUCTION

The Deir Yassin massacre is widely known as a warning of the impending Nakba of 1948, the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in the pursuit of a Zionist state. Over 250 people were brutally murdered and buried in mass graves, causing thousands of others to flee their homes in fear of what was to come. On this site of unimaginable violence, Zionists took the only homes they had not smashed apart and turned them into an Israeli psychiatric facility. Is there a more powerful analogy for the relationship between Zionism and psychiatry?

Psychiatry's role as an agent of colonialism continues to be obscured. The 'scientific authority' that declares colonised people as lesser than human and in need of civilising has played an intrinsic role in settler colonialism across the globe, including the Zionist project. In this zine, we want to contextualise the psychiatric and medical violence that is used to consolidate Israeli occupation, and explicitly declare our unconditional support for Palestinian resistance as psych abolitionists. It is also important to call out the rise in reactionary 'wellness' popular culture that is encouraging people in the imperial core to turn into our cowardice under the guise of 'mental wellbeing'. We refuse to let this widespread psychiatric narrative corrode and individualise our struggles. Our principles of Disability justice and Mad Pride are worthless without a foundation of militant anti-imperialism.

If you have not heard about psych abolition before and are interested in understanding more, we have written a 101 zine going through the history of psychiatry, psych abolition in practice and debunking common ideological myths. You can find this at: linktr.ee/cpabolition

HISTORY

Timeline of the Occupation and Psychiatry: Resistance is Pathologised

1896 | "the Jewish State"

Theodor Herzl, founder of the Zionist movement, calls for "*restoration of the Jewish State*".

1897 | First Zionist Congress

Takes place in Basel, Switzerland and the first Zionist organisation is founded.

1917 | Balfour Declaration

The British government endorsed the Zionist aim of establishing "a national home for the Jewish people" soon to be British occupied Palestine.

This document laid the foundations for the ethnic cleansing of Palestine, paving the way for the creation of a Zionist state.

1922–1947 | British Mandate

After fall of the Ottoman Empire, Palestine placed under British administration. Pretext for the Israeli occupation.

Britain lent support (funding and training) to Zionist militias.

The first asylum opens in Bethlehem in 1922.

The colonial legacy of psychiatry in Palestine began in this period, as Britain introduced psychiatric coercive practices to study the 'Indigenous mind' and its supposed deficits. The Palestinian population were treated as individual colonial subjects to be studied, treated, and 'civilised' by their colonisers.

9 Apr 1948 | Deir Yassin Massacre

Over 250 people murdered by Zionist militias, one of the atrocities in the lead up to the Nakba. News spreading of the massacre meant many more thousands of people fled their villages out of fear.

Using some of the abandoned homes that had not been burned or blown apart by fascist paramilitaries, settlers then created an Israeli



psychiatric facility on the site of Deir Yassin called the Kfar Shaul Mental Health Center.

15 May 1948 | The Nakba

'al-Nakba', or 'the Catastrophe' in Arabic, refers to a violent process of mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians from their homes and ancestral land, this entailed the ethnic cleansing of Palestine.

750,000 Palestinians from a 1.9 million population were expelled from their land and made refugees. Zionist forces had taken more than 78 percent of historic Palestine, ethnically cleansed and destroyed about 530 villages and cities, and killed about 15,000 Palestinians in a series of mass atrocities, including more than 70 massacres.

This was the end of the British Mandate and the beginning of Israel as an independent Jewish State.

1951 | Kfar Shaul Mental Health Center

Psychiatric hospital opens in occupied Deir Yassin.

1967 | Six-Day War

After a regional war with Egypt, Jordan and Syria, Israel seized the remaining Palestinian territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip. Known as the 'Naksa' ('setback' or 'defeat'), this was a continuation of the 'Nakba'. Israel now controlled the whole of historical Palestine. 300,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes.

8 Dec 1987–13 Sep 1993 | First Intifada

An Israeli vehicle caused a crash, killing 4 Palestinians in Gaza. This led to a spontaneous uprising by Palestinians, starting in Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp and spreading to the West Bank. A series of wide-scale demonstrations, strikes and mass mobilisation broke out in the occupied territories.

Local committees sprang up in towns and villages throughout the West Bank and Gaza, both to maintain popular support for the Intifada and to provide social services. Civil disobedience, including strikes, boycotts of Israeli products, and refusal to pay Israeli taxes, spread and became an additional dimension of the mass resistance to Israeli occupation.

"According to El-Sarraj, the Intifada or Palestinian uprising that began in 1987 was a socially therapeutic process, replacing depression and hopelessness with pride and optimism."

After the first Intifada there is a "shift from mentally ill patients to the Palestinian population as a whole", in an attempt to pathologise resistance and manage dissent.

13 Sep 1993 | Signing of Oslo Accords

Former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a deal to establish an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel systematically destroyed any possibility of this through settlements' construction in the West Bank.

