



Mozhgan Savabieasfahani (front) and Blaine Coleman hold up signs in support of divestment during a University of Michigan Student Government meeting on November 14, 2017.

HUNTER DYKE/ANN ARBOR NEWS



You cannot have parts of this land ruled by apartheid. It has to be clear of apartheid. It will be one system, where everybody has the right to vote and their vote has the same value. The whole system of apartheid, which is extremely violent in Israel and is doing all of this, has to be dismantled, and it is dismantling itself. We don't have to do much except boycott them and keep fighting back.

**You don't seem to believe in the two-state solution.**

**Coleman:** No, there is no way. There has never been a two-state solution. There has always been one state until now. It has been this basically white supremacist dictatorship, which we call Israel. That's the one state. Gaza has been surrounded by air, land, and sea by Israel.

So, what all the students are demanding in the United States and Palestine around the world is one state, in which is where apartheid is dead and gone and buried and never coming back. That's what happened in apartheid South Africa; for sure, that's what's going to happen in Israel. Again, they are talking about the apartheid state, not the people. All of this mass killing and holocaust that Israel is committing is only hastening the day that the apartheid state of Israel is gone. Moshgan and I remember that the apartheid state of South Africa, to the end, had tanks, atomic bombs, and jet bombers. How come they're gone? Because you can't eat your tanks. You can't eat your jet bombers. You can't eat your atomic bombs. So, politically and economically and diplomatically, apartheid South Africa was isolated. Now, that apartheid state is dead. The same thing is starting to happen in front of our eyes to Israel. All we have to do is march with those students and demand no more aid or trade to Israel until that apartheid state is totally gone.

You might not remember this, but the white supremacist in South Africa, said at the very end, "Okay, okay, but can we just have one little white state inside South Africa to preserve our cultural heritage?" And Mandela said, "No, there's not going to be a white state. It's going to be one state where everybody's equal." What if Mandela had said, "Okay, you can have a little white state"? They would have white jet bombers and white tanks and white atomic bombs. They would have continued bombing all over Africa. In Israel, if you have even one small apartheid state left, they will use it to bomb and kill the Arab world and Iran if they can. So, you can't have an apartheid state in this world. That's why there are no more apartheid states.

**Savabieasfahani:** You cannot have parts of this land ruled by apartheid. It has to be clear of apartheid. It will be one system, where everybody has the right to vote and their vote has the same value. The whole system of apartheid, which is extremely violent in Israel and is doing all of this, has to be dismantled, and it is dismantling itself. We don't have to do much except boycott them and keep fighting back. They're going to go. They're going.

**Coleman:** You keep thinking of this all-powerful Israel. That all-powerful Israel is dying right in front of your eyes. It's committing suicide right in front of your eyes.

**Now, South Africa is leading the charge against Israel in international courts. Why was South Africa the first country to step forward and challenge Israel in courtrooms?**

**Coleman:** You can find a whole series of articles by a journalist named Chris McGreal in The Guardian, where he documented the tight, close relationship between apartheid Israel and apartheid South Africa. Apartheid Israel was trying to give atomic bombs to apartheid



Mozhgan Savabieasfahani (2nd-R) and Blaine Coleman (2nd-L) chat with fellow pro-Palestinian activists in the hallway outside an Ann Arbor City Council meeting at city hall on April 15, 2024.

MLIVE

South Africa. That's how close they were. So, to lose apartheid South Africa was a huge blow for Israel. Now, Israel is the last apartheid state. And the people of South Africa are doing what they can to get rid of that last apartheid state.

**Savabieasfahani:** I do hope that Netanyahu, Ben-Gvir, and Smotrich get arrested by the ICC. I have to believe that humanity is better than to just let these guys go. I hope that they will be put away. Hang them if you can, but I don't think you can hang them.

**We're hearing that some Latin American nations are cutting political ties with Israel. The most recent one was Columbia. In the early days of the war, we heard that some other Latin American nations suspended ties with Israel and withdrew their ambassadors from Israel. Meanwhile, you're hearing that major Muslim nations might be establishing ties with Israel. How can this be?**

**Coleman:** Whenever I would hear someone refer to all the regional Arab countries as Arab regimes, I would jump to correct them. Some of them are dictatorships that were established through coups orchestrated by England or America. Those guys turned in their Arab cards a long time ago.

**Savabieasfahani:** They are oppressors of the people who live there. They have no empathy for any Arabs. So, what you said is nothing surprising to me because if you are installed by the US and England to oppress your people, then obviously you have no empathy for Arabs, even if you were a Muslim Arab.

**Coleman:** There's a book, titled 'The Israeli Connection: Whom Israel Arms and Why,' by an Israeli sociologist named Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi. In this 1987 book, you will see a whole history of Israel heavily arming Latin American dictatorships — especially Guatemala but also El Salvador and Nicaragua, all through Latin America, and all three large parts of the world. So, when you see Colombia going against Israel, or you see, let's say, people in Chile or Argentina going against Israel, you have to take into consideration that they remember when Israel had a major role in imposing dictatorships on them.

**Savabieasfahani:** People ask, "Why aren't Arab countries empathizing with Palestine and cutting off this and that? Why aren't they doing stuff to liberate Palestinians?" The answer is that the governments of those Arab countries that the world is thinking about are handpicked oppressors of their own people. Those governments don't represent the people of those countries. So, it's obvious that all of what's happening is activating the populations in those countries. Their government is not actually picked by the nation. They are either handpicked or have risen to power through coups and oppressing the nation. They're all puppets. They are hand in glove with Israel because they use the technology that Israel creates to oppress their own people.

**Coleman:** you've seen the demonstrations in Jordan against Israel. You've seen the demonstrations in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and all these places against Israel. These rulers that were imposed by the United States and Israel have nothing in common with the population.

**In the wake of Iran's strike against Israel, the only Arab nation that voiced support for Iran was Algeria. Its president thanked Iran for the move.**

**Savabieasfahani:** If the people have a little bit more say in a government, then their government will do that. But if people have nothing to do with their government, you will get

something akin to what's going on in Jordan. There are thousands of people coming out every night in front of the Israeli embassy, just screaming for change. Has anything along those lines happened in the government of Jordan? No, the governor of Jordan is an Israeli sympathizer. It's important to make sure your readers make that distinction.

**Coleman:** If you look at the history of Iran, this anti-imperialism goes back a long, long way — way before the current government. This is an Iranian tradition. When Mossaddeq and Fatemi visited Egypt in 1951 — before Nasser took over Egypt — there were massive demonstrations on the streets of Cairo, welcoming Mossaddeq and welcoming Fatemi. So, this tradition of anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism all through the region, including in Iran and Egypt, goes back at least to the beginning of the 1950s. There was no stupid sectarian talk about Arabs versus the Iranians then. They loved Mossaddeq. This is a poisonous thing to try and put Arabs and Iranians against each other.

**Savabieasfahani:** I think the US and Israel have done massive amounts of propaganda to do this, to muddy the solidarity between Arabs and Iranians. I say we should stand in solidarity with all Arab nations in the Middle East right now.

**Coleman:** It's a poisonous thing that some ask Iran to stop arming the Lebanese and the Palestinians in their fight against apartheid Israel and keep the money to itself because it turns Iranians against Arabs.

**Savabieasfahani:** Iranians, more than others, should support these liberation movements because they are fighting your fight because they are going to put their children and their young out to fight so that Israel does not reach you. Anyone who can't see that is not in tune with the political reality.