

It also did not mention the core demands of the Palestinian people and their representatives: the return of Palestinian refugees, the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and the release of Palestinian political prisoners. The final statement by the G8 ministers also failed to specify the terms on which the 'negotiations' would be based, saying only, 'The framework for these negotiations is well known.' [5]

Even the final statement of the 2011 summit was heavily influenced by the Israeli government and clearly had no input from the Palestinian people and their supporters. The G8's position toward the Palestinians reflects the G8 position toward the Arab Spring. As Tim Jones from The Guardian explains - "The G8 statement is littered with demands for Egypt and Tunisia to implement 'free market' economic policies. The G8 calls on these countries to 'reap the benefits of globalization' through 'integration'. It wants to see 'investment integration' by improving the 'business climate' (in other words, 'make it easier for our companies to make and take money out of your countries'). The G8 leaders say they will support countries in the region that move towards not just democracy but also a 'market economy'. [6] The G8 will support and invest in Palestine and other Arab countries as long as they move toward western-style democracy (as defined by the G8) and become markets for the G8's global corporations and the World Bank/IMF economic policies.

CALL TO ACTION

The decisions of these imperial powers and global institutions to intensify and normalize economic and political relations with Israel fly in the face of the demands of Palestinians and their supporters to internationally isolate Israel through boycott, divestment and sanctions in order to end the occupation; grant full equality to Palestinian-Arab citizens of Israel; and guarantee the Right of Return. Both NATO and the G8 are organizations that actively support and promote the occupation and Israeli apartheid. As supporters of the liberation of Palestine, we invite you to join us in our resistance to the Chicago NATO/G8 summits May 2012. Occupy the streets, not Palestine!

Join us in our resistance to the Chicago NATO/G8 summits May 2012. De-Occupy Palestine!

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[1] "Amnesty International's assessment of Israeli and Palestinian investigations into Gaza conflict." Amnesty International, September 27, 2010, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE15/02/2010/en/f47157be-801d-48a5-b671-f67153a7c1d6/mde150222010en.pdf>.

[2] Katz, Yaakov. "NATO chief comes to study IDF tactics." *Jerusalem Post*, November 20, 2009, http://fr.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JP_ost/JPArticle/ShowFull&cid=1258624597078.

[3] Lauder, Ronald. "Are the Palestinians Ready for their Own State." *Die Welt*, June 21, 2010, http://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/10353/opinion_ronald_s_lauder_it_is_too_early_for_a_palestinian_state

[4] "Abbas tells US lawmakers: NATO role in Palestinian state" *Ma'an News Agency*, August 12, 2011; <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=412599>

[5] Bannoura, Saed. "Israeli Pressure Leads To Zionist Support Statement By G8 Ministers" *Occupied Palestine*, May 29, 2011. <http://occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com/2011/05/29/israeli-pressure-leads-to-zionist-support-statement-by-g8-ministers/>

[6] Jones, Tim. "Is the G8 supporting or undermining the Arab spring?" *Guardian*, March 6, 2011, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/jun/03/g8-arab-spring>



PROTEST THE 2012 CHICAGO NATO/G8 SUMMITS

FREE PALESTINE, END THE OCCUPATION

The so-called "leaders" and bankers of the eight richest countries as well as the military heads of 28 members of NATO - dominated by the U.S. are meeting in Chicago on May 15-19, 2012 at the NATO/G8 Summits. Military leaders, strategists, and defense contractors who are key in promoting continued war and occupation among the developing countries of the world, especially in the Middle East round out this cast of oppressive world "leaders". The only group shut out of these meetings and their war and poverty agenda are ordinary people affected by their decisions. In response, communities across the world are uniting together to resist the NATO/G8 summits.

As representatives from Palestinian and Palestine solidarity groups, we will be joining this network of activists, community groups, and allies to protest the role of NATO and the G8 in maintaining the occupation of Palestine and supporting the apartheid policies of the state of Israel. While Israel ignores international law in its refusal to (1) end the occupation; (2) grant full equality to Palestinian-Arab citizens of Israel; and (3) guarantee the Right of Return, NATO and the G8 continue to support the Israeli state; actively fund these apartheid policies; and engages in joint military exercises and the sharing of intelligence with the state of Israel.