2000–2005 | Second Intifada

This mass resistance was sparked by a visit to Al-Aqsa mosque by Ariel Sharon, then Israeli prime minister candidate. His visit was a deliberate provocation, given Sharon's open support for the further Zionist annexation of East Jerusalem. This uprising also took place in the context of a failed Oslo process, and frustration with the corrupt Palestinian Authority (PA).

Israel adopted a heavily militarised response from the beginning, which led to over 3,000 Palestinian deaths in the 5 year period, as well as the construction of the apartheid wall in the West Bank.

2002 | The Apartheid Wall

Israel constructs 708km (440 mile)-long separation wall through the West Bank

2007 | Gaza Strip Placed Under an Israeli Land, Air and Sea Blockade

A series of sanctions were approved, including power cuts, border closures and the restriction of the movement of goods into and out of Gaza.

Known as the world's largest 'open-air' prison, 2.3 million people are living on 365sq km (141sq miles) of land. It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

2018 - 2020 | The Great March of Return

The protests involved Palestinians in Gaza practicing the right to

return by marching to the borders between Gaza and Israel.

Another central demand was an end to the Gaza blockade.

In the first year almost 200 Palestinians were killed, almost 30,000 injured.

Protesters were intentionally disabled by IOF soldiers.

May 2021 | Unity Uprising

Sparked by settler violence during Ramadan and the ethnic cleansing of Sheikh Jarrah, a Palestinian neighbourhood.

Erupted into bombing of Gaza in May 2021, with infrastructure targeted, over 260 Palestinians were killed and over 2000 injured.

The resistance managed to break through the Iron Dome, the supposedly impenetrable defence system.

7 Oct 2023 | Al-Aqsa Flood



MEDICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC VIOLENCE IN PALESTINE

Medicine has a long history of wielding physiology to enact violence against oppressed people who it does not deem as 'human'. This has only continued into the modern age, with more advanced technology and resources. As we see, the medical establishment not only collaborates with, but makes up a core pillar of, the Zionist regime. Medical knowledge of the body is being used to inform and develop more brutal torture techniques as a means of suppressing anti-colonial resistance and existence.

EXPERIMENTAL DRUG TESTING

Former prisoner Abdul Nasir Farawneh reported that the Israeli Ministry of Health gives Israeli pharmaceutical companies, such as Teva, permits to test the unknown effects of experimental drugs on Palestinian prisoners. In 1997 there were 5,000 such drug experiments conducted on detained Palestinian prisoners, many of whom developed unknown and unusual diseases, with serious and sometimes fatal health consequences. 45% of Palestinian prisoners in Nafaha, Raymond and Negev jails are subjected to group drug testing.

TESTING ON PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

Psychiatric inventions, such as hallucinogens and electroshock torture, are frequent tools of Zionist persecution. Cihad Yasmin described his time being taken hostage during October 2023, detailing electroshock torture, being stripped naked and sprayed with insect-attracting substances and forcibly given hallucination-inducing pills. Yasin documents how he still suffers headaches and dizziness from the pills and beatings.

Restraints, forced drugging and electroshock torture are all methods of violence developed by the psychiatric institution and exported to colonial regimes. Their aim is to exert domination and extreme humiliation as an attempt to break the spirit and humanity of oppressed people, and subdue them into passivity. It is no surprise that the tools of psychiatry have become one of the most utilised colonial weapons in their attempts to suppress resistance.

ORGAN HARVESTING

Historically, israel has refused to return bodies of Palestinian martyrs to their families. One such example is Fares Baroud, who was killed whilst incarcerated inside an israeli prison. It is suspected that he was subjected to experimental medical testing and his body was withheld to prevent forensic investigations. According to the National Campaign to Retrieve the Bodies of the Martyrs, the occupation authorities are withholding the bodies of around 497 Palestinians inside cemeteries and refrigerators, which does not include the bodies of martyrs withheld in Gaza since the beginning of the occupation's aggression. ***"This postmortem imprisonment of bodies has been understood by Palestinians as being criminalized beyond death"*** says Randa May Wahbe, AL-Shabaka Policy Network.

The dead bodies of Palestinians murdered by israel are then used for organ harvesting, something that has been confirmed up until 1990 by the israeli state itself, with testimony from israeli medical agents of it happening as recently as 2015. Alongside this, the corpses of detained martyrs are then used in medical colleges at israeli universities for research, with settler students training on their bodies.

Since October 7th the israeli military has stolen dozens of dead bodies from the Al Shifa and Indonesian hospitals in northern Gaza, alongside others in the south. Medical professionals in Gaza documented organ theft from these bodies after they were released by israel.

USE OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

In a recent report, it was revealed that israeli doctors and their medical knowledge is a useful weapon for the occupation when interrogating Palestinian prisoners. When doctors check the health of a detainee to see if they are 'fit' enough to undergo an interrogation, they also use the time to check for any physical or psychological weak points, which are then shared with the IOF interrogator for them to specifically target. Medical professionals also conceal injuries by refusing to document the evidence of brutality on a prisoner's body.

