

Breakdown FM Arab Hip Hop in Full Effect - The Nakba

Written by Davey D ID4362
Friday, 16 May 2008 04:57 -

Breakdown FM: Arab Hip Hop in Full Effect-The Nakba

Arab Hip Hop in Full Effect-The Nakba pt 1 & 2 by Davey D

So this year Israel celebrated its 60th anniversary and many western world leaders including our tyrannical president George Bush went over to the middle east to celebrate. While all the hoopla and bells and whistles are going off, there's another side to the story.

This past weekend Palestinians from all over the world look at this time not as a celebration, but as a time to acknowledge when their land was taken away and destroyed-The Nakba

In San Francisco Arab Hip Hop artists from all over the country gathered at Civic Center plaza to let their voices be heard. They used music as way to bring people together communicate their anger and frustrations. The day long festival was a one of a kind event and we captured many of the moments.

In the first of this multipart interview you will hear from well known producer Fredwreck who in addition to producing tracks for Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube and many others, now hosts a Arab Hip Hop Show for MTV out in Dubai.

We also hear from Bay Area artists Patriarch and the P-Stine Ryders. Their performance was on point and their album 'son of a Refugee is exceptionally dope.

In part 2 we continue our coverage with the historic Nakba Festival

Here we hear from the group Arab Summit who do an incredible performance.

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We also hear from Ras Ceylon and Tunisian rapper Tricky.

We conclude by hearing from San Francisco's Scribe Project.

In episode 3 we will hear from Boots Riley of the Coup, Rebel Diaz and the headlining act Daam who made the trip from Palestine and blessed us..

We also share with you some of the performances and sounds from the stage.. So kick back and enjoy.

To understand better about the Nakba we have included this article. There are two sides to every story-This is the other side.

-Davey D-

Forget the two-state solution by Saree Makdisi, The Los Angeles Times, 12 May 2008

There is no longer a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Forget the endless arguments about who offered what and who spurned whom and whether the Oslo peace process died when Yasser Arafat walked away from the bargaining table or whether it was Ariel Sharon's stroll through the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem that did it in.

All that matters are the facts on the ground, of which the most important is that - after four decades of intensive Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories it occupied during the 1967 war - Israel has irreversibly cemented its grip on the land on which a Palestinian state might have been created.

Sixty years after Israel was created and Palestine was destroyed, then, we are back to where

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we started: two populations inhabiting one piece of land. And if the land cannot be divided, it must be shared. Equally.

This is a position, I realize, which may take many Americans by surprise. After years of pursuing a two-state solution, and feeling perhaps that the conflict had nearly been solved, it's hard to give up the idea as unworkable.

But unworkable it is. A report published last summer by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs found that almost 40 percent of the West Bank is now taken up by Israeli infrastructure - roads, settlements, military bases and so on - largely off-limits to Palestinians. Israel has methodically broken the remainder of the territory into dozens of enclaves separated from each other and the outside world by zones that it alone controls (including, at last count, 612 checkpoints and roadblocks).

Moreover, according to the report, the Jewish settler population in the occupied territories, already approaching half a million, not only continues to grow but is growing at a rate three times greater than the rate of Israel's population increase. If the current rate continues, the settler population will double to almost one million people in just 12 years. Many are heavily armed and ideologically driven, unlikely to walk away voluntarily from the land they have declared to be their God-given home.

These facts alone render the status of the peace process academic.

At no time since the negotiations began in the early 1990s has Israel significantly suspended the settlement process in the occupied Palestinian territories, in stark violation of international law. It preceded last November's Annapolis summit by announcing the fresh expropriation of Palestinian property in the West Bank; it followed the summit by announcing the expansion of its Har Homa settlement by an additional 307 housing units; and it has announced plans for hundreds more in other settlements since then.

The Israelis are not settling the occupied territories because they lack space in Israel itself. They are settling the land because of a long-standing belief that Jews are entitled to it simply by virtue of being Jewish. "The land of Israel belongs to the nation of Israel and only to the nation of Israel," declares Moledet, one of the parties in the National Union bloc, which has a

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significant presence in the Israeli parliament.

