

Third-party candidate for US president Jill Stein: 'Zionism system of ethnic cleansing by design'



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INTERVIEW

Every four years, politicians and lobbyists urge citizens of the United States to participate in the "most important elections" in the history of the country. Whereas 2024 is no different in that regard, there is in fact a now-or-never sense of urgency looming over the current race to the White House.

On the other side of the world, far removed from the average American's direct line of sight, Palestine and Lebanon remain in a state of bloody unrest at the hands of the Israeli cabinet.

What's unique about this ordeal is that social media users and independent media outlets based in the region have been broadcasting the war crimes taking place there

on a day-to-day basis, leaving no doubts about the callousness of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership. For that reason, Netanyahu's assaults on the surrounding civilian population are crucial to the upcoming elections since the violence in question has always been funded by US taxpayer dollars.

Privy to this pressing threat of war and its broader implications, Dr. Jill Stein has once again stepped up as the presidential candidate for the Green Party in an attempt to put an end to the vicious crusade the Democrats and Republicans are set to persist in. Her unabated denunciation of the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris administration illustrates that not all Jewish people are Zionists and not all Zionists are Jewish — accordingly, Palestinian liberation is at the center of her campaign for People, Planet, and Peace.



The fact that you're Jewish and your running mate is Muslim adds a great deal of credibility to your advocacy for Palestinian liberation. What can you tell us about the Jewish solidarity with Gaza that you've witnessed on the campaign trail?

From the very start, you had Jewish Voice For Peace out there with the students at the campus protests. At Columbia University, there was a huge community Seder for Passover at the Gaza solidarity encampment. It's wonderful to see that the opponents of genocide and advocates for Palestinian human rights are basically advocates for humanity, and they've made it clear that this is not a religious conflict. Jews and Muslims and Christians and atheists and humanists are all together in this shared cause for

humanity. So, the notion that it's antisemitic to oppose genocide, in my view, is the most antisemitic thing one could possibly say.

The issue has never been a conflict of religions; the issue is a matter of Zionism, which is a political ideology basically dedicated to moving people off their land and claiming it. From the get-go, it's been about ethnic cleansing and massacres that were being conducted against the Palestinian people before the State of Israel was even founded. The world has come to a consensus about how to solve that problem, including the rulings of the International Court of Justice, the United Nations Security Council, etc. People are really quite unified in understanding what needs to be done — we need compliance with international law and human rights, and we need to

end not only the genocide but also the occupation as well as the apartheid nature of the Israeli Zionist state.

You were born not long after the Nazi Holocaust. So, you remember a world in which Israel existed for decades before Hamas did. How central is Hamas truly to the turmoil in Palestine today?

Not at all. Hamas is just the latest form of resistance. Occupation is not some innocent incidental; it is about abuse and displacement. It is a murderous and vicious way of life. So, occupation will generate a pushback, like the institution of slavery did. That's just reality — people may not like that, but if you don't like that, then you have to fix the underlying cause of it. The Palestinian Liberation Organization were considered

the "terrorists" before Hamas, but this is all essentially a resistance to occupation and ethnic cleansing.

Christians, Jews, and Muslims lived together peacefully in historic Palestine for millennia. The problem did not arise until Zionists came from Europe and basically began to displace Palestinians. According to the historic archives of the Zionist state, the propaganda surrounding Israel was not true. Israeli historians led the way in surfacing this material and the fact that Zionism was a system of displacement and ethnic cleansing by design. That is the problem. Whether it's Hamas or some other group, there will be resistance to occupation and ethnic cleansing. So, let's get rid of that resistance by getting rid of the fundamental violation of human rights generating that self-defense.

There seems to be a tug of war over progressive values based on what Israel represents to different groups. How do you respond to people who claim that uncompromising support for Palestinian liberation is tantamount to excusing sexual assault and the oppression of women?

Oh, well that's been debunked a long time ago. There's absolutely no evidence that has held up (proving) that the October 7 attacks involved the systematic abuse of women or rape — that didn't hold up any more than beheaded babies or women having their breasts cut off or the fetuses sliced open from the abdomen of pregnant women. That basically did not hold up, whatsoever. You know, the abuse of women is totally out of control now, where women are being slaughtered along with children by the



Green Party candidate Jill Stein speaks about the ongoing genocide in Gaza, on the Allen County Courthouse Green on June 10, 2024, while wearing a Palestinian keffiyeh and standing in front of a Palestinian flag.
● ELLA ABBOTT/WBOI NEWS



"Three sets of American laws are being violated by delivering aid to Israel. It is illegal to send aid to any country that is violating human rights, interfering with the delivery of humanitarian aid, and not complying with the nuclear weapons treaties — Israel is in violation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. On all three counts, providing military aid to Israel is illegal." — Jill Stein

thousands in Gaza. That's where women are actually really being abused and destroyed. So, I don't think this is about trying to single out the violence of October 7. Really, (the region) is so overwhelmed by this unending violence that has happened since October 7 and before October 7. I think trying to narrowly focus on October 7 is just misguided, and people who do that have their eyes closed to the much larger situation. You should not miss the forest for the trees here.

We can absolutely solve this problem of violence. So, let's get focused on that — how we stop the violence and how we prevent the recurrent episodes of violence here by basically putting an end to the systematic abuse of human rights and the massacres of women and children and innocent civilians, and displacement and ethnic cleansing as a way of life. That's what has to happen. We need compliance with international law and human rights, and when we do that, the other problems will go away.

You've previously said that the United States can end Israel's ongoing onslaughts in the blink of an eye. How do you pull the plug on an active operation that so many politicians helped enable?

The fortunate thing is that the American people oppose this in huge numbers. That this genocide is being conducted by our colonial misleaders against the will and intentions of the American people is a violation of basic democratic principles. Three sets of American laws are being violated by delivering aid to Israel. It is illegal to send aid to any country that is violating human rights, interfering with the delivery of humanitarian aid, and not



Jill Stein talks with demonstrators during a protest in support of Palestinians in Gaza, on the sidelines of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, Illinois, on August 21, 2024.
● REUTERS