Medical research is also shared with israeli occupation interrogators to arm them with specific techniques of brutality intended to cause extreme suffering to Palestinian detainees whilst leaving minimal physical evidence.

"In a given region, the doctor sometimes reveals himself as the most sanguinary of colonizers... so he becomes the torturer who happens to be a doctor." – Franz Fanon, speaking on French-occupied Algeria

KILL OR MAIM: israel's MASS DISABLING OF PALESTINIANS

For as long as the state of israel has existed, it has routinely disabled and mutilated Palestinians, adopting a policy of 'kill or maim'. Zionism ensures disability is ever-present in Palestinian society, as Palestinians are uniquely and disproportionately Disabled by the israeli state in a myriad of ways. In 2002, 37-year-old Jamal Fayed - a wheelchair user - died under the rubble of his own home, at the hands of an IOF bulldozer operator enacting home demolition. In 2020, Eyad al-Halaq, an autistic Palestinian man was shot and killed by israeli police whilst on his way to school. The IOF intentionally shoots Palestinians in the leg so as to render them amputated. israel's blockade of Gaza - a calculated act of economic warfare intended to obstruct the flow of resources and labour - has meant the disabling of Gazans en masse through systemic starvation.

IOF 'INCLUSION' INITIATIVES TO DISABLE PALESTINIANS

However, despite the clear examples of their intentional mass debilitating actions, israel continues to be celebrated by imperialist countries for its 'efforts to further disability justice'.

During the same time that israel was being applauded and called a 'beacon' of medical services by western academics for implementing booster vaccinations during COVID-19, they were bombing the only COVID clinic in Gaza and deliberately blocking vaccination deliveries before finally giving expired doses to Palestinians. While being commended for providing housing to Disabled israeli settlers, the IOF was desecrating the homes and lives of Palestinians. Under the guise of 'integrating' Disabled israelis, schemes have been set up to streamline them into volunteer roles in the IOF, as well as the creation of the IOF 'special wing' for autistic people. This 'inclusivity' framing that simply incorporates more settlers into the machinery of occupation must be resisted by the Disability movement.



Everyone in Palestine is Disabled - by the occupation, blockades, bombardments, IOF brutality. israel relies on these liberal frameworks of disability to obscure and enable the occupation's intentional disablement of entire populations of Palestinians. As a disability movement, we hold a firm theoretical understanding that it is society that disables us, not our impairments. The active and ongoing disablement that Palestinians face will only be halted with the destruction of the israeli state.

israel presents itself to the world as the 'progressive alternative' to an

otherwise 'backwards' Middle East and an ardent advocate of Disabled people. The truth is that israel's calculated policy of mass-disabling is integral to its viability as a colony and to maintaining its occupation of Palestinian land.

A CRITIQUE OF THE WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

Psychiatry and Human Rights organisations function along similar lines, appearing as neutral, benevolent, depoliticised authorities, working to alleviate Palestinian 'trauma' and 'suffering'. In reality, they are deeply political Western structures, working together to control and maintain power over colonised populations by keeping Palestinians in a continuous state of 'victimhood.'

DEFINING THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

'Human rights' as we know them today were developed in the aftermath of the Second World War, in large part by Western states with their imperialist agendas

in mind. It was created to be malleable, suiting said states' interests as and when needed. It is frequently used to justify Western intervention elsewhere to their own citizens, all whilst advancing their own agendas abroad. As such, we ought to be instantly critical of 'trojan horse' policies enacted under the banner of 'human rights'.

WHO IS AFFORDED HUMANITY?

The establishment of the 'Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen' after the French Revolution in 1789 unearths the hypocrisy of Western conceptions of 'Human Rights'. Whilst preaching ideals of 'Liberty, Freedom and Fraternity' for all, France maintained colonial rule in the French colony of Saint Domingue (now modern-day Haiti). Rights were afforded to French citizens in the metropole but not to the people they had enslaved in the colonies. Human rights are afforded only to those who are deemed human, a category colonised people are excluded from.

The liberation of the people in Haiti was not gifted to them by the French out of the kindness of their hearts; it was seized by Haitians during the Haitian Revolution in 1794-1801, an insurrection of enslaved people freeing themselves and declaring an independent Haiti.

This colonial human rights framework is intricately bound up with the psychiatric institution - it is psychiatry that has always been used to determine who and what is 'human', and who needs 'civilising'. In our modern era, psychiatrists and humanitarian agents alike characterise Palestinians as 'victims' in need of 'rescuing' or 'fixing'. The characterisation of a Palestinian victim is intentionally dehumanising, purposefully stripping Palestinians of any agency or subjecthood.

WESTERN 'TRAUMA' NARRATIVES IN PALESTINE

Under the British Mandate in the 1920s, psychiatry was exported to Palestine, with Palestinians studied and treated as colonial subjects; with the 'supposed deficits' of their 'Indigenous Minds' in need of 'civilising' by British colonisers. Unsurprisingly then, Western psychiatry does not and cannot address the structural, colonial reality that Palestinians are experiencing. Western conceptions and understanding of mental health are not applicable in Gaza. Psychiatry attempts to individualise a systemic problem, exporting diagnostic frameworks and medicalisation onto the Palestinian population under occupation.

