

Vermonters for Justice in Palestine works to support Palestinian people in their struggle for Human Rights. Everyone deserves human rights!

First a question: Who has had an emotional response to the news from the southern border? Who has not?

It's personal! We deserve to be angry! We should all be angry!

In recent weeks, the Administration walked away from the Iran deal, then walked away from the UN Human Rights Council (but perhaps the US no longer deserves a place on that Council).

-Then they refused to condemn the massacres of peaceful protesters at the Gaza fence. These protesters are people driven out of their homes and villages, who are seeking to return home.

But they are not of the correct Religious and Ethnic identity.

- And then – we tear families apart because there is no compassion for the plight of refugees. Yes, and here in Vermont, immigrant families are being ripped apart.

When will they deploy the snipers at the US-Mexico fence, as was done at the Gaza fence?

Over the past 70 years, hundreds of thousands of people have been driven from their homes in Palestine and Israel, creating one of the worst refugee disasters.

In Latin America a series of civil wars, drug trafficking, and despotic governments supported by the US have created a refugee crisis.

So we create a humanitarian disaster, then we blame the victims. Why do we blame the victims?



Last year on average 310 Palestinian children were in Israeli prisons for “security offenses”. The military courts have a 99+% conviction rate. One of the prisoners is Ahed Tamimi: As a 16-year-old she was filmed kicking and slapping an Israeli soldier near her home in the occupied West Bank, shortly after her cousin was shot in the face with a rubber-coated steel bullet. She will spend eight months in prison. Like most prisoners, she accepted a plea deal to avoid worse consequences – does that sound familiar?

Why do we fear people coming to our border seeking protection? Why should we build a wall to keep them out, or failing that, treat them as dangerous criminals and kidnap their children when they come seeking protection? They are Americans too, they are from strongly Christian countries, not Muslim (if that makes any difference).

In the 1980s Burlington was a sanctuary City. I learned my first few words of Spanish from a Guatemalan refugee family that was given sanctuary in a church in Burlington, despite the efforts of our government to deport them back to probable death in Guatemala. We have Migrant Justice and other groups showing that we will defend our neighbors. We are not enemies, we are all one human family. Families should not be separated - we will not be separated from our southern brothers and sisters. Families belong together!

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