Solidarity presents:

Why Palestine Matters to the Antiwar Movement

Well, when Katrina hit, most of the Louisiana National guard and their equipment were deployed in Iraq. Those resources were needed to rescue people on the Gulf Coast, not to occupy a country that wants them to leave. The U.S. policy is a double disaster for us and for the people in Iraq. Why would we think that the foreign policy is different anywhere else in the Middle East?

True, but it sits in an area swimming in oil and it's strategically important to U.S. foreign policy.

On April 9, 1948 over 500 Palestinian men, women, and children were massacred in the village of Deir Yassin. This marks the beginning of the Nakba (catastrophe) in which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled their homes and hundreds of towns were destroyed.

Imagine a population double what was evacuated from New Orleans. Well, in 1948 it wasn't a hurricane, but rather, what Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, in which they were driven from their homes by terror. They lost their homes, but more, they lost their citizenship. Many wait to go back but aren't allowed, despite the UN Declaration on the right of all displaced peoples to return.

Check out more detailed maps at nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine.

Trail of Tears by Robert Lindneux (1942)

Sounds like how the Native American people were driven from their ancestral lands in this country. But what does it have to do with us, now? We aren't occupying Palestine.
Washington provides $5 billion year after year to Israel, essentially funding the occupation of Palestine. How can there be peace when people live under torture, checkpoints, house demolitions, curfew, not to mention the 2nd class citizenship of Palestinians living within Israel?

Well, that was a withdrawal of relatively small settlements that the Israeli government didn’t consider strategically viable or important. Also, Israel maintains control of the airspace and borders above and around Gaza.

Exactly. Military occupation doesn’t lead to peace in either Iraq or Palestine. It has led to torture, arbitrary arrest, death, displacement, and instability. So we have to call on our government to withdraw from Iraq and to stop supporting the Israeli military. Washington has to stop justifying the assassination of Palestinian leaders. And it has to stop threatening to starve Palestinians when they vote for a party that Washington doesn’t like!

But how could Palestinians and Israelis live together?

That could only result from a dialogue and a decision freely decided by the people themselves. It’s our obligation here to stop our tax dollars from being used to repress others.

I’m starting to see the larger picture of U.S. policy throughout the Middle East. I wouldn’t want my brother to come home from Iraq only to be redployed to some other country.

How do we oppose repressive policies in our names?

1. Learn the Facts.
2. Hold the U.S. accountable.

Solidarity, a revolutionary, socialist, democratic, feminist, anti-racist organization.

By Diane Feely and Megan Finz

See www.izald.org for detailed map of settlements.