

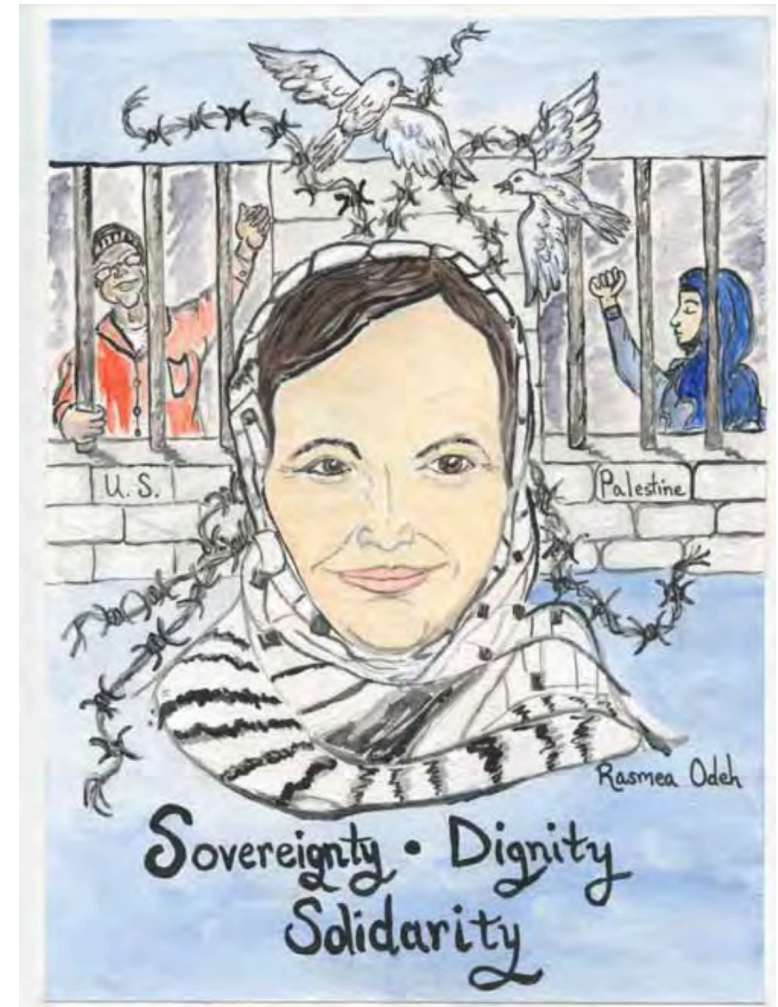
**FORMER PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONER SHEIKH KHADER ADNAN
EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH PELICAN BAY HUNGER STRIKERS**

JULY 9, 2013

Sheikh Khader Adnan considers the policy of isolation as a cheap weapon in the hands of those who hold power. The policy of isolation is used against American citizens who are victims of the political, economic, and social order/system that thrives on greed, discrimination, and the deprived, including the African-Americans and Palestinian resistors such as Sameeh Hamoudeh and Sami Al-Aryan.

The policy of isolation exposes the ugly face of these false democracies that are guilty of occupation, tyranny, and social repression. Hunger strikes are a courageous step and a real tool for all those who are deprived of their rights to lift the existing oppression, and I hope that these prisoners will gain their rights and their demands. Today, the hunger strikes of the Palestinian prisoners inspires those who are detained to engage in hunger strikes to guarantee that they are treated humanely and with respect and dignity.

I am a former administrative detainee in the Israeli Occupations' prisons, who has been subjected to the unjust isolation policy. I fought in a hunger strike for 66 consecutive days against the policy of administrative detention, my detention without charge or trial. I announce my full solidarity with my 30,000 oppressed brothers in the American prisons, and I ask that the American people and government end the policy of isolation of the detainees and prisoners, and comply by human rights law that forbids continuous isolation because of its destructive effects on the mental and physical health of detainees.



