

"FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA" REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLES' PRINCIPLED CAUSE AND CALL FOR FREEDOM.

The slogan calls for a long-delayed end to Zionist colonization and occupation, representing the legitimate Palestinian struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and all those who would separate Indigenous peoples from their land. Like all Indigenous peoples, the Palestinian peoples with deep connections to their land must be given back what is rightfully theirs to steward.

Efforts to censor this phrase mirror similar pushback to the language of other liberation struggles, from the Black Lives Matter movement's call to abolish the police to demands of Land Back by Indigenous peoples across the globe. False accusations of antisemitism detract from the message of liberation under the guise of linguistic arguments — **meanwhile, Palestinians are being murdered.**

All who believe in Indigenous peoples' dignity, sovereignty, and right to self-determination should unabashedly proclaim, FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, PALESTINE WILL BE FREE!

DEFINITIONS & RESOURCES

Zionism¹⁶ is a settler colonial political ideology and movement that emerged in Europe at the end of the nineteenth century with the aim of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine,¹⁷ at a time when over 90% of the population was not Jewish.¹⁸ Palestinian Jews existed in Palestine prior to Zionist colonization and lived peacefully alongside Palestinian Christians and Muslims.¹⁹ Today, the term Zionism describes a spectrum of political ideologies that have in common the support for the continued existence of the present-day state of Israel as a Jewish ethnostate.

Settler Colonialism is a distinct type of colonialism that functions through the replacement of Indigenous populations with a settler society that, over time, develops its own distinctive, dominating identity.²⁰ The Zionist settler colonization of Palestine has been widely compared to settler colonialism in the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa and elsewhere.²¹

Definitions adapted from Visualizing Palestine.



Sources cited at this QR code.



Palestine Legal
Distorted Definition: Redefining Antisemitism to Silence Advocacy for Palestinian Rights



Mohammed El-Kurd, Mondoweiss (2023)
Jewish settlers stole my house. It's not my fault they're Jewish.



Decolonize Palestine
Palestine 101, Myths, Rainbow Washing, FAQ, and Reading List.



Palestinian Feminist Collective
All Out for Palestine: Digital Action Toolkit



FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA

PALESTINE WILL BE FREE



Demystifying the Rallying Cry for Land Back and Liberation

"FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA" IS A CALL TO FREE PALESTINE, A SOVEREIGN INDIGENOUS NATION UNDER VIOLENT ZIONIST MILITARY OCCUPATION SINCE 1948.

"From The River to The Sea" is a call for Land Back, referring directly to the full geography of Palestine prior to Zionist colonization. However, Zionist organizations like the Anti-Defamation League, which masquerades as a human rights group, try to convince the public that this slogan is genocidal and antisemitic.¹ From crackdowns across schools to governmental condemnation, concerted Zionist censorship campaigns try to silence this phrase because of its liberatory message.²

Targeting "From The River to The Sea" is just one facet of the fascist movement's larger strategy to equate Zionism and Judaism in order to portray any and all criticism of Israel as antisemitic.

South Asian Jewish organizer and journalist Anna Rajagopal **condemns these false accusations of antisemitism as distraction tactics to cover for Zionists as they perpetuate genocide.** "Jewish organizers have a responsibility now and always to mobilize against the power that accusations of 'antisemitism' wield on our Palestinian and Arab comrades," they write. "The use of Jewish oppression to capitalize off of mass murder can no longer be a salient tactic used by Zionists to control and manipulate movement building."³

The Red Nation, a coalition dedicated to the liberation of Native peoples from capitalism and colonialism, writes of the common struggles that Indigenous peoples face globally in defending their land and sovereignty: **"Settlers hear 'Land Back' and 'From The River to The Sea' only as a threat because they think we will do to them what they did to us.** It is nothing but settler projection."⁴

Unfounded claims of antisemitism distract from anti-Palestinian racism in Palestine and the diaspora, while ignoring clear genocidal calls by Israel's own government. On January 18, 2024, Benjamin Netanyahu declared, "In the future, the state of Israel has to control the entire area from the river to the sea."⁵ One week later, the International Court of Justice ruled it plausible that Israel's vicious siege on Gaza could amount to genocide. Over the six

months following October 7, the Zionist state has martyred 34,012 Palestinians. An additional 76,833 Palestinians have been injured.⁶

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (1964) originally called for the establishment of a single Palestinian state from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, following the historic boundaries of Palestine. Since then, Hamas and other liberation parties have also adopted the phrase. Hamas' 2017 charter "rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine."⁷

This genocide is ongoing, beginning before the first Nakba of 1948. **While Zionists try to smear Hamas and other resistance groups with the racist description of "terrorists," Zionist occupiers are the root of all violence in occupied Palestine.**⁸ Though no official definition of "terrorism" exists, this term is most often used to demonize resistance movements of colonized people: from Hamas to the Black Panthers, American Indian Movement, Irish Republican Army, and African National Congress. Rarely is the language of "terrorism" used to describe the genocidal violence of colonizers. **All resistance under occupation is justified.**

Claims that Hamas and other resistance groups wage a "war against Jews" or desire to "wipe Jews off the map"⁹ ignore:

1. The circumstances of the creation of Israel and the genocidal Zionist project, whereby Zionists, with support of Western nations, came to ethnically cleanse over 800,000 Palestinians¹⁰ and illegally occupy Palestinian land via means they self-described as "colonization;"^{11 12}
2. That "Hamas does not wage a struggle against the Jews because they are Jewish but wages a struggle against the Zionists who occupy Palestine. Yet, it is the Zionists who constantly identify Judaism and the Jews with their own colonial project and illegal entity;"¹³
3. The militarization of all civil society across the settler colony of Israel, including mandatory service in the occupation forces for every adult;¹⁴ and
4. The right of all occupied peoples to armed struggle, enshrined in UN resolution 45/130,¹⁵ which affirms Hamas' and all Palestinian factions' fight against their colonization as a righteous liberation struggle.