



The Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network (BAN Statement of Solidarity with the people of Palestine May 23, 2018

The Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network (BAN) stands in solidarity with the people of Palestine fighting an ongoing, violent, settler colonial invasion and calls on the US government to break all ties with the apartheid state of Israel.

The Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network is a people of color-led, mass-based coalition of tenants, homeowners, block associations, anti-police brutality groups, legal and grassroots organizations working together to end the rampant gentrification and displacement of low to middle income residents of Brooklyn, New York. Like colonization, gentrification is facilitated by state-sponsored police violence which terrorizes, criminalizes, and displaces Black and Brown New Yorkers, in order to clear the way for newcomers.

We stand in opposition to Israel's attempt to carry out genocidal violence against the Palestinian people, who are the indigenous peoples to the lands between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. We believe that as people living under occupation, Palestinians have a right to struggle for the liberation of their country, and the right to return for those who have been forced into exile through United States-backed Israeli policies and violence.

Since the Great March of Return began less than two months ago, over 100 unarmed non-violent Palestinian protesters have been murdered and thousands grievously injured by Israeli military and police forces using sniper rifles, tear gas canisters deployed from drones, and specialized bullets designed to inflict maximum damage among other weaponry. Much of these arms have been funded by billions of dollars from the United States government, tax-deductible donations from US-based non-profits, as well as investment from US corporations. Unarmed Palestinians are often used as a testing ground for new military technology and tactics that are later snapped up by municipal police departments in the United States, who in turn use it disproportionately against Indigenous, Black and Brown communities.

The legacy of the US is built on the invasion and theft of land from the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, to the current theft of land from historically low-to-middle income communities of color by city governments and real estate developers. Many of the tactics displayed in Palestine are mirrored in the struggles within cities here in the United States, from environmental racism and the denial of safe drinking water, to the segregation, imprisonment, and disenfranchisement of communities of color struggling for justice.

The struggle against gentrification is global. What we face in Brooklyn is just the latest in a long line of colonizing ventures aimed at the appropriation of land and resources from Indigenous peoples, people of color, and working class communities. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all those fighting for liberation. BAN stands in complete solidarity with the struggle for Palestinian liberation, decries Israel's occupation and human rights abuses, and calls for an immediate end to United States' funding of this apartheid regime.

The Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network

<https://bangentrification.org/>

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