SOLIDARITY STATEMENTS FROM U.S. POLITICAL PRISONERS TO THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

from the 2016 prisoner delegation to Palestine

The original pamphlet can be found at:

<https://www.freedomarchives.org/Pal/PP.Booklet.AR.Eng.Web.pdf>

Another pamphlet from the delegation, titled “For the Love of Palestine Stories of Women, Imprisonment and Resistance,” edited by Diana Block and Anna Henry, can be found here: <https://www.freedomarchives.org/Pal/womenprisoners.pdf>

A 2016 statement on the April 17 Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Political Prisoners by the delegation, “We Stand with Palestine in the Spirit of ‘Sumud’ The U.S. Prisoner, Labor and Academic Solidarity Delegation to Palestine March 24 to April 2, 2016” can be found here: <https://www.freedomarchives.org/Pal/Delegation.We.Stand.pdf>

Claude Marks, Jake Conroy, Eric King, “Post-Prison Activism & Archiving Resistance,” Rattling the Cages: Oral Histories of North American Political Prisoners panel, Firestorm Books, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eegjqLeYsE>

Sheikh Khader Adnan, “Khader Adnan expresses solidarity with 30,000 hunger strikers in California prisons,” <https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/nora-barrows-friedman/khader-adnan-expresses-solidarity-30000-hunger-strikers-california>

with whatever weapons at hand



write to Mumia Abu-Jamal

Smart Communications/PA DOC

Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335

SCI Mahanoy

Post Office Box 33028

St Petersburg, Florida 33733

write to Oso Blanco

Oso Blanco* #07909-051

USP Victorville

Post Office Box 3900

Adelanto, California 92301

*Address envelope to Byron Chubbuck.

write to Marius Mason

Marius Mason #04672-061

FMC Fort Worth

Post Office Box 15330

Fort Worth, Texas 76119

The cover drawing is by Marius Mason, a long-time activist in the environmental and labor movements. In March 2008, he was arrested by federal authorities for charges related to two acts of property destruction that occurred in 1999 and 2000; no one was injured in either of them. He was sentenced to just under 22 years.



“I was part of forming and participating in a delegation of people involved in challenging imprisonment in the U.S. and former political prisoners that traveled to Palestine. Part of what we did in advance of actually going was putting together a pamphlet of solidarity statements from people imprisoned in the US with the Palestinian struggle, which got translated into Arabic and printed so that we didn’t have to carry it into the country through Israeli security. We were able to distribute and talk about ways in which it’s important to understand building solidarity between prisoners in various struggles around the world. All of these kinds of things, to me, constitute not breaking stride [after release], so I feel like that’s not uncommon for people getting out, and I think it’s something that should be uplifted. There’s different ways of doing it, but to me it’s integral to how I identify in the world, not only having experienced it but maintaining a connection to abolitionist politics, to supporting political prisoners, as well, and to an understanding that political imprisonment, for sure, is part of a global experience of people who choose to participate in some liberatory politics and resistance against genocide.”

– Claude Marks, *Rattling the Cages* panel, “Post-Prison Activism & Archiving Resistance,” October 13, 2024

“The delegation was convened by Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi, professor at San Francisco State University, and was the first from the U.S. to focus specifically on political imprisonment and solidarity between Palestinian and U.S. prisoners. The idea for the delegation had been sparked in 2013 when prisoners at Pelican Bay in California undertook an historic hunger strike to protest long term solitary confinement at the same time as Palestinian prisoners were on hunger strike against Israel’s illegal policies of administrative detention. Khader Adnan, a former Palestinian political prisoner who had waged a hunger strike in Israeli prisons for 66 days, sent a message of solidarity to the California hunger strikers.”

– Diana Block & Anna Henry, “Cultivating Solidarity with Palestinian Women Prisoners,” *For the Love of Palestine Stories of Women, Imprisonment, & Resistance*

In the United States, there are hundreds of political prisoners who are incarcerated, awaiting trial, serving a sentence or otherwise detained for acts, beliefs, or associations in opposition to the US government or corporations. Many were active in the Black, Chican@ and Native Liberation movements, identify as New Afrikans and/or were members of anti-imperialist organizations in solidarity with national liberation movements. These are people from diverse communities who have committed to struggling against racism, the continued dispossession of indigenous land, patriarchy, colonialism, militarism, and other forms of oppression. This packet represents a selection of solidarity statements from political prisoners in the United States to prisoners in Palestine.