Dr Samah Jabr critiques Western 'trauma' discourses, arguing that 'PTSD' does not work in Palestine, as it is an ongoing occurrence. She states, "In Gaza, PTSD is non-existent. It is not post-traumatic. It is chronically traumatic. The trauma is constant and relentless." Western psychiatry describes 'trauma' as a singular event, related to past violence or a specific tragic event on an individual 'victim'. This cannot be applied in the case of Palestine: a displaced and dispossessed population living under military occupation and the pervasive, ongoing settler-colonial violence it brings with it. This is not something that can be 'cured' by professionals as it is not situated to one past event but is rather a persistent, daily reality: the Nakba never ended. Attempts to use a Western mental health framework to understand this ongoing violence fall flat, uprooting and subsequently dehistoricising the conditions that birthed it.

In addition, PTSD itself was a diagnosis created in the wake of the US invasion of Vietnam, in reference to the 'trauma' US soldiers experienced after enacting the slaughter, rape and bombardment of Vietnamese villages. A diagnosis created in the image of imperialist soldiers can never explain or give justice to the experience of the victims of these very agents.

By mystifying the systemic roots of violence in Palestine and elsewhere, psychiatry is merely a distraction from the only cure to the ailment of colonialism: an end to the occupation.

WEAPONISING MENTAL HEALTH LANGUAGE

As the genocide of Palestinians escalates, the raw, racist and colonial purpose of individualist mental health narratives has been revealed. As people are protesting on the streets, picketing arms factories and taking direct action against Zionist war machinery, others are covering into their diagnoses to justify their silence.

It makes sense that these pathologising frameworks are colonial inventions, as they have become handy excuses for people refusing to condemn the western-funded genocide unfolding in front of our eyes. Psychiatry and neoliberal diagnostic frameworks give people in the west an excuse to claim we don't have

agency over our apathy, as our taxes pay for another massacre. It is not your diagnosis or mental illness that means you can't speak about Palestine, it is your loyalty to colonial wealth and comfort.

Alongside this, mental health professionals and therapists use psychiatric language to neutralise and obscure settler colonial conditions, with their status as 'professionals' who have studied neuroscience placing them as the objective, educated authority. One Forbes piece written in November 2023, entitled 'A Psychologist Gives 5 Tips To Escape The Israel-Palestinian Echo Chamber', uses pseudomedical language such as 'confirmation bias', 'active listening' and 'emotional appeal of viral context' to sanitise the documented massacres coming out of Gaza. Mental health professionals are telling us that we should not be moved to rage and action by the images of ravaged homes, orphaned children and mourning fathers. Who would dare question the educated professional?

The weaponising of mental health vocabulary in relation to Palestine is not new. For the past few years, the language of trauma and conflict has been used to equate the conditions of Palestinians under occupation with their oppressors. One study conducted in 2021 looked at when Palestinians and Israeli settlers took psychedelics together, claiming it could 'heal longstanding conflicts'. This is another result of a wellness complex that is depoliticised and distinct from material conditions. In the study, it describes how after a Palestinian man takes the psychedelic, he feels himself in the body of an IOF soldier and feels empathy for the soldier having to kill people. The Israeli, former member of a special unit in the IOF, speaks about being in the shoes of a Palestinian family whose house he had raided. Studies such as these act as a cover for the occupation's violence, equating the conditions of colonisers with colonised people. It concludes that these 'conflicts' are 'rooted in trauma', which is why they have not been resolved, placing the blame at the feet of those whose land, families and homes have been dispossessed. Their solution lies in psychedelics, helping people to 'let go of trauma', whilst the conditions that cause said trauma are legitimised and escalated by psychiatric institutions.



THE SELF-IMMOLATION OF AARON BUSHNELL

“This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal”
– Aaron Bushnell, 2024

On the 25th of February 2024, 25 year old Aaron Bushnell, wearing US military fatigues, walked towards the Israeli embassy in so-called Washington. On a Twitch livestream, before dousing himself in flammable liquid, he says into the camera,

“I am an active duty member of the United States Air Force. And I will no longer be complicit in genocide. I am about to engage in an extreme act of protest. But compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonisers—it’s not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal.”

In the flames, Bushnell shouts, **“FREE PALESTINE FREE PALESTINE FREE PALESTINE”** until collapsing.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) named Bushnell’s death as ‘the highest sacrifice and medal, and the most important, poignant message directed to the American administration.’ Hamas stated that Bushnell ‘will remain immortal in the memory of our Palestinian people and the free people of the world, and a symbol of the spirit of global solidarity with our people and with our cause.’

