



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

WE WILL NOT STOP TALKING ABOUT PALESTINE



Fresno WILPF members were represented at the raising of the Palestinian flag.
Photo by LVR

Genocide in Palestine

It is clear to all who open their minds that Palestine is under attack

by Israeli genocidal forces willing and eager to kill civilians indiscriminately. Palestinians killed in Gaza approached 20,000 on Dec. 15; more than a third are children. An unknown, uncounted number are still buried under the bombed rubble. It's estimated 50,000 Palestinians are injured.

Israel Commits Human Rights Violations and War Crimes

Reckless disregard for civilian lives; bombing of UN refugee camps, schools and hospitals; deliberate killing of an unprecedented number of journalists and healthcare workers; collective punishment; the use of white phosphorus on civilian populations. Now it is winter; the survivors are unsheltered, starving and dying of diseases produced by the deliberate destruction planned and carried out by Israel. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant stated that "there will be no electricity, no food, no water, no fuel."

Daily Atrocities

- WHO estimates 360,000 cases of infectious diseases recorded in Gaza's shelters.
- The UN World Food Program warns that half of Gaza's population of 2 million people is starving, that nine of 10 people cannot eat daily.
- Israeli troops, backed by tanks and heavy artillery, stormed Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, where 3,000 displaced people were sheltering. Medical staff inside the hospital

were shot and killed on Dec. 11, plus two mothers were killed when the Israeli military bombarded the maternity ward.

- The Biden administration approved an emergency sale to Israel of nearly 14,000 rounds of tank ammunition, worth more than \$106 million, for use in Gaza. This bypassed the Congressional review requirement for foreign military sales.

Human Rights Watch verified videos taken in Lebanon and Gaza on Oct. 10 and 11, 2023, showing multiple airbursts of artillery-fired white phosphorus over the Gaza City port and two rural locations along the Israel-Lebanon border. White phosphorus burns flesh, thermally and chemically, down to the bone as it is highly soluble in fat. White phosphorus fragments can exacerbate wounds after treatment, entering the bloodstream causing multiple organ failure. Dressed wounds can reignite when wounds are re-exposed to oxygen. Even relatively minor burns are often fatal. For survivors, extensive scarring tightens muscle tissue and creates physical disabilities. The World Health Organization's official site published this account on Dec. 12:

WHO reiterates its call for the protection of health care and humanitarian assistance in Gaza:

"On 9 December 2023, a WHO team, in collaboration with Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and support from United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), completed a high-risk mission to Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City to deliver medical supplies, assess the situation in the hospital, and transfer critically-injured patients to a hospital in the south. The mission delivered trauma and surgical supplies, enough to treat 1500 patients, to the hospital, and transferred 19 critical patients with 14 companions to Nasser Medical Complex in south Gaza, where they can receive a higher level of care.

On the way north, the UN convoy was inspected at the Wadi Gaza checkpoint. Ambulance crew members had to leave the vehicles for identification. Two PRCS staff were detained for over an hour, further delaying the mission.

WHO staff saw one of them being made to kneel at gunpoint, then taken out of sight, where he was reportedly harassed, beaten, stripped and searched.

As the mission entered Gaza City,

the aid truck carrying the medical supplies and one of the ambulances were hit by bullets.

On the way back towards southern Gaza, with the patients from Al-Ahli Hospital on board, the convoy was again stopped at the Wadi Gaza checkpoint. PRCS staff and most of the patients had to leave the ambulances for security checks. Critical patients remaining in the ambulances were searched by armed soldiers.

One of the same two PRCS staff temporarily detained earlier was taken for interrogation a second time. The mission made numerous attempts to coordinate his release, but eventually—after more than 2 1/2 hours—had to make the difficult decision to leave the highly dangerous area and proceed, for the safety and well-being of the patients and humanitarian workers. (Three ambulances carrying extremely critical patients had already continued onwards earlier, while three remained with the convoy.) PRCS reported afterwards that during the transfer process, one of the injured patients died as a result of his untreated wounds.

