Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope and Empowerment

Professor Mazin B. Qumsiyeh

Nuffield Lecture Theatre A, Building 6 (Nuffield Theatre), Room 1077, University of Southampton, Highfield Campus.

6.00 pm, Tuesday 1 March

The Western media paint Palestinian resistance against Israeli occupation as exclusively violent: armed resistance, suicide bombings, and rocket attacks. In reality these methods are the exception to what is a peaceful and creative resistance movement. In this fascinating book, Dr Mazin Qumsiyeh synthesises data from hundreds of original sources to provide the most comprehensive study of civil resistance in Palestine.

About the speaker
Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh teaches and does research at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities in occupied Palestine. He serves as chairman of the board of the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement Between People and coordinator of the Popular Committee Against the Wall and Israeli Settlements in Beit Sahour. Professor Qumsiyeh authored "Sharing the Land of Canaan: Human rights and the Israeli/Palestinian Struggle" (Pluto Press, 2004) and the newly published book “Popular Resistance in Palestine: A history of Hope and Empowerment” (Pluto 2011). He is one of those few Palestinian Americans who chose to return to his homeland in 2008 to continue non-violent resistance at grass roots level. In America, he served on the faculties of Yale and Duke Universities, and the University of Tennessee.

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Popular resistance in Palestine is a movement of direct action intended to accomplish what other similar movements have done before:
1. Pressuring opponents to understand the injustice that they engage in. 2. Weakening the grip of opponents on power. 3. Strengthening the community, including forms of empowerment and steadfastness (sumud in Arabic). 4. Bolstering the ability to withstand injustice and do something about it (a positive, can-do attitude is challenging with any other technique). 5. Building self-sufficiency and improving standards of living. 6. Achieving justice, including the right

The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) (Arabic: لجان المقاومة الشعبية‎, Lijān al-Muqāwama al-Shaʿbiyya) is a coalition of a number of armed Palestinian groups opposed to what they regard as the conciliatory approach of the Palestinian Authority and Fatah towards Israel. The PRC is especially active in the Gaza Strip, through its military wing, the Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades. The PRC has planned and executed a number of varied operations, but specializes in planting roadside bombs and vehicle Pithy and powerful, poetry is a popular art form at protests and rallies. From the civil rights and women’s liberation movements to Black Lives Matter, poetry is commanding enough to gather crowds in a city square and compact enough to demand attention on social media. Speaking truth to power remains a crucial role of the poet in the face of political and media rhetoric designed to obscure, manipulate, or worse. The selection of poems below call out and talk back to the inhumane forces that threaten from above. They expose grim truths, raise consciousness, and build united fronts. Some insist,