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Recognizing Palestine – Mélenchon's Victory Signals Shift Toward Palestine

July 8, 2024

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, a leader in France's left-wing New People's Front alliance, has reiterated his commitment to recognizing the State of Palestine following his coalition's victory in the recent French general election. Initiated by President Emmanuel Macron, the early election concluded with the New Popular Front securing the most parliamentary seats. The coalition, comprising four left-wing parties, emerged dominant with 178 deputies, led by Mélenchon's France Insoumise (France Unbowed).

In his victory speech, Mélenchon emphasized their readiness to form a government and their intention to recognize the State of Palestine swiftly. The leftists' cooperation with Macron's supporters in the second round of voting prevented any single alliance from achieving the absolute majority required to form a government independently, with Macron's alliance securing 150 seats and the far-right National Rally alliance obtaining 125 seats. Consequently, the New Popular Front will need to collaborate with centrist parties to establish a new government.

The recognition of Palestine was a key promise in the New Popular Front's campaign, reflecting their stance on international issues and commitment to shifting French foreign policy. This electoral change signifies a substantial shift in the French political landscape, positioning the left-wing alliance to significantly influence the country's future direction.

In response to the left-wing victory, former Israeli minister Avigdor Lieberman urged French Jews to migrate to the Israeli occupying state, labeling the French leftist alliance as the "radical left" and criticizing Mélenchon for his statements against Jews and the Israeli occupying state. The occupation government has not officially commented on the French election results, though approximately 440,000 Jews reside in France.

The recognition of Palestine by France under Mélenchon's leadership would mark a significant shift in French foreign policy, aligning with the left-wing alliance's broader goals of supporting Palestinian statehood and altering international diplomatic dynamics.

[Palestine Chronicle](#)

The Israeli occupying state approves three settlement outposts, thousands of homes in West Bank

July 4, 2024

The Israeli occupying state has recently approved 5,295 new housing units in a range of illegal settlements across the occupied West Bank, along with the recognition of three new settlement outposts, as reported by the watchdog group Peace Now. These outposts, named Givat Hanan, Kedem Arava, and Machane Gadi, have existed since the late 2010s as unofficial settlements. This approval comes just a day after Peace Now highlighted what they described as the largest West Bank land seizure in over three decades, signaling an aggressive expansion policy under the current administration.

This settlement expansion, deemed illegal under international law, further complicates the prospects of a future Palestinian state and is expected to exacerbate tensions. Palestinians in the West Bank are already experiencing increased raids by Israeli occupation forces and settlers amidst the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Peace Now condemned the Israeli occupying state's actions, stating that the government continues to change the rules in the occupied West Bank, causing irreversible harm. They specifically criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who has overseen significant settler expansion under Netanyahu's leadership.

International reactions have been swift and critical. Norway's foreign minister, Espen Barth Eide, denounced the new settlements as "totally unacceptable" and urged the Israeli occupying state to reverse these decisions immediately. Norway, Spain, and Ireland have recently recognized a Palestinian state, joining the global call for the end of land confiscations and illegal settlements. The U.S. State Department also criticized the unilateral actions, stating that settlement expansion and the legalization of outposts are detrimental to a two-state solution. However, critics argue that Washington has not effectively used its influence to pressure the Israeli occupying state.

The Palestinian response to these developments has been one of outrage and defiance. Palestinian leaders and activists view the settlement expansion as a direct assault on their aspirations for statehood and a blatant violation of their rights. Arguing that these actions are part of a broader strategy of annexation and ethnic cleansing, especially amid the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The humanitarian situation in Gaza has worsened significantly, with over 38,000 Palestinians killed since the conflict began in October, according to local authorities. This period has also seen a surge in both Israeli military and settler violence in the West Bank, with at least 553 Palestinians murdered and 9,510 detained since October.

