



Palestine Solidarity Alliance
United Against Apartheid Israel



Palestine Solidarity Alliance South Africa

PO Box 357, Lenasia, 1820 - Tel. 0823366711

Email: info@palestinesa.co.za

www.palestinesa.co.za

27-04-23

Freedom Day 2023

South Africa's Freedom is incomplete without the Freedom of Palestine

In the midst of Apartheid in South Africa, our ray of hope, what kept us going, was our conviction to fight. South African struggle stalwarts sacrificed everything to ensure that we live in a society void of racism, based on the principle of equal rights for all. As we celebrate 29 years of democracy, there is much we need to reflect on as a country. While we have achieved democracy and freedom for all, the legacy of apartheid still lingers with us today. We see the shadow of our past in the widespread poverty, unemployment, and other social ills which plague us. In the wake of the 2024 elections, as a society we need to ponder on the way in which we can safeguard and protect the democracy we fought so hard for 29 years ago.

While we celebrate our democracy, we must remember those who are still fighting for the rights that we enjoy so freely. Madiba, the champion of the anti-apartheid struggle, recognised the plight of the people of Palestine as one which mirrors ours. Desmond Tutu, Ahmed Kathrada, and many more struggle stalwarts used their platforms and their voices to speak out against Israel's illegal occupation of the people of Palestine. They recognised that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians. As we celebrate 29 years of democracy, Israel gears up to celebrate 75 years of what they are calling "independence" but which in actuality is 75 years of the illegal occupation of Palestine.

Israel's celebrations of 75 years of independence are a symbol of our failure as a post-Apartheid country and freedom loving people to uphold the mantle of democracy and freedom internationally. Our freedom came at a grave cost, a cost which the people of Palestine are now paying. Despite being a post-Apartheid country, we have given organizations which aim to further Israel's settler-colonial and Apartheid agenda on the ground in South Africa space to operate here. The South African Zionist Federation, based in Johannesburg, hosted a "Yom Ha'atzmaut" (Independence Day) celebration on the 25th of April. The fact that an organization which blatantly spouts the Zionist narrative and actively works to normalize this narrative and therefore Israel's oppression of Palestinians, is allowed to operate within South Africa is something that we should be ashamed of.

While we celebrate 29 years of democracy, Israel celebrates 75 years of illegal occupation and Apartheid. Both being celebrated in tandem should be our indication that we have not played our part in upholding the South African values of freedom and democracy at an international stage. Israel's 75 years celebrations are not an indication of freedom and democracy but rather are a grim reminder of the Nakba, the catastrophe, which was carried out by Israel's forces with an agenda to establish the state of Israel on Palestinian land. Israel's forces, such as the South African Zionist Federation and the Jewish National Fund, now actively work to ensure that this agenda is safeguarded and the death of thousands of Palestinians who were massacred during the Nakba is forgotten. If we give in to the agendas of institutions such as the South African Zionist Federation, we normalize Israel's occupation and forget the plight of the Palestinians who were driven from their homes resulting in over 700,000 refugees.

It is our duty as South Africans to fight against Israel's normalization efforts. While we defend our own democracy from forces within us which aim to render our country helpless in the face of corruption, unemployment, poverty, and more; we must also defend the principles on which our constitution was based. It is our duty to fight against human rights violations, on the ground in South Africa but also internationally. It is our prerogative to be at the forefront of the fight against Apartheid and racism internationally. We must not rest until the freedom of Palestine from a settler-colonial Apartheid state is ensured.

Aluta continua!

Issued by the Palestine Solidarity Alliance
info@palestinesa.co.za