In memory of these US political prisoners who passed away in prison or within days of their release:

Merle Africa
 Phil Africa
 Kuwasi Balagoon
 Marilyn Buck
 Angel Rodriguez Cristobal
 Bashir Hameed
 Teddy Jah Heath
 George Jackson
 Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa
 Sam Melville
 Hugo Pinell
 Herman Wallace
 Albert Nuh Washington Warren Wells
 Richard Williams

We must always stand together, fearless & unified against any intruder who tries to take our lives, our families or our freedom!
 – Merle Africa, a political prisoner from the MOVE organization who died in a U.S. prison under suspicious circumstances in 1998

The California Coalition for Women Prisoners wishes to express our strong solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and sovereignty and with the thousands of Palestinian men and women prisoners who are on the front lines of resistance against Israeli occupation. Since 1995, our organization has been dedicated to challenging the racist and sexist violence of the U.S. prison industrial complex, particularly as it impacts women and transgender prisoners.

Merle Africa's words, embedded in our logo above, resonate with the determination we see emanating from Palestinian prisoners. We reject the shared strategies that Israeli and US prisons utilize to dehumanize and torture our loved ones, our leaders, and our communities. The resilience of people forced to live under such terrible conditions fuels the spirit of resistance in our movements. We trust that the Palestine Prisoner Solidarity Delegation will contribute to mutual understanding and invigorate solidarity across walls and borders.





Critical Resistance stands in deep solidarity with those fighting for Palestinian liberation, and particularly with Palestinian political prisoners. As an organization that seeks to build an international movement to abolish the prison industrial complex, we understand that our struggle is one against oppression, colonization, and state violence globally.

We have made strong connections to Palestinian liberation within our fights against policing, imprisonment, and surveillance. In 2011 and 2013, we supported prisoners who organized historic hunger strikes in California prisons while Palestinian prisoners, who were also on hunger strike against their Administrative Detention, sent powerful messages of solidarity. We have also supported those in the US who are targeted for US-based Palestine solidarity activism and we see the ways in which our struggles are international. The beautiful solidarity between movements in the U.S. and Palestine is growing exponentially, and we remain committed to building strength and international support across our borders.

Until Liberation, Critical Resistance

March 2016 - Anonymous

All the progressives and revolutionaries in the world dedicate their lives to the same hopes and dreams. We all stand for social justice and liberation in Palestine, the U.S., and the entire world. We all stand for freedom for Palestinian political prisoners and all political prisoners!

In addition, anyone who has spent any time incarcerated in the U.S. fully understands the oppression that people of color, and especially Black people, face in this society. We recognize the racism that they face, the dehumanization, the fact that so many were incarcerated for non-violent crimes, the poverty, the refusal of this government to understand the socio-economic and psychological conditions that are the cause of the vast majority of alleged crimes in this country. The Israeli government portrays the Palestinian political activist as a criminal and a terrorist, which makes incarceration doubly hard; but in Palestine, at least prisoners have a shared national liberation struggle when facing the prison guards and administration. Here in the U.S., the political prisoner has to work very hard with other prisoners to build a shared struggle. When relationships are built with other incarcerated people, the prison authorities move you away to isolation in a freezing cold cell, extremely small, with no access to blankets, warm clothes, or human contact. The only thing visible from the isolation cells is the light bulb outside. The door is made of thick glass with only a small opening for food to be sent through. It is hard to choose the worst thing about isolation, because the whole experience is bad. The most frightening thing is the feeling that they truly want to destroy you or turn you into a tool, like a remote control that responds to their requests and their orders.

The whole system of incarceration is designed to destroy people's humanity and make them despair and feel hopeless. Humans are social, so to be in isolation not only cuts you off from other people, but also affects you by cutting you off from yourself. It destroys you

emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually, and makes you feel as if you are no longer whole—this is the deadliest thing.

That is the toughest challenge being a political prisoner, or a prisoner of any kind in the U.S. But challenges are not frightening, because as long as we believe in our rights and the principles that we stand for, have confidence in ourselves, and rise up together, we become stronger and more effective. Then we can achieve miracles. People in the U.S. and all across the world support our Palestinian rights of return, self-determination, independence, and freedom for Palestinian political prisoners. Prisoners in the U.S. especially send their love, respect, and honor to prisoners in Palestine. Despite all challenges, collective victory for U.S. prisoners and Palestinian prisoners is in our future.

and continued Israeli occupation of your land. For that, the Palestinian people have to look to themselves. But you don't fight alone.