[Peace Now](#) [AlJazeera](#)

The Floating Gaza Pier: A Symbol of Future Colonial Plans

June 26, 2024

The article “The Floating Gaza Pier: A Symbol of Future Colonial Plans” by Salman Al-Zurai'i and Mohammed Al-Hafi, published on June 26, 2024, explores the implications of a temporary floating pier constructed by the US Central Command off the coast of Gaza. Initially presented as a humanitarian effort to facilitate aid amid the ongoing crisis in Gaza, the pier has sparked skepticism and concern over its true purpose and long-term implications.

1. What is the US Floating Pier?

The floating pier, extending 550 meters into the sea near the Netzarim Corridor, aims to transport humanitarian aid into Gaza. It was intended to operate temporarily for 90 days but has faced delays and escalating costs. The pier facilitates aid shipments from Cyprus, with international aid organizations managing storage and distribution. Despite claims of being a purely humanitarian effort, the pier allows for significantly fewer aid deliveries than required.

2. The Pier's Role in US & Israeli Long-Term Planning:

The commentary argues that the pier serves broader geopolitical strategies for both the US and the Israeli occupying state. The US uses the pier to mitigate criticism of its involvement in Gaza while establishing a strategic military presence in the eastern Mediterranean. The US private sector, exemplified by the firm Fogbow, also profits from the situation.

For the Israeli occupying state, the pier bypasses Hamas's control and undermines its governance, aligning with a long-term strategy to reorder Gaza's political landscape. The pier is positioned at the end of the Netzarim Corridor, suggesting an influential role for the Israeli army in aid distribution, further marginalizing adversaries like Hamas and UNRWA.

3. Netanyahu's Future Plans:

The “Gaza 2035” master plan by Israeli occupying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu envisions Gaza as a central hub in a broader regional economic integration strategy, including the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). This plan aligns with efforts to counter Iran and China's influence while normalizing the Israeli occupying state's regional relations.

In conclusion, the floating pier, while ostensibly a temporary humanitarian project, symbolizes deeper and more extensive plans by the US and the Israeli occupying state. It represents a strategic move to sustain control over Gaza, sideline adversaries, and integrate Gaza into broader regional economic and geopolitical frameworks, ultimately advancing US and Israeli occupying state interests at the expense of Palestinian autonomy and welfare.

Terrified by Hamas red triangle, German House votes on banning symbol

July 5, 2024

Germany's recent decision to ban the use of the red inverted triangle symbol by Hamas' military wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, in their videos, has significant implications across multiple dimensions of conflict resolution, international relations, and issues related to decolonization and settler colonialism.

The ban, initiated by Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD), underscores concerns about the symbol's use in marking targets in Hamas' videos. This move is part of Germany's broader alleged counterterrorism strategy aimed at preventing incitement and violence associated with symbols of designated terrorist organizations.

Symbolically, the red inverted triangle holds deep meaning within the Palestinian struggle against the Israeli occupying state. It symbolizes resistance and struggle against occupation and oppression. By banning this symbol, Germany may inadvertently contribute to the suppression of narratives of resistance and the criminalization of symbols that hold significant historical and cultural value within the Palestinian community.

From a decolonial perspective, the ban raises ethical and moral questions about the imposition of interpretations and narratives by dominant states onto native societies fighting for liberation and self-autonomy. It reflects broader power dynamics where states regulate and control symbols and narratives that challenge their authority or actions.

Internationally, Germany's decision could impact its diplomatic relations with the Israeli occupying state, Palestinian groups, and other states in the Middle East. It may affect perceptions of Germany's role and neutrality in conflict mediation and peace processes, effectively eliminating its position as a mediator or facilitator.

Moreover, the ban intersects with debates on freedom of expression and the balancing of security concerns with respect for human rights and civil liberties. It prompts reflection on how counterterrorism measures can inadvertently contribute to the marginalization of legitimate political expressions and resistance movements.

In essence, while Germany's ban on the red inverted triangle symbol allegedly aims to address security threats posed by claimed terrorist organizations, its implications are complex and far-reaching. Understanding these implications is crucial for navigating the ethical, legal, and diplomatic challenges inherent in addressing symbols of struggle and resistance globally.