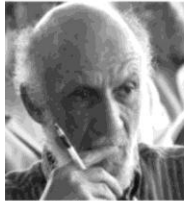




Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh



Gilad Atzmon



Dr. Richard Falk



Dr. Virginia Tilley

The ODS
DALLAS
Conference
REPORT



October 23 - 24, 2010 - Dallas, Texas

The Dallas Conference Report of the Movement for One Democratic State in Palestine (ODS)

The Inaugural Conference of the Movement for One Democratic State in Palestine was held on October 23-24, 2010 in Dallas, Texas.

This Conference had 3 main objectives to accomplish for the Movement for One Democratic State in Palestine and they were:

1. Affirming the ODS Declaration
2. Structuring and launching the ODS Movement
3. Adopting an Action Plan

This Conference was organized by the Dallas supporters of ODS and the Student supporters of ODS in Arlington, Texas. Many activists from Texas, other parts of the USA and abroad attended this historic conference. Akram El Kurd, Aceil Rashid, Ghadir Qaddura, and Samir Abed-Rabbo served as the interim Conference Secretariat.

Welcoming Remarks by Hassan Hallaby:

“This Conference aims to build on the accomplishments of Madrid, London, Haifa and Boston on the question of ODS”

The Conference was brought to order by Hassan Hallaby, a leading member of the Dallas ODS supporters, who welcomed the participants to the Conference and to Dallas and thanked them for accepting the invitation to attend this historic conference. Regarding the purpose of the Conference, Mr. Hallaby said:

Many conferences have convened in various cities (Madrid, London, Haifa and Boston) on the question of One Democratic State in Palestine. All of them have produced superb documents. But none have done what we will do. This Conference aims to build on the accomplishments of all of them by launching a mass movement for the creation of One Democratic State in Palestine.

Reem Abuhandra, ODS students' organizer:

“We intend to debate and adopt basic steps that will help us move the ODS Movement forward.”

Mr. Hallaby introduced Ms. Reem Abuhandra, one of the key organizers of ODS Student supporters. Ms. Abuhandara echoed the remarks of Mr. Hallaby in saying:

... this conference is a continuation of the various conferences that took place in Madrid, London, Haifa and Boston and Haifa again. Documents have been adopted by these conferences which we intend to post or publish links for on our website. The Dallas conference is meant to be different in one aspect: in addition to the Declaration, the most comprehensive document on the subject of ODS, we intend to debate and adopt basic steps that will help us move the ODS Movement forward. For this reason we planned for an activist convention that will build a movement from the work done by the earlier ones. Ms. Abuhandara ended her remarks by introducing Mr. Samir Abed-Rabbo, as the facilitator for the 2 Days Conference .

In his remarks to the Conference, Dr. Abed-Rabbo listed the objectives of the ODS Conference, outlined its basic rules for debate, and formally convened the conference.

National and International Messages to the conference

The conference started with the messages from prominent scholars, activists and artists such as Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh, Gilad Atzmon, Dr. Richard Falk and Dr. Virginia Tilley. Each presentation was followed by a robust discussion and debate among participants in the conference.

Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh:

“The ability to stay on our land is, in the end [going to be] a critical factor for the Zionist project in Palestine.”

The first message to the Conference came from Palestine by Dr. Mazin Qumsiyeh. Dr. Qumsiyeh greeted the Conference and informed them that “The best decision of my life so far has been to return to Palestine.” He continued saying that “The ability to stay on our land despite all odds, is really what is going to be, in the end, a critical factor for the Zionist project in Palestine.” Dr. Qumsiyeh cautioned the conference not to be bogged down and involved with “rhetoric” and to adopt “practical actions”. He concluded by stating “Keep the hope alive. Most importantly keep working.” The complete message is available at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKCmF87OG_o

Gilad Atzmon:

Creating One Democratic State in Palestine is “an inevitable concept”

The second presentation was by Gilad Atzmon, an Israeli Jazz player who lives in the UK. Mr. Atzmon in addressing the Conference stated “The issue here is very simple: Palestine and Israel are one state. It is a state that has same borders, one electrical grid, and one sewage system. One state that is dominated by an Apartheid and supremacist ideology, a racist ideology named Zionism.” Mr. Atzmon called the idea of two separate states “defunct” and called for a unitary state that will regard human and civil rights as precious. He called the idea of creating a One Democratic State between the

Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan “an inevitable concept” that its time has come “It is not an if but when.”

