



Institute of Women's Studies/ Birzeit University, Palestine
The 7th conference- March 29, 2016

Struggles for Freedom

“Prisons, Repressions and Solidarities: Palestinian, Indigenous and 3rd World
Resistance Movements in Palestine & USA”

Birzeit University-Said Khourv build.- hall 104

The Palestinian resistance movement and the North American Indigenous, Black and Brown liberation struggles pose radical challenges to the normative meaning of ‘freedom’. All of these liberation movements struggled for freedom and dignity not in the legalized and institutionalized sense for in their most parts their ways and strategies have been criminalized. Yet, this very subjugation through criminalization of their actions/presence, necessitated that the freedom they struggled for would be other than that granted by the Law. Criminalized, vilified and labelled as terrorists, Palestinian, Indigenous and other 3rd World liberation movements already had the freedom of which recognized “independent” nations are now deprived -- the freedom of those who take the risk and are willing to rebel beyond any set limits. As such, imprisonment and death became integral parts of their freedom struggles as well as the creation of an alternative way of life that is real and theirs .

This one-day conference seeks to discuss shared dimensions of the Palestinian, Indigenous and other 3rd World liberation struggles against settler colonial regimes. It aims to examine not only shared experiences and mechanisms of subjugation but also strategies of resistance including organizational structures and the formation of communities of resistance. The conference provides a comparative approach for the Indigenous, Black and Puerto Rican Liberation movements in the United States and the anti-colonial resistance movement in Palestine. It explores the dynamics of subjugation employed by colonial/racist powers as well as the acts of resistance deployed by Natives, Blacks, Latino/as and Palestinians in their freedom struggles.

Program

09:10-10:00	Opening and Welcome Dr. Abdel-Latif Abu Hijleh, President, Birzeit University Dr. Eileen Kuttab, Director of the Institute of Women Studies, Birzeit University Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi, Senior Scholar, Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diaspora Studies, San Francisco State University
10:00-11:15	Panel I <i>Chair: Rania Jawad</i> This panel focuses on structure of power and relations of subjugation; speakers will analyze the intersections of colonialism, racism, and the regulation of gender and sexualities that resistance movements have had to confront and contend with. <i>Interventions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soledad, St Quentin, and Pelican Bay: How US Social Prisoners become Organizers for Justice/ Manuel La Fontaine, All of Us or None & Pelican Bay Hunger Strike Solidarity Committee ▪ Palestine: A Carceral Nation/ Rema Hammami, Institute of Women Studies, Birzeit University ▪ Shared Stories of Criminalization of Resistance: Constructions of “White” Hegemony under Settler Colonialism/Rana Barakat, department of history, Birzeit University ▪ Challenging Colonialism and Racism from the Young Lords Party to Mumia Abu Jamal/Johanna Fernandez, Mumia Abu Jamal Defense Committee, Baruch College-CUNY
11:15 -11:30	Break
11:30 -12:45	Panel II <i>Chair: Rami Salameh</i> This panel discusses ways and modes of resistance developed to combat the oppression of life under colonial racist regimes. Drawing on Fanonian and other anti-colonial paradigms, the panel will critically examine armed struggle and revolutionary violence as strategies to dismantle and disrupt colonized “business as usual” life, as well as strategies that create an alternative world through communal solidarity, cooperation, and collectivity that sustains and is sustained by the struggle for freedom. <i>Interventions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Struggle for Life/Amira Silmi, Institute of Women Studies, Birzeit University ▪ What does Solidarity Mean? Contesting Racism and Zionism in Settler Colonial Societies/Laura Whitehorn, Former US Political Prisoner

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflections on the capacity of Palestinians to endure and resist settler colonialism/Rita Giacaman, Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit University ▪ Black Panthers Party: Naming Criminal States, Shifting Narratives, Legitimizing Resistance/Hank Jones ▪ Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions as a Resistance Strategy/Samia Al-Botmeh, Department of Economics/Institute of Women Studies, Birzeit University
12:45 – 2:00	Lunch Break
2:00 – 3:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel III <i>Chair: Alaa Al Azzeh</i></p> <p>This panel examines state violence and anti-insurgency. A main strategy deployed against both movements by the Israeli and U.S. colonial regimes has been mass incarceration and the creation of racialized carceral societies. The focus will be on the parallels, shared experiences, continuities and ruptures of incarceration as anti-insurgency as well as the counter-resistances employed by prisoners` movements and communities to them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Philosophy of Confrontation in Colonial Prisons/Lena Meari, Social and Behavioral Science Department/Institute of Women Studies, Birzeit University ▪ Critical Resistance: Framing the Abolition of the Prison Industrial Complex/Rachel Herzig, Soros Justice Fellow ▪ Contextualizing Genocide, Slavery and Settler Colonialism Resisting COINTELPRO /Claude Marks, Freedom Archives ▪ The Conditions of Current Palestinian Captive Movement/Nidal Abu Akar, A Palestinian Struggler, was imprisoned 17 times and spent 14 years in Israeli colonial prisons ▪ The dialectic of Hunger Strike and Popular Mobilization/Faihaa Shalash, A Journalist. Led the campaign to support her husband`s hunger striker-Mohammad Al-Qiq
3:15 – 3:30	Break
3:30 – 4:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary <i>Facilitators: Rabab Abdel Hadi & Eileen Kuttab</i></p> <p>Resisting Incarceration, Building Solidarities-USA and Palestine conclusions/recommendations Comments: US Prison and Labor Solidarity Delegation to Palestine</p>