

Bay Area Women in Black and Jewish Voice for Peace

WHY ARE WE STANDING HERE TODAY IN SILENCE?

Israel in the Gardens, a celebration the 58th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, is also the 39th anniversary of the unlawful military occupation and confiscation of Palestinian land. These decades of military rule have devastated Palestinian civil society and continue to deny hundreds of thousands of Palestinians their human rights in violation of international law. For them, daily life under occupation is a struggle of survival; a deepening humanitarian crisis that we cannot ignore.

As American Jews and allies, we stand in silence committed to a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, inspired by the Jewish tradition of working in the service of peace and social justice. We are unable to celebrate while the brutality of the occupation continues to shatter our hopes for an Israel of security, justice and equality.

ISRAELI VOICES OF PEACE SPEAK OUT

“..... We shall not continue to fight beyond the 1967 borders in order to dominate, expel, starve and humiliate an entire people...”

~From Israeli Combatants' Letter of Refusal

“We, who were raised to love the state of Israel...refuse to take part in Air Force attacks on civilian population centers...We refuse to continue to harm innocent civilians.”

~From Israeli Pilots' Letter of Refusal

“The Israeli nation today rests on ...foundations of oppression and injustice...There may yet be a Jewish state here, but it will be different, strange and ugly...Diaspora Jews for whom Israel is a central pillar of their identify must pay heed and speak out.

~Avraham Burg, Israeli Knesset Member

“For me, the enemy is not the Palestinian people...The fight is between those who seek peace and those who seek war...Our brothers and sisters in the refugee camps and under occupation, deprived of all their human rights, should not be forsaken now.”

~Dr. Nurit Peled-Elhanan, whose 13 year old daughter was killed in a suicide bombing

“...Our demonstrations [against the occupation] are like a synagogue. In those terms we are the most observant people I know.”

~Professor Hannah Safran, speaking of Haifa Women in Black vigils against the occupation.

JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE is a diverse and democratic community of activists inspired by Jewish tradition to work together for peace, social justice, and human rights. We support the aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians for security and self-determination.

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK, a group of Jewish feminists and allies, stands in solidarity with Israeli Women in Black who have held vigils weekly since 1988 to protest the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, and to mourn the Israeli and Palestinian lives that have been lost.