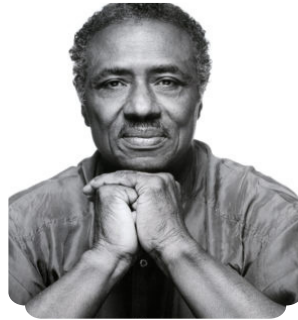
African-American people here in North America support you and know occupation well. Here the local and national police force are our occupiers. Throughout some three-hundred years of tyrannizing the soul and body of the Black community, America's pervasive racism and cultural domination has overworked itself, yet our spirit remains unbowed. And we've been enslaved longer than we've been free. We suffer mass-incarceration, racial profiling and unrelenting police violence. We endure; we bide our time. For we know nothing lasts forever. Thus we affirm that no daylight exists between the African-American and Palestinian struggle in resisting the racist, oppressive violence that occupies, that kills, that imprisons us here and you over there. Our struggle is one.

Accordingly, as we go forward, as you speak comparatively of Israeli social policies that resemble the racist South African apartheid regime's social policies, I would urge that you speak also of the similarity between the African-American and Palestinian struggle. The comparison is effective; it resonates. Both our hardship and casualties originate from the same source; our communities are stressed; our men and women have been captured, tortured, imprisoned, or killed. Our families suffer; our children experience uncertain tomorrows. You don't fight alone; our struggle is one, and we build to win.

Solidarity forever, Herman Bell
(Herman released in 2018, after 45 years of imprisonment)

To the Palestinian people: Greetings and solidarity!

From Herman Bell, U.S. Political Prisoner, since 1973.



You don't fight alone!

I have followed, supported, and I continue to follow and support your heroic struggle to rid Israeli occupation of your homeland. Almost daily we hear of Israeli tank shells and missiles firing into your homes, your hospitals, and school buildings; we see pictures of broken bodies being dug from the rubble. Whole neighborhoods and vital resources: food, water, electricity are decimated. So much death, bloodshed, and destruction when seizing and occupying other people's land, an old narrative that Indigenous people the world over know so well.

The international community does nothing throughout this occupation of your land; it sits on its hands, laments the destruction and loss of life and does nothing. I feel the beat of your seething heart. And during periodic lulls throughout this decades-long occupation, when even the occupiers seem sated from their bloodlust, you rise up from your magnificently dug tunnels firing off salvos of your own bootleg missiles into the towns and hamlets of the occupiers. Your creative resistance to this occupation is so reminiscent of the Vietnamese people's spirited resistance to U.S. occupation during their war of national liberation. When having shot down a heavy U.S. B-52 bomber, they built iron bars around it with a sign saying: "We caged this beast!"

Freedom loving people the world over support your struggle, support your courage and fortitude in resisting this occupation. For we know that while heads of governments in the international community posture, gesture, and pronounce empathetic words, they speak but one language, the language of the occupier, which is why they will neither condemn nor prevent this ongoing carnage

Palestine

The Palestinian Freedom Movement is in many ways similar to the Black Freedom Movement in the US in that prison is an inescapable part of the struggle.



Here we are the naked face of the empire – raw, racist, violent and unerringly destructive. For, in an imperial system, the very notion of freedom is not just oppositional – it is an anathema.

It is heresy. It is from the statist, Zionist perspective – treason.

Think of that: Freedom is Treason.

Wow!

For Palestinians, under the Zionist fever of mass incarceration, their very existence is a threat to the Zionist project.

For the two are not compatible – and never will be.

That said, can we suppress freedom for expediency?

Put quite another way, how can we ever suppress freedom?

That is the essence of the Palestinian freedom struggle – freedom or repression? Liberation or death?

We must opt for freedom. Always. Always.

I am always on the side of freedom. Always. And forever.

Always.

Mumia Abu-Jamal (*in prison since 1981*)

Remembering a 15 Year Old Palestinian Woman in Prison Chained to the Bed Springs - She Had Refused to Stop Singing

by Marilyn Buck - Summer 1988

chained for singing
clear minor notes
still her song soars
skyward

women sing songs
lullabies lovesongs
blues songs
chants of exiled lives
and martyrs' death

voices search out sounds
not yet noted on bars
not yet ordered on scales

to bring down walls
to raise Palestine, free



Marilyn lived most of her adult life in controlled, restrictive spaces: from clandestinity, to prisons, to control units within prisons. Yet within those spaces, she developed a richly imaginative, expansive view of human liberation, and built a bridge to a world we hunger for but have yet to create. She died just days after being released from federal prison in 2010.