The complete message is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVWzG4ti5ks>

***A Report on the “Second Haifa Conference” by Dr. Justine McCabe (Green Party of the U.S.):
“The ODS group did affirm Haifa as the home for this movement.”***

Dr. Justine McCabe reported on the “Second Haifa Conference for the Return of Palestinian Refugees and Democratic Secular State in Historic Palestine,” held May 28-30, 2010, saying that it was a very “invigorating conference,” particularly because it was held in historic Palestine. Three to four hundred people attended, of whom approximately 75-100 were Jewish-Israelis, 100-150 Palestinian-Israelis or diaspora Palestinians, the remaining internationals from the US and Europe. Speakers included Dr. Ilan Pappé, Dr. Ghada Karmi, and Haidar Eid (speaking from Gaza). There were nine workshops, three of which were intended for activists to build the global campaign for the return of refugees and one democratic secular state though these were actually theoretically based. During one workshop, there was some consensus to hold an international conference other than in Israel/Palestine in the coming year (e.g., Istanbul) so that Arabs from other countries could attend. An informal meeting was held the afternoon of the conference's last day to focus on specific actions for building the coalition. However, most of the time was devoted to discussing whether to include “secular” in the movement's title. Many felt that this inclusion might be misconstrued by Muslims as impinging on their rights to practice their religion or even that they would have a particular (i.e., Western) lifestyle forced on them; and that “democratic” was sufficient to insure equality before the law and separation of religion and state in the proposed one state. Others felt that including “secular” was necessary to insure separation of religion and state. The discussion ended inconclusively and with much frustration. However, the ODS group did affirm Haifa as the home for this movement. In sum, this conference underscored the continuing need to create an action plan to form ODS in Palestine.

Dr. Yael Korin:

**“The Boston Conference discussed many topics...
however it was academic in nature...”**

Dr. Yael Korin was asked to share her assessment of the Boston Conference. She stated that valuable presentations were made by competent scholars at the Conference and many topics were discussed and covered, however the Conference was academic in nature and did not move to set up a movement for ODS.

The Conference adjourned for lunch at 12:00 to 1:00 PM

Paul Hershfield:

“The internationally accepted definition of Apartheid applies to Israel”

Paul Hershfield, made a presentation to the Conference entitled “Is Israel an Apartheid State.” Noting

that “it's not a question if Israel is the same as South Africa, but if Israel's actions meet the internationally accepted definition of apartheid.” He proceeded to show how certain documented Israeli practices and laws meet that definition. Mr. Hershfield stated that “Political Zionism” is a colonial-settler movement pre-dating the Nazi holocaust that calls for the Judaization of Palestine. He explained how, through the enactment of several laws, that although Palestinian citizens are 22 per-cent of the population, they only have jurisdiction over 2.5 per-cent of the total land of the State. He concluded by stating that the choice is between continued ethnic cleansing and ODS.

Lenni Brenner:

“Historically, the Jewish toilers never had any interest in Zionism and creating a utopian Hebrew-speaking State in Palestine”.

Lenni Brenner outlined the roots of Zionism and the historical formation of the Jewish community into merchants and those who worked for them. He described how the Jews had evolved into an international merchant community, similar to Lebanon's Phoenicians, during biblical times, starting with the Babylonian captivity, and then continued as such during the Roman Empire. Mr. Brenner said “As merchants, they were in Rome's German territories even before the German tribes arrived.”

