



Original Text of speech I gave Oct 17 Boston Antiwar Rally

by Sarah Roche-Mahdi on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 6:51am ·

What is wrong with this country? Where is the outrage? Our Congress is ruled by Wall Street, the Military-industrial complex, so-called HMOs the pharmaceutical companies. Our foreign policy is directed by AIPAC. People here are losing jobs, homes, lacking healthcare, and just take it. Where is the outrage? Eight years of "war on terror"—are we safer? Are we happy? And look—just look—at what we have done to the world. That's not easy when our corrupt media show nothing. The majority of people are walking about like zombies with wires protruding from their ears. Shut it out, then it doesn't exist. Look at the horrors we have inflicted upon Afghanistan, Iraq... Look at what we are financing, aiding and abetting in Palestine: look at what Israelis are inflicting on Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. Everywhere violations of human rights way beyond apartheid, housing demolitions, land grabs, daily viciousness, cruelties...the infamous wall...and the concentration camp that is Gaza... (The official term is "blockade.") When I was in Gaza in March, the situation was terrible. Constant bombing and shelling, white phosphorus was still smoldering, Gazans were living in rubble, but people's courage was astonishing. Since then the stranglehold has tightened—with full complicity of the US and billions of dollars of our tax money, Israel continues to commit crimes against humanity daily. US forces are bringing the Egyptians high tech equipment to detect and blow up the tunnels that are the lifeblood of Gaza (and of course a source of racketeering that eats at the moral and cultural fiber). Gaza has gone from concentration camp to death camp. Gazans are dying. Especially Gaza's children. The psychological and physical damage is incalculable. They have endured the terror and horror of "Cast Lead"; not only have they lost family, home, school, they are denied toys, chocolate, basic school supplies...they are dying from malnutrition, from kidney failure from drinking sea water. And Israel denies the Goldstone report, hews to the basic rule of all propaganda—the Big Lie. Israel has no intention of making peace. The goal of Netanyahu's government is the ethnic cleansing of Palestine. And the US supports, aids and abets this.

Gaza is dying and the world's governments do nothing. But there is an international people's movement to break the siege of Gaza. Inspired by Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, hundreds of participants from all over the world will converge on Gaza beginning Dec 27, will march with the people of Gaza on Dec 31, in the Gaza Freedom March. I urge you all to support this march, to contribute so that those lacking sufficient funds—especially the young—will be able to meet and interact with the noble, courageous people of Gaza, to see and experience for themselves how terrible things are, and to bear witness back here in order to change the climate of frigid indifference. And those here in Boston must organize a huge action on First Night in solidarity with those in Gaza. Let us recall the days when Boston was a center of the movement to end slavery and the words of the great abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison rang out: "I have need to be all on fire, for I have mountains of ice about me to melt." Melt the ice! Break the siege! Peace and Justice for all peoples!

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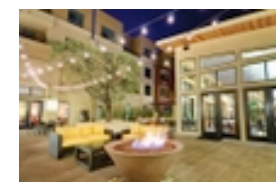
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