The PRCS staff member was released later that night after joint UN efforts. Yesterday, the WHO team met him, with his father, supervisor, and colleagues. He said he was harassed, beaten, threatened, stripped of his clothes, and blindfolded. His hands were tied behind his back and he was treated in a degrading and humiliating manner. Once released, he was left to walk towards the south with his hands still tied behind his back, and without clothes or shoes."

<https://www.who.int/news/item/12-12-2023-who-calls-for-protection-of-humanitarian-space-in-gaza-following-serious-incidents-in-high-risk-mission-to-transfer-patients--deliver-health-supplies>

We can just imagine the U.S. media and government's outrage if this had been perpetrated by anyone other than Israel. Instead, the gasps and pearl-clutching are directed at the imaginary horror of people saying "From the river to the sea."

None of this is happening for the first time! Even the Israeli use in Gaza of white phosphorus, supplied by the United States, has been documented and proven before, in 2008–2009. The calendar didn't start in October 2023. Israel began large-scale attacks on the people of Palestine 75 years ago. The United States continues to finance and supply these attacks. We are responsible.

Tell the U.S. Government We Want a Ceasefire Now
No U.S. Tax Dollars for Apartheid or Genocide

RECLAIMING THE REVOLUTIONARY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

People have become tired of the cop co-opted vanilla fake celebrations of a fluffy imaginary MLK.

There will be an event that honors the real Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this year.

When? Jan. 15, 2024, 2 p.m.–4 p.m.
Where? Free AME Ministries, 806 Collins Ave., Fresno

You are invited. The event will include a panel discussion, Q&A and refreshments.

This year's theme: What would MLK say about the Gaza genocide?

The Fresno community has come together demanding a ceasefire now!

Contact: Dr. Floyd D. Harris Jr. at 559-790-4277

WILPF BOOK CLUB RESUMES MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Our WILPF Book Club is now meeting in person. Look for e-mails from our chair, Cheryl Caldera, for the location of our next

gathering. We will meet the second Monday of each month, starting on Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. Below is a list of the books we've chosen to read in the next few months:

Feb. 12: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

March 11: *Tastes Like War: A Memoir* by Grace M. Cho. "The ghosts of the past are given a seat at the dinner table in *Tastes Like War*, an

intimate account of the historical violence behind a mother's mental illness. Grace M. Cho documents the psychological toll of racism while exploring the redemptive power of food."

April 8: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, a novel by James McBride

May 13: *Fight: How Gen Z Is Channeling Their Fear and Passion to Save America* by John Della Volpe

WILPF MEETING

Jan. 11 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., online and in person, Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number. For info, contact Teresa at taca_03@ymail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

STIR IT UP-WILPF

KFCF 88.1 FM
Jan. 24 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

UNPACKING RACISM

With Dr. Jean Kennedy. Moving toward community event participation. To

join, RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

Jan. 3 (first Wednesday), noon, Courthouse. Check first with Sue Kern at netptc.net or 559-349-3777.

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS AN UNCOMPROMISING REVOLUTIONARY

"They know they must move on or be destroyed by our bombs. So they go, primarily women and children and the aged. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted." (This was about Vietnam. Does it apply today to Palestine? Of course it does.)

"Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself."

"We must see now that the evils of racism, economic exploitation and militarism are all tied together. And you can't get rid of one without getting rid of the other."

"The problems of racial injustice and economic injustice cannot be solved without a radical redistribution of political and economic power."

"If peace means a willingness to be exploited economically, dominated politically, humiliated and segregated, I don't want peace. If peace means being complacently adjusted to a deadening status quo, I don't want peace. If peace means keeping my mouth shut in the midst of injustice and evil, I don't want it. Peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but the existence of justice for all people."

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! HERE'S HOW

Send dues to WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755. WILPF-US membership is \$35/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20. For questions and information updates, contact Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY WILPF. THE WILPF PAGE IS USUALLY COMPILED AND EDITED BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES (LENIVREEVES@GMAIL.COM).