Mr. Brenner continued “The anti-Islam Crusades triggered off attacks on Jews by Crusaders, and many fled to Poland, where they continued in their merchant capacity. The beginnings of modern industry in Eastern Europe led to the rise of economic anti-Semitism as native capitalists sought to take the place of the Jewish merchants. Many of the Yiddish-speaking Jews who worked for the merchants either fought, as socialists, for their rights in the land of their birth, or emigrated to the U.S. and other countries where they obtained citizen rights. They had no interest in Zionism. On the other hand, the Zionist movement was based on the sons of the merchants. Their families could afford to send them to Yeshivas, where they learned biblical Hebrew. Emigrating to Palestine and creating a utopian Hebrew-speaking state had a unique appeal to this stratum of the Jewish community, while workers migrated to the U.S.”

Mr. Brenner concluded “Whatever their subjective ideology, in fact they were escaping from the fire of anti-Semitism by climbing into the frying pan of settler colonialism. Now many young Israelis migrate to the U.S. to escape from the fire of Zionism, with its endless military service. The new ODS can recruit many from these youths, who the new organization must see as a prime audience for its peaceful egalitarian message.”

***During Q & A period, the definitions of Zionism, racism and apartheid were discussed:
“Israel was South Africa Apartheid's absolute ally”***

The presenters engaged and responded to the questions of the participants which dealt with Zionism, similarities between Israel and South Africa, Israel's practices, definition of racism, the Haifa Conference, and many areas of concern. Also acknowledging and alignment with the existing movements such as “Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS)” was another main topic that was repeatedly mentioned and discussed by the participants.

The Conference then turned its attention to presentations by Dr. Richard Falk and Dr. Virginia Tilley.

Dr. Richard Falk:

“I am very much attached to this vision of a single state in historic Palestine that brings peace and justice to both peoples.”

Dr. Richard Falk stated that “I have been a strong admirer of the Declaration that I think morally, legally, and politically responds in an inspiring and convincing way to the terrible ordeal that continues to confront the Palestinian people and that has been misleadingly diverted by this charade of international negotiations between representatives of the State of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the mediation of the United States Government. This is a charade in two different ways. One is that it creates a cruel deception that somehow or other there is a sincere search for a just settlement of the conflict. And secondly, it creates the view that the contours of a just settlement involve the establishment of two separate states in the historic Palestine Mandate. That deception is very misleading at this stage; given the encroachment on post 67 occupied Palestine by way of the settlements, by the construction of the security wall, and by a series of house demolitions, imposed residence requirements. All sorts of deliberate undertakings by Israel, to make a viable Palestinian distinct state a political impossibility. And yet at the same time Israel, with U.S. backing pretends that a solution would involve two separate political entities. My judgment, coinciding with the orientation and the various assertions of the Declaration, is that the genuine search for a just peace at this stage depends on building a strong political and moral consensus in favor of a one state solution; the state being of secular character, equal to all people living within its borders, comprising the whole of the territory that was constituted by historic Palestine, and bringing human rights, and democracy, and dignity to both of these embattled peoples. It is a difficult political path to move from the existing state of affairs in the direction of the Declaration and the idea of a one state solution. It is in contradiction to the Zionist project of establishing a Jewish state, a project that has been intensified by the right wing drift of Israeli politics that now goes to the extreme by enacting a law that requires non-Jewish applicants for Israeli citizenship to proclaim their loyalty to a Jewish State. Such a ethnocentric state is inconsistent with human rights, and consigns the 1.4 million Palestinians living in Israel as Israeli citizens to a permanent condition of second class and humiliating citizenship.” Dr. Falk continued “So that in terms, practical terms of solving the conflict of overcoming discrimination against Palestinians, of providing an equal kind of access for the Palestinian and Jewish Diaspora, there is a very powerful case, practical case, for a one state solution.” Dr. Falk concluded by stating “But I know that the organizing efforts of the conveners will produce a meaningful initiation of this important campaign and will bring about a change in the dominant dialogue which up to this point has not given the attention that is needed to a one state solution. And should we mention just in concluding my remarks that it is more than just a practical matter of adapting to the realities of the current situation on the ground in Israel and Palestine, it is also a matter of fulfilling a conception of how people should live together well. The notion of separating people by their ethnic and religious identities is a very regressive idea and so I am very much attached to this vision of a single state in historic Palestine that brings peace and justice to both peoples.”