The response from the Palestinian resistance and ordinary Palestinians alike is one of martyrdom, of the highest act of international solidarity. In stark contrast, Belen Fernandez explores the response from Western media in her Al Jazeera article, *Suicide Vs Genocide: Rest in Power Aaron Bushnell*. She writes of the New York Times headline, ‘Man Dies After Setting Himself on Fire Outside Israeli Embassy in Washington, Police Say’ and at the bottom of the article, ‘if you or someone you know may be experiencing a mental-health crisis or contemplating suicide, call or text 988.’ She writes that this “implies that Bushnell was simply the victim of a ‘mental-health crisis’ rather than someone making a most cogent and defiant political point in response to an extremely mentally disturbing political reality (...) as per the official narrative, if you think it’s crazy for the US or its Israeli partner in crime to commit genocide, you’re the crazy one.”

Western apathy and hyper-individuality cannot fathom solidarity, it especially cannot fathom international solidarity - and so this solidarity is dismissed as individual pathology. *Somewhere in the distance outside*, American-made bombs rain down on Palestine, but in America life goes on.





It is in the interest of the ruling class to position Bushnell as an outlier, to violently decontextualize, delegitimize and strip Bushnell's death from its long and powerful political history. From Mohamed Bouazizi, the Tunisian grocer whose self-immolation sparked the Arab Spring, to Basque Joseba Elozegi who self-immolated in front of Francisco Franco shouting ***"I wanted to carry the fire of Guernica to Franco"***, to, in the same vein, the seven americans who self-immolated in protest of US involvement in the Vietnam war. Bushnell did not need mental health intervention, he did not need to call a helpline at the bottom of an article too afraid to use the word genocide. What Bushnell needed was an immediate end to the occupation, to 'no longer be complicit in genocide.'

In their statement on Bushnell's self-immolation, Hamas paid tribute to another western martyr, Rachel Corrie. In 2003, the american activist Rachel Corrie was crushed to death by an israeli bulldozer while defending Palestinian homes from demolition.

In an email to her mother, Corrie wrote, ***'this has to stop. I think it is a good idea for us all to drop everything and devote our lives to making this stop. I don't think it's an extremist thing to do anymore. I still really want to dance around to Pat Benatar and have boyfriends and make comics for my coworkers. But I also want this to stop (...) This is not what I meant when I looked at Capital Lake and said: "This is the wide world and I'm coming to it." I did not mean that I was coming into a world where I could live a comfortable life and possibly, with no effort at all, exist in complete unawareness of my participation in genocide. More big explosions somewhere in the distance outside.'***

israeli TIES TO PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS

Psychiatry and settler colonialism profit off of one another's existence. Psychiatry is used to fabricate and corroborate settler 'trauma', which it then repackages, in an attempt to force us to humanise and empathise with violent oppressors. One example of this is Get Help, israel's association of mental health professionals, offering subsidised therapy for IOF soldiers.

BETTERHELP

BetterHelp is a therapy company founded by two israeli settlers, both of whom served in the IOF. A Palestinian women in exile spoke of how she sought out help following extreme isolation and racism she was experiencing throughout the ongoing genocide. BetterHelp matched her up with a therapist who was an israeli settler. Given BetterHelp's origins, it is fair to assume this was not an algorithmic measure but an intentional pairing. After October 7th, BetterHelp teamed up with the israeli government to offer 6 months of free therapy to settlers 'affected by the war in israel'. In recent years, BetterHelp have also been fined \$7.8 million for selling off people's private data to companies such as Facebook and Snapchat.



UK PSYCHIATRY'S FINANCIAL LINKS TO ISRAEL

Bethlem Museum of the Mind is located on the grounds of the world's oldest asylum, Bethlem Royal Hospital - and is dedicated to its history. The museum lists the Wolfson Foundation as one of its supporters; the Wolfson Foundation was founded in 1958 by the Zionist Isaac Wolfson. As they state in their promotional video, 'israel, a science and medical research success story owes many of its major establishments, projects and breakthroughs to three generations of leadership of the Wolfson family.' Alongside the Bethlem, the Wolfson Foundation also funds the settler-colonial organisation, the Jerusalem Foundation. In 1968, the Wolfson Foundation's grant to the Jerusalem Foundation helped build the 15 acre Wolfson Park on occupied Palestinian land. The Bethlem also receives such a large sum of funding from the Wolfson Foundation that it has a room named in its honour, The Wolfson Room. Another Wolfson namesake is the Wolfson Centre for Young People's Mental Health at Cardiff University.

South London and Maudsley (SLaM) is the NHS Foundation Trust the Bethlem belongs to - and the largest mental health trust in the UK. SLaM has a longstanding partnership with Kings College London (KCL). There is currently a campaign for KCL to end its partnership with Techicon - 'a leading research and development israeli institution for the israeli arms trade, holding partnerships with israeli Aerospace Industries, Rafael and Elbit Systems'.

