From the Editor’s Desk: Ceasefire Now! Free Palestine!

Wesley R. Bishop
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WESLEY R. BISHOP

Dear readers,

The US-funded war against the Palestinian people cannot be ignored. As an editor, educator, and American citizen I write to you sickened by the war crimes currently being committed by the Israeli government toward the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. I write with a deep sense of shame that decades removed from the horrors of the twentieth-century genocide can still be practiced by governments as a matter of public policy. I write with rage that my government, the government of the United States, is funding this ethnic cleansing. And I write with disgust that so many of my fellow citizens cannot summon the moral courage or clear thinking to call a genocide a genocide and demand that the American Democratic Party do more to stop the Israeli settler colonialism of the Palestinian peoples’ homes, country, and lives.

Arguing “both sides” have killed in this war ignores that it is Israel, and specifically the settlements, that have led to this current conflict. I think that many Americans have never interrogated our own settler colonial past, or the fact that our nation owes its existence to ethnic cleansing. As such, it should not be surprising that it has taken many Americans this long to come to terms with this aspect of our foreign policy.

The violence, and outrage to violence, and rhetoric around condemning the violence, is highly selective, and I am tired of the crocodile tears that Americans commenting on behalf of Israel shed.

There is only one peaceful solution to this conflict, and we all know it. Israel must give up its intent to colonize every inch of its envisioned nation. A cease-fire must commence. Israel must not just vacate Gaza but also give back the stolen lands surrounding Gaza and the West Bank. The United States needs to divest from Israel, and the US states need to cease to outlaw the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction movement.

In other words, we need a total reversal of policy of unequivocally supporting the Israeli government, and a new policy of supporting not just Palestine but also putting pressure on the Israeli government to change its racist internal laws.
We have a model of how this could work with how some Americans took on the apartheid government of South Africa. Then, too, the US political leadership, such as Ronald Reagan, argued that the anti-apartheid movement was a terrorist organization.

The US leadership was wrong then, and it is wrong now. The best way to end the violence is to oppose the Israeli government and demand they end the settler movement, accept democratic rights for all their citizens regardless of religion and race, and that the Israeli government be held accountable when it breaks the law.

Anything short of demanding changes to Israeli policies and settler colonialism is not a serious proposition of peace.

As an editor, a press, and writers, we at North Meridian condemn in the strongest terms possible the Israeli government’s actions.
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