The complete message is available at:

Part One:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfYrXty1Ft0>

Part Two:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3v0_a04xWgQ&feature=related

Dr. Virginia Tilley:

“This historic meeting ... is representing the hopes and dreams of faiths of many people ... we are going to make a democratic state in one country, beautiful country of Palestine.”

Dr. Virginia Tilley began her presentation by stating “There's a great deal to talk about, a great deal to work through. But I think it is a turning point, that you are meeting in Texas at this point in time knowing what you know and having signed the Declaration and getting ready to go forward and build a movement that will transform this entire conflict out of recognition, I'm convinced, within a very few years. This meeting is convened in Texas but it stands for people around the world, I'm sure. It certainly is representing the hopes and dreams of faiths of many people.” Dr. Tilley explored the viability of the two-state solution “I think the two- state solution has been over forever, I mean, since 1967. I think in hindsight we can see that, it's certainly been over since the mid 90's when the whole Oslo process was revealed to be what it we now know what it was, which was a big fraud.” She described the Oslo Accords as a deliberate Israeli attempt to abort Palestinian resolves “Oslo was a way to suppress the first Intifada, first of all, it was a way to enlist the PLO in Israel's own project to reclaim control over the Palestinian people.” She described “... Arafat, who was a genuine nationalist, but the people around him were, some of whom were just business people, were convinced to come back into the territories and take the reigns of governance because the PLO was at that time losing those reigns, and to work with Israel to regain control over everything, and the deal was that Israel would help the PLO do that and the PLO would give Israel security in return. That's exactly what happened.” Dr. Tilley went further to state “that the Oslo Accords “Give the Palestinian leadership some offices, some protection, some salaries, some power ... that leadership then became co-opted into the process. I think now we know that what was being created is a Bantustan and not just in the sense that is often used meaning little enclaves, but a government that has no power, and that government is supposed to take form in the West Bank and Gaza to control Palestinians within these enclaves and give them some fiction that is called a state.” this movement, for One Democratic State and this conference in Texas right now is your way, our way, of standing up and saying “that's not going to happen, that Bantustan future, all of that human suffering is not going to happen.” Confirming the belief of the Conference participants, Dr. Tilley stated “We're going to reject that now, for what it is, which is a plot to deprive the Palestinian people of their rights and we're going to insist on the reunification of the land the way it should have been from all of the last century, it should have been one country, and we are going to make a democratic state in one country, beautiful country of Palestine.” She exhorted the conference to stay focused on the ideals and objectives of the Movement and warned against being distracted “Whatever it's called. And don't, please, let this conference fall apart over what it's called. That is a tough one but it's got to happen later. Right now, I think, if I could share with you some ideas, I think, the purpose of this conference is two things: I think the Declaration is the most comprehensive document we've ever seen on this vision of one state. It is based on international human rights. It is based on the equality of everyone in dignity and rights and it takes all of its principles and its direction from those universal values, so, this universalism that's expressed through the declaration, I think, is its greatest strength ... Diversity is the strength of your movement, the movement for one Democratic State in Palestine. It's diverse. There are people at all levels of society and all centers of society. There's grassroots activists, doctors, professors, journalists, artists, socialists, capitalists, and people coming from all walks of life see that the only just and fair solution, the only stable solution for this conflict ... So here we're talking about One State in After the presentations a lengthy and moving discussion on the key issues from

Dr. Falk and Dr. Tilley's messages was ensued. The energetic discussion brought the participant close together that the strength of the ODS movement is in its diversity. Also all concluded that the universality character of the ODS makes the movement more attractive to all democratic minded people around the world. The ODS movement is an anti-apartheid movement that exposes the undemocratic nature of the state of Israel.