I Am Oso Blanco

Freedom – power – movement
I am the river, I am the land.
I am the moment in a blood-soaked land.
I am Native and the moment is ancient, our burial mounds are
10,000 years old, before the occupation of our land.
I am native, Aniyunwiya, or Cherokee to the world who know me
not.

Freedom – power – movement
I am the living river that destroys the Mexican family.
I am the bloody Rio Grande, the sacred mud in my veins, the line
through the sand.
I am the sacred river that rips, separates and imprisons family and
culture.
Yet I am the womb water that rebirths the endless warrior Eagle
Knight Who will not accept this border, who will not give up the
fight.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the ancient land of Palestine,

Osiyo (hello)

In the 1990s I studied theology for four years. I read all the ancient holy books/texts. I studied many world views and religions. I studied about the false state of Israel. I read about their secret Nuke program. That the people occupying “my land” helped the Zionists build. And lie about and hide.

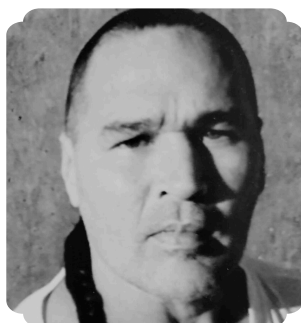
I believe that Israel is doing to your people what the Americans did to my people. They are infected with an evil very much alike. (a very similar evil)

We must be positive and focus on the faith to overcome these hypocritical monsters as well as their lies. These monsters who hurt us, then lie to the world and falsely claim we hurt them. And so that’s why they attack us. That’s what they do to us Native, Indigenous peoples here in Turtle Island – the real name of this sacred land. This is not America – that is one of the lies of the occupier – just a small reality of the vast pile of their deceptions.

Yes, we must be positive. We are truly good people, fighting tooth and nail against a monstrous system of destruction and genocide.

So be strong my Brothers and sacred Sisters of Palestine. Be endlessly vigilant.

Love and power,
Oso Blanco, Byron Shane Chubbuck
(in prison since 1999)



As a Jew born at the end of World War II, the event that loomed over the very formation of my consciousness was the Holocaust. For me, for many of us, there was a paramount lesson carved deeply into the twin tablets of morality and history: racism is the greatest evil that leads to the most hideous inhumanity. Others drew the opposite conclusion and embraced Zionism on the basis that Jews need a state of our own regardless of the cost to others. While Jews had good reasons to build a foundation for survival and development, the necessary concessions were due from the imperial anti-Semitic powers. Never should such security be achieved by oppressing other people. Never. Identifying with the West, Israel, from its inception, has served as an aggressive forward military base for U.S. imperialism in the oil-rich Middle East--a spearhead for keeping reactionary regimes in power and promoting chaos and divisions throughout the region.

Zionism has been an ongoing process of occupation and colonization of Palestine. As the examples of the U.S. and apartheid South Africa show, settler colonialism generates the most fulsome forms and practices of racism. For Palestine that includes the over 5 million persons, half of their nation, living in exile; the thousands of people killed and wounded by the Israeli military; the criminal strangulation of the Palestinian economy and public health infrastructure; the turning of Gaza into essentially an open-air prison for 1.8 million people; the widespread illegal practice of preventive detentions; and more.

I can’t even begin to grasp the results in terms of pervasive and mounting humanitarian crises that are so horribly painful. At the same time Palestine is an incredible inspiration as people have found creative and courageous ways to build resistance, including the brave resilience of the youth; the local demonstrations to tear down the apartheid wall erected to cut off Palestinian villages; and the resonating call by some 175 organizations of Palestinian civil society that initiated the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) of Israeli colonialism. This now global campaign includes demands

to stop Israeli racism, end the occupation, and uphold the right of all Palestinians to return to their homeland.

The Palestinian struggle for self-determination and sovereignty is a matter of the most urgent and fundamental solidarity; it is also a front-line struggle for justice for all of us.

