

We must decolonize our minds

Rasha Khoury

The views expressed here are my own.

We must decolonize our minds and connect the struggles we face and bear witness to.

We are an organization /association that can handle complexity and think critically every day. We can engage in hearing, holding and bearing witness to multiple truths. We must speak out about the genocidal acts we are witnessing in Gaza and the West Bank, affecting our patients and staff.

There is no question that what Hamas did is an atrocity. And simultaneously Hamas is not Gaza, Hamas is not all Palestinians. There is a power imbalance, and Israel has (and has had since the inception of the state) more power over the people of Palestine than Palestinians have over their own lives.

The mainstream discourse around the unhinged bombardment and massacre of Palestinians in Gaza by Israeli forces for the last 33 days continues to affirm the colonizer's world view, one rooted in white supremacist logic.

White supremacist logic says the colonizer's life is sacred and that the death of indigenous people is acceptable and normal. That the colonizer has the right to security as they kill, harass, dehumanize, and steal from indigenous people. That state and settler violence (as MSF has been witness to in the West Bank for years) is always justified, even normal.

White supremacist logic justifies 75 years of this apartheid and occupation, which has culminated in the unimaginable horrors we are witnessing now. It says and that this is justified— that this is the normal state of affairs and expects colonized people to sit on their hands like “good” victims and die quietly, while the world watches. .

This white supremacist logic teaches us every day that the colonizer, the imperialist, the police, the settler are entitled to unilateral war. A war that they strive to normalize. A war where they kill us, beat us, torture us, jail us—out of sight and out of mind as they cut and control communication to the world— and then go home with impunity.

Liberation logic is the antithesis. Liberation logic tells us what we all know in our hearts to be true: that our lives, families, communities are precious and sacred. That our dignity is inviolable.

Liberation logic tells us that the land is not for destroying and exploiting—that the land is our home and deserves respect and care.

Liberation logic is about what people do every day to assert their humanity, affirm their dignity, and protect their families and communities. Liberation logic tells us solidarity is an act of love.

I grieve for all lives being extinguished— literally and figuratively due to white supremacist logic. The Unwavering US and international governmental support for Israel is unfathomable as Israel bombs hospitals, ambulances, schools, churches and mosques, densely populated neighborhoods and refugee camps, killing thousands of children; targeting health care workers, aid workers and the press; and cutting off everything needed to sustain human life.

Please connect the Palestinian struggle with the struggles for liberation you witness (or are part of) in your home societies and that we (MSF) witness around the world.

Bearing witness is the reason for our medical humanitarian existence.

Your voice and solidarity can save lives.