OCTOBER 7TH STATEMENTS

The International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA) released a statement condemning the Hamas attack, but it still has not condemned Israel's genocide in Gaza. In a newsletter, the IPA president referred to murdered Palestinians as 'non-terrorist Palestinians' – insinuating the default is for Palestinians to be terrorists, and that the deaths of those resisting should not be mourned. Clinical neutrality and the therapist's determination to remain impartial mirrors the weak, liberal-at-best response to the current genocide. Similarly, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) also referred to October 7th as a 'terrorist attack' against 'innocent civilians.' Decades of military occupation and bloodshed are erased in this statement; settlers dancing on stolen land are awarded innocence, resistance fighters are labelled terrorists.

BOYCOTT TEVA

WHAT IS TEVA?

Teva is a pharmaceutical company founded in 1901 by European Zionist settlers and established in 1935. Their headquarters are situated in the Petah Tikvah settlement, which was built on the ruins of the displaced Palestinian village Mulabbas that was razed to ground by Zionist settlers in 1891.

Teva is one of the largest suppliers of generic medicines in the world. In 2023 Teva paid the Israeli government \$565 million in taxes, directly funding the IOF, along with providing them with medical supplies and donations.

Teva directly profits from apartheid by being the sole supplier of the Palestinian pharma market in The West Bank and Gaza, as well as building settlements on stolen Palestinian land.

MEDICAL APARTHEID

Due to Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, pharmaceuticals needed to manufacture medicine are prevented from entering the Gaza Strip, so Teva maintains its monopoly on a captive (and disproportionately Disabled) market.

Teva's monopoly on the pharma industry means they have the power to restrict Palestinians access life saving and preserving medicines.

In the West Bank, pharmaceuticals are heavily taxed by the Israeli government,

forcing Palestinians to rely on price gouged Teva Products, maximising profits and limiting Palestinian's ability to manufacture medicine. Teva do not have to translate their safety labels in Arabic.

In occupied East Jerusalem, Israel prohibits Palestinian pharmaceuticals to be distributed to hospitals and pharmacies, and refuses to supply vaccines at Palestinian-run schools.



THE IMPERIAL CORE (U.S. AND BRITAIN)

Teva have faced legal issues as a result of their price-fixing, inflating the price of 86 drugs up to 1000%, creating a shortage in a drug used to treat childhood cancer. Through overprescription and unethical advertising, they have also played a role in fuelling the U.S. opioid crisis.

In Britain Teva supplies more medicine to the NHS than any other pharmaceutical manufacturer, with 15% of total packs of medicine in Britain being from Teva (so there's a high possibility that the psych meds they forced you to take while sectioned were supplied by Teva...!)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Boycott | Teva is on the BDS list for targeted boycott, say NO to apartheid drugs drenched in Palestinian blood!

Picket | Put pressure on Teva to shutdown its production sites in Britain by joining or organising a picket at one of their 5 Britain and Ireland locations.

Pharmacies | Contact your local pharmacies and encourage them to not stock Teva's products. You can find an email template in Youth Front For Palestine's Linktree, at linktr.ee/y.f.f.p, or go door-to-door with pharmacies in your local area.

Tell Everyone To Do The Above | Share information about how Teva profits from genocide and occupation, encourage your networks to take action through pressured boycotts and shutdowns.

THE PSYCH ABOLITIONIST CALL FOR UNCONDITIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE

“Nobody in the world, nobody in history, has ever gotten their freedom by appealing to the moral sense of the people who were oppressing them.” - Assata Shakur

ISRAEL AND ZIONISM AS INHERENTLY VIOLENT

Many commentators would have us believe that Israel is a legitimate state still capable of redeeming itself, one marred by belligerent actors and right-wing governments who are an exception to the rule, rather than the norm. This is a fundamentally incorrect understanding, to conceptualise of Israel as having ever been anything but violent is wrong: every facet of a settler society is predicated on the genocidal erasure of the native population.

From the offset - the moment the coloniser begins his conquest, the roles of oppressor and oppressed are birthed into existence, a relationship wholly characterised by violence. In 1948, the Nakba saw at least 750,000 Palestinians

expelled from their land and more than 78% of historical Palestine ethnically cleansed and destroyed in a series of massacres.

Since its conception, violence has been, continues to be and by its nature, must always be an essential feature of the genocidal state, birthing the irreconcilable nature of the relationship between oppressor and oppressed. Colonial violence is enacted physically, culturally and psychologically, stripping its subjects of humanity, agency and subjecthood.

COLONIAL VIOLENCE NECESSITATES DECOLONIAL RESISTANCE

Armed resistance is a natural and inevitable response to the inherently violent nature of colonialism. Fanon states that “the colonised man finds his freedom in and through violence”, affirming that to dismantle colonial structures, overthrow the coloniser and gain freedom, the colonised must use violence. For a colonised people, the act of decolonisation is a thoroughly humanising act which restores to them their agency, dignity and land. It brings with it an end to the relationship of oppression that existed, closing the cycle of violence that started when the coloniser came: looting, pillaging and massacring the land and its people.

