

As a descendant of Holocaust survivors, I send my genocided ancestors to haunt you warmongers out of making decisions that will forever be an irreparable stain upon our collective soul.

How dare you genocide in my name! Never would I ever even consider the possibility of beginning to desire to inflict the same suffering upon another being that I watched my grandmother experience from the time that I knew her at the age of 63 until the day that she died at 96. She never recovered from the loss of her baby brothers to the extermination camps and she felt responsible for their deaths for her entire life. There is no plausible, reasonable, logical, or acceptable reason to murder children, ever.

((And we know that colonial violence only begets colonial violence NOT greater safety for the colonizer, and that no one is free when we are not all free.))

We cannot but help in this moment to see in this echoes of the horrors of the colonialism here in the United States, and I shutter at the possibility of being associated with yet another genocide, on either side.

Here also is another opportunity for antisemitism to blossom and grow as people associate Jews rather than the current crazed, genocidally racist Israeli Knesset with being genociders, amongst other flattering stereotypes.

The reason why Zionism came to be to begin with... for (everyone except the ancestral 11% population of nested Hebrews) was as an escape for diasporic Jews, living in unfriendly European & American lands to live in a place where they felt like they were from and were not going to be regularly confronted with oppressive antisemitic pogroms and ghettoization.

Apropos it's Interesting thinking about the implications of the motivations behind the political contemporary modern Zionist movement and the Dreyfus case and what's going on in France right now. The antisemitism In France is historically so bad, nearly at the turn of the last century, there was a case called the Dreyfus affair that fomented modern Zionism in contemporary geopolitical Israel well before The Balfour declaration, World War Two and The formation of Israel in 1948/ known to Palestinians as the Nahkbah.

Brief Synopsis: Dreyfus, a French officer, was falsely accused of treason because of antisemitism. It had long-term repercussions on the political parties of France and the political structure of France but also it was concurrent not coincidentally with the murmurings of Ashkenazic Jews around the possibility of the formation of Israel.

So all that said—it's a little extra of France to outlaw protests in Palestinian solidarity just as it's a little bit extra of our governor Ron DeSantis to criminalize Palestinian solidarity actions here in the great state of Florida.

The US and Europe offer unequivocal support for Israel not because it is morally correct, but to atone for the sins of the Holocaust. (Which they should, by creating cultures that don't propagate antisemitism, colonist supremacy, Islamophobia.)

This state, the state with the most Holocaust survivors outside of Israel, also has the most Nazi-ass laws that are a PTSD fever dream from Poland circa 1941.

Picture this: My grandfather trying to take care of an errand. Some German officers try to get him to take down his pants in the middle of the street. Why? So that they can check his penis. Is he circumcised? Is he a Jew?

Here in Florida, we pull down the pants of children to make sure that they're the right gender going into the bathroom. Yes this is actually a law here! (The Florida Bathroom Ban) Even though you're not allowed to identify what their gender is, you're only allowed to identify them by their genitals, I guess. But if that wasn't evidence enough, let me supply you with more evidence that we don't care about children here in the United States at all! We care solely about „parental rights“! Not only will we lend all of the financial and military and political support to bomb thousands of Gazan civilian children into oblivion, not only do we have an appalling number of child marriages for a so-called developed nation, not only do we keep our own refugee children separated from their families in cages, not only do we deprive our children of a real education at school, not only are we eroding child labor protection laws, all over the country, so that more and more children can work long hours, overnight, in dangerous factories and packing plants, etc...

Did I mention that your tax dollars and my tax dollars are going towards murdering thousands of children right now? That too.

This country consistently frames itself as a champion of human rights in all discourses punitively yet in what respectable conscientious human rights discourse do you expect to be invited to after this! How many sins before the empire crashes? Or the flood?

For shame!!! Same question to those in geopolitical Israel, experimenting with an-earlier-stages-of-the-project-of-settler colonization upon the Palestinian people. It is devastating to watch as the rest of the world decolonizes.

It is devastating to watch colonization, to be complicit in it, to have no agency in stopping it in your name.

10 years ago I visited the West Bank in the Palestinian territories and got an education. It was devastating to observe Bedouin children, (they are supposedly a protected indigenous group in Israel) playing in the rubble of their destroyed home and school after extremely zealous, illegal Zionist settlers bulldozed their home in the night, nearly killing them all. It was devastating to meet a family the morning after their child had been stolen from their home by the IDF in the middle of the night. It was devastating to see deeply peaceful, agrarian peoples, politicized and radicalized by being entirely surrounded by illegal settlements, having no autonomy, freedom, or access to basic resources like gasoline, roads, or water, being terrorized on a regular basis by the local settler population.

It was actually transformative walking into the church of Jacobs' Well and the Good Samaritan, the site of a horrific massacre by an extreme Zionist in 1994 that resulted in amongst many other deaths, the slaying of the then Greek orthodox minister. In this space, the new priest had taken the remains and created a relics box of the lost priest who had been martyred. He also painted a beautiful icon of that priest above the reliquary of the moment while he was being murdered, he maintained all of the stained glass in the structure and all of the Byzantine era mosaics, he trimmed the olive trees in a jumpsuit with a hand rolled cigarette between his lips, he ministered to congregants and holy land tourists. He painted all of the icons for sale to the public as souvenirs. And that place, despite the horror of what had transpired there, was somehow one of the most beautiful human-made spaces I've ever encountered.

It is never too late to transform, to transmute the horror.

We Jews are creative and wily beings, ingenious even. We must always hold ourselves to a higher standard than this.

All of that was devastating enough to keep me in bed for 11 days upon my return. Paralyzed by grief and disbelief and horror at my people....

But it's very hard to top it: the Genocide of children (in the devastation department). Especially when you're a birth worker and a teacher of young children. It is hard to describe the experience of every day, walking into a classroom, with beautiful children who deserve everything in the whole world and...they are able to have a lot of it. They experience a modicum of daily safety and comfort and their basic needs being met. They're allowed to learn albeit in a modified fashion here in Florida. It is hard not to weep every time I look at their precious beautiful little faces, and think about all of the little treasures that we will never get to know, who will never get to experience life in this world. Yes, Israeli children too! My relatives also live in Israel and their children are endlessly precious to me. Palestinian children are equally precious. All children are

precious. We must be unequivocal and unwavering about this. We cannot pick and choose children who are worthy of life and children who are not. These children deserve to live. As all do.

I'm mourning the children who
Are gone.

I'm not sure what else we can do besides this and calling everybody: all of our lawmakers and emailing them and showing up on their doorsteps and praying and doing magic and disrupting every day life to mirror only slightly a sliver of the disruption of Gazan existence that is transpiring today.

I beg of you. Please, with all of the strength in your body, act with me now towards a cease-fire. For today we can hope that will be enough (Dayenu)

Thank you for listening and for being here and for being. We are all only here because our ancestors survived! May their memories be a blessing, and may the memories of all those slain in resistance of colonization be a blessing.

May there be no colonization or genocide in Olam Haba.