SEPTEMBER 2019 PALESTINIAN JUSTPEACE UPDATE

On Sept. 6th, Ali, a 17 year old was demonstrating, 80 yards in from the boundary between Gaza and Israel. He threw one stone at a soldier who was protected by a barrier, and was shot in the chest. Two medics rushed to help, but the sniper fired at all who were getting close to Ali. Clearly, the Israeli wanted the boy to bleed to death. He died 17 minutes later.

Among other Palestinians wounded in Gaza were 38 children and two paramedics. According to statistics from the Palestinian Prisoners’ Centre for Studies, Israeli forces also arrested 450 Palestinians in August including 69 children, 13 women, 2 photojournalists, and a disabled man.

On July 22, 2019, Israeli officials demolished over 70 Palestinian homes in the neighborhood of Wadi Hummus, East Jerusalem. It was the single largest demolition since 1967 – and they're only planning more.

If it’s not life or freedom, it’s land. Between 2008 and 2016, out of 3,365 Palestinian applications for construction, 66 were approved. In the same time frame, 12,763 new settlement units were approved for construction. This may be a prelude to further annexation of parts of the West Bank. And as Nada Elia puts it succinctly, “Israeli settlers are simply the manifestation of Israel’s official policy of expansionism and land theft.”

Yet Doug Cooley, of Bellevue Presbyterian, reminds us “Palestinian Christians have been living in the Holy Land since the time of Christ!” And Alice Rothchild recorded in the Seattle Times last month, both the Christian and Jewish religions are, “grounded in love of the stranger and pursuing...a culture that supports human rights and international law.”

Israeli authorities prohibit many types of expression of Palestinian feelings. This includes the production of some art, musical, and sporting events which can symbolize Palestine or the Palestinian people.

Interestingly, Albert Einstein wrote in 1950, that he would rather see Arabs and Jews living together in peace than creating a Jewish state.

Come to the Oct. 5th Kairos Conf. about Christian Zionists who greatly influence Trump and Congress to support Israel’s behavior (see attached).

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