It is important to make it clear that the violence specific to decolonisation differs profoundly from the violence inherent to colonialism and colonisers. Israel - a nuclear superpower and occupying force without legitimacy, will use violence senselessly and incessantly with no real goal in mind, bombing schools, hospitals, agricultural land, cultural spaces and housing. For the Palestinian people, displaced indigenous people without statehood, violence is instead used as a means to an end, born of the violence wrought on them by their oppressors and carried out by necessity.

The violence of the oppressed is neither senseless nor aimless but instead is geared towards a greater task: emancipation, bringing with it an end to the cycle of violence begun by their oppressor. The oppressed seek to rid themselves of the oppressive colonial structures they have lived under and build a new reality in which they are free from colonial rule, domination and violence. Israel is intent on the complete erasure of Palestinian life, Palestinians are



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simply responding to this genocidal erasure in the only language israel knows: violence. The two forms of violence are of wildly different natures and to suggest they are equatable is wrong.

THE TERROR FRAMEWORK AS MANUFACTURING CONSENT FOR GENOCIDE

Palestinians are frequently branded as 'Terrorists' for the act of resisting their occupiers. The notion of terrorism has no neutral readability, obscuring any historical and political context. The conceptualisation of a 'Terrorist' is intentionally dehumanising, conjuring up a totalising and comically evil image of Palestinian resistance as existing only to enact senseless destruction - a projection of the coloniser's behaviours and actions. The 'Terrorist' is the modern-day form of the 'Savage' trope used in the era of traditional colonialism, manufactured with the help of psychiatry. The terror framework seeks to mobilise the Western world in support of extreme acts of colonial violence and delegitimise any resistance to said violence.

The same Nelson Mandela who is now revered as a freedom fighter the world over was once deemed a terrorist and imprisoned for 27 years for resisting South African apartheid. The ambiguity of Mandela's position was clear at his funeral - with the guard of honour made up of representatives from revolutionary movements from Algeria, Palestine, Mozambique, Western Sahara, the Irish and the Basque Country. But the gallery was also filled with official diplomats, politicians, and businessmen from Richard Branson to Barack Obama. Mandela was a terrorist to all of them.



In the words of Rachel Corrie,

“If any of us had our lives and welfare completely strangled, lived with children in a shrinking place where we knew, because of previous experience, that soldiers and tanks and bulldozers could come for us at any moment and destroy all the greenhouses that we had been cultivating for however long, and did this while some of us were beaten and held captive with 149 other people for several hours — do you think we might try to use somewhat violent means to protect whatever fragments remained? I think about this especially when I see orchards and greenhouses and fruit trees destroyed — just years of care and cultivation. I think about you and how long it takes to make things grow and what a labor of love it is. I really think, in a similar situation, most people would defend themselves as best they could. I think Uncle Craig would. I think probably Grandma would. I think I would.”



THE RIGHT TO RESIST

In the aftermath of October 7th, Israel immediately began to propagate stories (that have since been thoroughly disproved) of beheaded babies, slaughtered teenagers and mass rape. These false narratives were the pretext for beginning a genocide in Gaza, and 9 months on, 35,000 Palestinians have been martyred. If we regurgitate the same racist tropes wielded by Zionism, we are manufacturing consent for genocide in Palestine.

Palestinians have an inexorable right to resist the ongoing and multigenerational dispossession, colonisation and genocide of their people and pursue national liberation by any means necessary, including armed struggle. This process is known as decolonisation, whereby a colonised people win their independence and become free from colonial rule through the dismantling of colonial structures, the overthrow and deposition of their coloniser. Decolonisation is a tangible historical event that will come to fruition with or without the moralising, paternalism and scrutiny of Western eyes. Those of us who are not living under military occupation, but rather, in the heart of Empire do not ever get to dictate how the Palestinians wage their anti-colonial struggle - our support for Palestine can only be one thing: unconditional, and nothing less.



GLOSSARY

Boycott | This is a political tactic to put pressure on companies and businesses, by refusing to buy their products. An organised and collective boycott can hurt the profits of companies, which can lead them to give in to our demands.

Dispossession | The action of depriving someone of land, property, and possessions.

Ethnic cleansing | This describes the mass murder and banishment of an ethnic group by another.

Ideology | Belief system, a set of political ideals.

israel | israel is a white supremacist settler-colony that exists to extract resources, settle land and acquire new pools of cheap labour from Palestine and the neighbouring region. It also serves as a Western outpost in the Levant region, advancing the interests of the Western imperialist world. It seeks to eradicate the native Palestinian population.

Metropole | the homeland, central territory or the state exercising power over a colonial empire.

Occupation | This refers to how israel has stolen Palestinian land, and is currently taking it over through violent, military force.

To Other | To view or treat a person or people as essentially inferior and alien to oneself.

Physiology | The study of how the human body works.

Settlements | These refer to the areas of Palestinian land in the West Bank that israelis have occupied and built houses on since the Six-Day War during 1967. They are populated almost exclusively by jewish israeli settlers.

Settler Colonialism | A system of power that entails taking over and occupying land, with the aim of replacing and displacing the indigenous people. This is a distinct form of colonialism.

