

despair, I always remember my very fond memories of Palestine. I fought in World War II and was in Palestine when it was still Palestine (in 1944 - 45). It was a beautiful country. Since then, I have visited the West Bank, and I have some dear friends there. Whenever I think of brave people, I don't think there ever was a man braver than Bassam Shakaa...

The history of the Palestinian people has not yet finished. People have come back. As Chairman Arafat said, the last ten meters are the hardest. Just when everything looks dark, something breaks through, so long as you have principles behind you. If there ever was a stronger case, backed by principle and right, than the Palestinian, I have not seen one. At the same time, the Palestinians must use all the modern techniques of information and learn that propaganda is not just saying what rushes to your mind. If you build a bridge, you send for technicians, etc... When you carry out propaganda, you

should go to those who know how to carry it out in terms of the mentality of the people you're addressing. This is what the Arabs have never done, and the Palestinians aren't much better in this. You don't say something to please yourself; you have to say something that will influence the people you are addressing...

I call all the Arabs my cousins, but the Palestinians are my first cousins. This is the way I feel about the subject, because your cause is my cause. I have given virtually my whole life to fighting Zionism, but you can't just fight Zionism in a vacuum. You have to be for something as well as against something. I am against Zionism, and I am for the rights of the Palestinians, and they go together. Anything that happens to the Palestinian cause affects me. When the tragedy of Beirut unfolded, it was as if I was in Beirut suffering. I actually wished that I had been there.

How and why did you become anti - Zionist?

Every Jew born in Israel is born into a Zionist society...This does not necessarily mean that all individuals support all the Zionist formula. However, the Zionist movement concentrates on implanting the belief that the only solution to anti - Semitism is the establishment of a Jewish state and the immigration of world Jewry to this state; and that anti - Semitism is something inherited by all humans other than Jews. According to the Zionist formula, Jews cannot have complete and equal rights in a non - Jewish society.

The most essential feature of Zionism is that it is hypocritical. On the one hand, the Zionist movement presented itself as a democratic liberation movement through the schools, families and the press. On the other hand, it was important to form the Zionist society it wanted. So we lived in a society suffering from a double standard: the liberation standard, that all people have equal rights, and the Zionist standard, which does not give equal or human rights to non Jews. This double standard causes us to live in a crisis.

Facing this fact, we have two choices: One is to choose Zionism, condition ourselves to it and join the Zionist parties. The other choice is to discover the history of Palestine and Israel. In most cases, but not all, this leads one to a position similar to the one crystallized by the Palestinian resistance movement over the last fifteen years of struggle, concerning the subject of democratic Palestine.

However, I must emphasize that not all anti-Zionist Jews have arrived at a stand similar to mine. Take, for example, the strong stand of Rakah, the Israeli Communist Party, calling for the establishment of two states: a Jewish and an Arab one. This contains a lot of contradictions, for if the United Nations resolutions were to be implemented, including those on partition and the return of the refugees, Israel could not continue. The Rakah position, through adherence to the Soviet line, to Security Council resolution 242, partition and the return of the refugees, while at the same time to preserving the state of Israel, is impossible and does not hold up in any discussion. impossible and does not hold up in any discussion.

There are important parties, like Matzpen, and the Sons of the Village movement, which reject the two states idea and support the alternative of a



Democratic Alternative

The following is translated from the interview we conducted in Arabic with Uri Davis. Uri Davis is known for having spoken out and written against Zionism and the state of 'Israel', as in his well-researched book, *Israel: Utopia Incorporated*. He has been active in promoting discussion with Palestinians and other anti - Zionist Jews concerning the concept of a democratic, secular, socialist state in Palestine.

Would you introduce yourself to our readers?

I am a Palestinian Jew who bears Israeli citizenship. I was born and raised in the Israeli state in the political, social and cultural setting of Zionism. Through the transformation

of my thoughts and consciousness, I arrived at an anti - Zionist position in theory and practice. I am against the Zionist solution for the problem of anti - Semitism in the West. The alternative to the Israeli state is the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state, which is the most proper solution to the Palestinian cause.