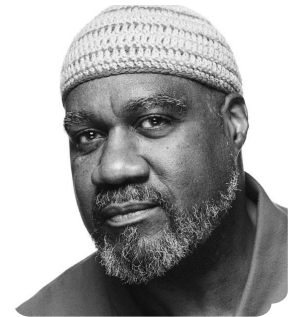
David Gilbert, January 2016
(David released 2021 after 38 years of imprisonment)



Furthermore, as a revolutionary Muslim (note: I oppose the indiscriminate killing by ISIS and Al-Qaeda, et al.), the foundation of our solidarity bridges ideological and national boundaries of our struggles. We are mutual allies. Therefore, it is only natural for me to express solidarity, as we forge our common humanity to oppose racist and colonial oppression wherever it may be found.

May Allah (SWT) grant you mercy and success from your tormentors, strengthening your resolve to build a future of peace and love for the next generations.

Mas Salaam - Revolutionary Love and Unity,
Jalil Abdul Muntaqim
(Jalil released in 2020, after 49 years of imprisonment)



To the Palestinian Independence Movement

From Jalil Abdul Muntaqim - BPP/BLA Political Prisoner

Solidarity in the Face of Adversity

March 2016

As Salaam Alaikum

It gives me great pleasure to be able to share a few words of solidarity based on our mutual struggle opposing racism and colonial oppression.

I have been in U.S. prisons for 44 years, one of the longest held political prisoners in the world, for activities and involvement in the former Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army. Since my imprisonment in 1971, I continue to be active in terms of educating prisoners, writing books, essays and articles, and finding innovative ways to contribute in exposing U.S. imperialism and its insidious support of Zionism. Naturally, I support the movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions challenging Israel's occupation of Palestine that should be equated as Apartheid.

I was captured at the age of 19 years old, an expectant father, and now a 64 year old great grandfather. I have been before the parole board 8 times, and each time denied release because of "the nature of the crime" – the death of two police officers, a situation that time will never alter. While I was sentenced to 25 years to Life in 1975, the continued denials are tantamount to life without parole. Obviously, the prison and parole system operates with impunity, and in violation of its own mandates. Hence, it is the political nature of the conviction that is the principal reason for these denials. I share these insights in my case in order to let you know my life struggle in many ways parallels the struggles of your own political prisoners.

Even though we have been in prison for over 37 years, we have never and will never give up the fight for freedom.

Our fight is your fight because we want all of life to be free from the restricting confines of this system that causes so much pain and suffering.

We feel the tide is turning in the right direction every time we see groups of people working together for the common good of all living beings.

The power is in the people and the people have to realize this and use this power to free life, protect life. Life is the force that keep us alive.

Stay strong and we're doing the same.

Ona Move

Janet, Janine and Debbie Africa - for all the MOVE 9
*(Debbie released in 2018, Janine & Janet released
in 2019 after 40 & 41 years of imprisonment)*



To Comrades, from a comrade...

Revolutionary Greetings,

My name is Robert Seth Hayes, a former member of the Black Panther Party (1969-1971) and a captured and convicted member of the Black Liberation Army (1971-1973). I reside and have spent the better part of 42 years incarcerated as a Political Prisoner, Prisoner of War.

The beat goes on as injustice prevails. Like you, I remain committed to the struggle – to introduce change that develops, prospers, and enhances – freedom, justice, universal love, unity, equality and liberation to all as we all strive for the future.

Sorry to appear as if I were making a speech. But I wanted to be clear.

One Love Revolutionaries.
Robert Seth Hayes

*(Robert released in 2018 after 45+ years of imprisonment.
He passed away in 2019.)*



“They cannot take away our self-respect if we do not give it to them.” - Gandhi

A brief statement of solidarity to our sisters and brothers in Palestine

There are many people worldwide who do not realize that, unlike Nelson Mandela, i spent more than 27 tortuous years on Indiana’s death row. Even though i am no longer laboring under a court judgment of death, i am indeed still fighting for my dignity and economic security.

Not once have i allowed my rights of actual freedom (free mind) and physical liberation slip away from my vision. i am not only focused on myself or my narrow personal goals, but also on the greater responsibility that essential knowledge gives me to make a qualitative difference in the lives of people.

Just war is permitted only for self-defense and defending basic human rights. By all accounts, i must continue striving full steam ahead for turning stumbling blocks into stepping stones.

i would like for you to continue advocating for me, as i am advocating for you – the Palestinian people.

Zolo Agona Azania
(Zolo released in 2018, after 35 years of imprisonment)