White Supremacy | The belief that white people are a 'superior race' and should therefore dominate society. It makes up much of colonial ideology and has justified enslavement, colonialism and the systems of oppression we see today.

Zionism | The political theory and movement that supports the creation of a Jewish ethnostate in Palestine, the founding ideology of the state of israel.

Decolonisation | A tangible event whereby a once colonised people rid themselves of the colonial power structures and violence they once lived under, through armed struggle: the total transition of a society, restoring a people's dignity, agency and humanity.

LANGUAGE CLARIFICATIONS

* The decision not to capitalise 'israel' and the sections of its 'government' (like the israeli ministry of health) is part of the refusal to acknowledge israel's right to exist.

* 'america' is also not capitalised because it too is a settler-colonial project.

* We refer to the so-called 'israeli defence force' (IDF) as the israeli occupation force (IOF)

* Disabled is capitalised as a result of our understanding of disability as a political identity. The social model of disability recognises that it is not our impairments that disable us, but society.

FURTHER READING

HISTORY

www.makan.org.uk/historical_overview/

www.decolonizepalestine.com/

POLITICAL/ANTI-COLONIAL THEORY

Beginners:

The Palestinians' Inalienable Right to Resist – *Louis Allday, Ebb Magazine*

Anti-Zionism as Decolonisation – *Leila Shomali and Lara Kilani, Ebb Magazine*

Jewish settlers stole my house. It's not my fault they're Jewish – *Mohammed El-Kurd*

Electoral Politics will not Liberate Palestine – *Jisr Collective*

Advanced:

The Wretched of the Earth – *Frantz Fanon* (highly recommended)

Pedagogy of the Oppressed – *Paulo Friere*

The Hundred Years' War on Palestine – *Rashid Khalidi*

Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism – *V.I. Lenin*

Letters to Palestine – *Verso Books*

My Father was a Freedom Fighter – *Ramzy Baroud*

Strategy for the Liberation of Palestine – *PFLP*

Orientalism – *Edward Said*

Palestinian Fiction:

Mornings in Jenin – *Susan Abulhawa*

Against the Loveless World – *Susan Abulhawa*

Men Under the Sun – *Ghassan Khanafani*

Minor Detail – *Adania Shibli*

The Stone House – *Yara Hawari*

DOCUMENTARIES

Children of Shatila

Tell Your Tale, Little Bird

Leila Khaled: The Orange Tree

Four Broken Cameras

The Battle of Algiers

"If you continue the struggle, you will be free" – an interview with Leila Khaled

The Right to Maim – *Jasbir K. Puar*



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Psychiatry and the Palestinian Population – *Ibrahim Murad and Harvey Gordon, 2018*
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What is Gaza Strip, the Besieged Palestinian Enclave Under israeli Assault? – *Al Jazeera, 2023*

MEDICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC VIOLENCE IN PALESTINE

How israeli Prison Doctors Assist in the Torture of Palestinian Detainees – *Kanav Kathuria, 2024*
Hallucination Pills, Electroshocks: Gaza Survivors Speak of israeli Torture – *TRTWORLD, 2023*
Iron Bars, Electric Shocks, Dogs and Cigarette Burns: How Palestinians are Tortured in israeli Detention – *Ahmed Aziz, Lubna Masarwa and Simon Hooper, 2024*
Al-Shabaka Policy Network

KILL OR MAIM: ISRAEL'S MASS DISABLING OF PALESTINIANS

Amnesty Calls for Arrest of israelis for War Crimes – *Chris McGreal, 2002*
Scores of Amputations in Gaza as israeli Troops Aim at Legs – *Al Jazeera, 2008*
Gaza: israeli Attacks, Blockade Devastating for People with Disabilities – *HRW, 2023*
israeli Court Acquits Officer of Killing Autistic Palestinian Man – *Al Jazeera, 2023*
Palestine is Disabled – *Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, 2024*

A CRITIQUE OF THE WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

Healing Trauma Through Resistance: Beyond Colonial Mental Health Models in Palestine – *The New Arab, 2022*

WEAPONISING LANGUAGE OF MENTAL HEALTH (TO BE CHANGED)

A Psychologist Gives 5 Tips to Escape the israel-Palestinian Echo Chamber – *Mark Travers, 2023*
Building Peace with Psychedelics: Here's What Happened When Palestinians and israelis Took Ayahuasca Together – *Thomas Buonomo and Leor Roseman, 2022*

SELF IMMOLATION

Palestinian Resistance Tributes to Martyr, Aaron Bushnell – *Hamas, PFLP, via the Resistance News Network 2024*
Suicide Vs Genocide Rest in Power Aaron Bushnell – *Belén Fernández, 2024*
Rachel Corrie Foundation Website

PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS AND HISTORIC/CURRENT LINKS TO ISRAEL

American Psychiatric Association Statement on Terrorist Attacks in israel, 2023
Palestine Solidarity Campaign 'Tell Kings College London to end their links with israeli apartheid'
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