

WE CANNOT CELEBRATE

Around the world, plans are being made to mount major celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel. But this year also marks 60 years since 750,000 Palestinians were brutally expelled from their homeland in what they refer to as the Nakba or "catastrophe". Given this history, and the deepening conflict in the region today, we believe there is no grounds for celebration.

We cannot celebrate while Israel starves and bombs the people of Gaza.

We cannot celebrate while Israel extends its apartheid wall.

We cannot celebrate while Israel builds Jewish only settlements and roads on stolen Palestinian lands.

We cannot celebrate while Israel continues to violate United Nations Resolution 194, refusing to let Palestinians return to their homes.

We cannot celebrate while Israel continues to promote wars and expand its nuclear arsenal.

We cannot celebrate while the policies of Israel's leaders fuel a conflict in which innocent lives on both sides are lost.

We can and will continue our efforts to end these injustices, upholding international law, human rights and United Nations resolutions. This is the only road map to peace.



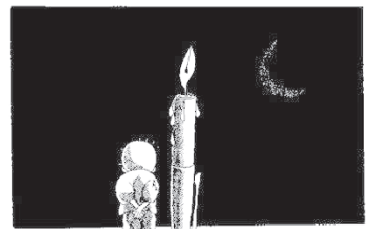
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