

From: 'RCW 42.56.230(3)' @seattleschools.org>
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Emails
Sent: Thur 10/19/2023 4:33:08 PM

Gentlemen,

I know that there are a lot of opinions going around, as well as pain, anger and frustration from both side of the current world situation. This is the reason that I keep my thoughts and opinions to myself or the trusted few. But in the recent week I feel that a lot of emails are flooding my inbox on All Staff that are really becoming harassing and frustrating. I am already dealing with a RCW 42.56.230(3) I respect and appreciate others opinions, whether I believe they are right or wrong or in between, but I do not think those discussion should be sent out for everyone, as it is a serious lack of understanding and respect for one side or the other. Yesterday I received another one of those emails that really hurt me to the core, especially when I believe it is not the truth and that is from my own experiences and education, and as I might be more biased to one side of this than other might be (Which we all are) this is making my work life more uncomfortable than my personal. I am going to copy and paste that email in this one. I could break apart this so called opinion from the person who sent this email, but that is neither here nor there and really has nothing to do with it, as the bottom line is this is beyond not appropriate for work. If these folks want to email back and forth through a group, they are welcomed to it, whether I agree or do not agree. But I cannot continue coming to work with this and the load it is placing on my already weighing anxiety. Too be honest, I would take time off if I could afford it, but at the moment RCW 42.56.230(3) Thank you very much to both of you, I appreciate everything.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: possibly helpful frameworks for thinking about the current Israeli-Hamas conflict

Just to speak a little in response to these articles, especially the one that mentions Decolonization. I got a lot to say about the violence and escalation but I'm just going to say this.

It's not a war, it's colonialism
It's not eviction, it's ethnic cleansing
It's not a conflict, it's an occupation
It's not complicated, it's genocide

This event is a litmus test in many ways for many different peoples and I just want to put my unequivocal support out there for the Palestinians because they are being made to audition for the world's compassion and empathy. If they are not fighting to survive on the ground, they are being cut off on news channels and social media platforms. They are being made to sing for the supper of airtime and fair coverage. They are begging reporters to do the most basic tasks of their job. Meanwhile pro-Israel sentiments are pouring out in mass from Western media channels while politicians and war hawks call for the eradication of Palestinian "animals." CNN invites Israeli soldiers who openly claim this is a war against Palestinian civilians. Joe Biden parroted sensationalist unconfirmed reports to the public that the White House and other outlets have had to walk back after the damage had been done.

This is an apartheid regime based on dispelling and eradicating the Palestinians who are resisting settler colonial encroachment. You can't say you value Indigenous Peoples Day and our resistance to settler colonialism while staying silent about the massacre of Palestinians that have been taking place for the last 80 years. These histories are connected, and decolonization isn't something that most journalists in the West are even prepared to speak on. I very much don't appreciate any article from Western media outlets telling me how I should think and morally respond to this occupation.

A little historical context:

In 1977 the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) upon achieving NGO status at the UN called for an end to the celebration of Columbus Day and declared instead the International Day of Solidarity and Mourning with Indigenous Peoples. The UN committee on racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, and colonialism passed a resolution with the support of many organizations such as the African National Congress and the Palestine Liberation Organization who recognized that the devastating legacies of European colonialism and African slavery had to addressed in the Americas.

In 1982 Spain and the Vatican proposed a 500 year commemoration of Columbus's voyage at the UN General Assembly. The entire African Delegation in solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of America walked out of the meeting in protest of celebrating colonialism, the very system the UN was supposed to end. The commemoration was crushed and the UN declared a Celebration of Worlds Indigenous Peoples Day and the decade for the worlds Indigenous Peoples which began in 1994. The second decade was declared In 2005.

Without this lateral solidarity Indigenous peoples would not have made such historic gains like the drafting of 2007 United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People, commonly known as UNDRIP. It should come as no surprise that Australia, US, Canada and New Zealand, all settler colonial regimes initially voted against UNDRIP, maintaining their decades long position of hostility towards Indigenous Rights at the United Nations. It should also be said Israel was absent. These nations eventually went on to reverse their decision citing the "nonbinding nature" of the Declaration itself.

So I think it's important to highlight the critical solidarity that Palestinian people within the UN system played in helping the IITC and Indigenous delegates to navigate the maze of UN human rights law, policy and procedures. Had it not been for the Palestinian advocacy of Indigenous Peoples at the UN we would not have Indigenous Peoples day.

Anyone that has any questions or wants to talk about what we can do as a school to take a stance can always come and chat with me, as well as anyone who would like to hear an Indigenous perspective on this.

For those of us in the Imperial belly of the beast we are always being asked to Boycott, Divest, and Sanction.

Boycott companies and brands that support Israeli Apartheid, Divest from Banks and companies that fund them, and Call for sanctions against the Israeli government until the bombing and shelling and occupation ends.

500+ Were killed just yesterday in a single airstrike on a Hospital, the largest mass killing of civilians since the Nakba. This is what's happening.

From the Land to the Sea Palestine will be Free.

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