Moledet's position is not as far removed from that of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as some Israelis claim. Although Olmert says he believes in theory that Israel should give up those parts of the West Bank and Gaza densely inhabited by Palestinians, he also said in 2006 that "every hill in Samaria and every valley in Judea is part of our historic homeland" and that "we firmly stand by the historic right of the people of Israel to the entire land of Israel."

Judea and Samaria: these ancient biblical terms are still used by Israeli officials to refer to the West Bank. More than 10 years after the initiation of the Oslo peace process, which was supposed to lead to a two-state solution, maps in Israeli textbooks continued to show not the West Bank but Judea and Samaria—and not as occupied territories but as integral parts of Israel.

What room is there for the Palestinians in this vision of Jewish entitlement to the land? None. They are regarded, at best, as a demographic "problem."

The idea of Palestinians as a "problem" is hardly new. Israel was created as a Jewish state in 1948 only by the premeditated and forcible removal of as much of the indigenous Palestinian population as possible, in what Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe, which they commemorate this week.

A Jewish state, says Israeli historian Benny Morris, "would not have come into being without the uprooting of 700,000 Palestinians. ... There was no choice but to expel that population." For Morris, this was one of those "circumstances in history that justify ethnic cleansing."

Thinking of Palestinians as a "problem" to be removed predates 1948. It was there from the moment the Zionist movement set into motion the project to make a Jewish state in a land that, in 1917 - when the British empire officially endorsed Zionism - had an overwhelmingly non-Jewish population. The only Jewish member of the British government at the time, Edwin Montagu, vehemently opposed the Zionist project as unjust. Henry King and Charles Crane, dispatched on a fact-finding mission to Palestine by President Wilson, concurred: Such a project would require enormous violence, they warned: "Decisions, requiring armies to carry out, are sometimes necessary, but they are surely not gratuitously to be taken in the interests of a

serious injustice."

But they were. This is a conflict driven from its origins by Zionism's exclusive sense of entitlement to the land. Has there been Palestinian violence as well? Yes. Is it always justified? No. But what would you do if someone told you that there was no room for you on your own land, that your very existence is a "problem"? No people in history has ever gone away just because another people wanted them to, and the sentiments of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull live on among Palestinians to this day.

The violence will end, and a just peace will come, only when each side realizes that the other is there to stay. Many Palestinians have accepted this premise, and an increasing number are willing to give up on the idea of an independent Palestinian state and embrace instead the concept of a single democratic, secular and multicultural state, which they would share equally with Israeli Jews.

Most Israelis are not yet reconciled this position. Some, no doubt, are reluctant to give up on the idea of a "Jewish state," to acknowledge the reality that Israel has never been exclusively Jewish, and that, from the start, the idea of privileging members of one group over all other citizens has been fundamentally undemocratic and unfair.

Yet that is exactly what Israel does. Even among its citizens, Israeli law grants rights to Jews that it denies to non-Jews. By no stretch of the imagination is Israel a genuine democracy: It is an ethno-religiously exclusive state that has tried to defy the multicultural history of the land on which it was founded.

To resolve the conflict with the Palestinians, Israeli Jews will have to relinquish their exclusive privileges and acknowledge the right of return of Palestinians expelled from their homes. What they would get in return is the ability to live securely and to prosper with - rather than continuing to battle against - the Palestinians.

They may not have a choice. As Olmert himself warned recently, more Palestinians are shifting their struggle from one for an independent state to a South African-style struggle that demands equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of religion, in a single state. "That is, of course," he noted, "a much cleaner struggle, a much more popular struggle—and ultimately a much more

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powerful one."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-op-makdisi11-2008may11,0,7862060.story>

I couldn't agree more.

Saree Makdisi is a professor of English and comparative literature at UCLA and the author of *Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation*, out this month from W.W. Norton. This essay was originally published by The Los Angeles Times and is republished with the author's permission.

Check out the interview here:

Breakdown FM Coverage of the Nakba Festival pt-1

<http://odeo.com/audio/19200143/view>

Breakdown FM Coverage of the Nakba Festival pt-2

<http://odeo.com/audio/19203843/view>

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