The complete message in 3 parts are available at:

Part One:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koaQDF8rECw>

Part Two:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ih88Vajdyzs>

Part Three:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MV8_bd5NBQg

Discussion and Action on the Declaration of the Movement for One Democratic State in Palestine

The floor was opened for discussion on the Declaration. After a lengthy debate, the facilitator took motions from the floor. The following decisions were adopted:

1. The Declaration of the Movement for One Democratic state in Palestine was adopted unanimously.
 2. The suggestion was made to form a panel composed equally of Israeli Jews and Palestinians to draft a constitution for a ODS.
 3. Decision to develop Notes on the Declaration regarding the stewardship and reclamation of the land and sustainable use of the resources and civil liberties, education, and human rights protections.
 4. Decision to submit Notes on the Declaration to the committee for review and consideration. The committee will consider publishing additional notes on the declaration clarifying these concerns.
- After adopting the four points, everyone was invited to the dining hall and participants continued their conversations over dinner. After dinner, all participants briefly gave a short history about themselves, the mission and function of their respected organizations. The diversity and harmony among the participants and their enthusiasm in building a strong ODS movement was an indication of a successful conference.

DAY TWO

Dr. Ilan Pappé at the Haiffa conference (May 25th, 2010):

“One Democratic State would be the end of Zionism, the apartheid state.”

After the Conference came to order, Dr. Yael Korin introduced and commented on a video interview with Dr. Ilan Pappé on ODS. A discussion on the subject of the interview ensued. The interview was conducted with Dr. Pappé in May 2010 at the Haifa Conference in which he gave his views on ODS.

The complete interview is available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocawDqO53Nk>

STRUCTURE & LAUNCHING THE MOVEMENT

The Facilitator, with the consent of the participants, began the discussion on the Proposed Structure of the Movement for One Democratic State in Palestine. This presentation and discussion consumed the entire morning session.

The Group discussed and unanimously voted to keep the word “Movement” in the name. The Group discussed and voted by a large margin to retain the name of “Movement for One Democratic State in Palestine.” The other proposals being:

- Movement for ODS in land of Palestine
- Movement for ODS in holy land
- Movement for ODS in Palestine/Israel

Then the participants discussed, debated and introduced amendments to the proposed structure. After each step, the Facilitator asked for and received unanimous consent. After the document was discussed, debated and amended, the entire document with the incorporated changes was put to a vote and approved by unanimous consent. The Document was adopted as amended.

At this time, the Conference adjourned for the Lunch.

PLAN OF ACTION:

The afternoon was devoted to discussing and debating the ODS Plan of Action. The Facilitator introduced the Proposed Plan of Action; debate and amendments ensued. Each slide was discussed, debated and voted on. After the presentation the entire Document, with the approved changes, was put to a vote. The Document was adopted by unanimous consent. Then the Conference was divided into two committees to discuss:

- 1. Media**
- 2. Outreach and Education**

After the committees met separately to discuss the above tasks, the Conference came together as a whole to discuss and vote on the committee recommendations. The recommendations were adopted.

BRAINSTORMING IDEAS:

- Strong multilingual website
- Social media (Consistent updating)
- Shift discussions to One State within existing organizations
- Official announcement & Press Release
- Distribute press release locally to affiliated groups and solicit their participation.
- Representatives and speakers to other Palestinian events and programs
- Local education and outreach of ODS.
- Creating educational flyers and materials (Social Media)
- Organize working groups from within conference
- Establishing means for funds (Continuous)

- Develop public service announcements on satellite radio on free speech.
- Organize debates for those who oppose the ODS movement, including Palestinian political parties.
- Targeting campus leaders, and lobby important leaders and VIP's.
- Touch base and cooperate with other ODS organizations and chapters as a continuation of their efforts.
- Align ourselves with NGO's and organizations in Israel to sign on with ODS.
- Contact large international human rights organizations.
- 2 mailing lists: un-moderated discussion list (for members) the other low volume high distribution list for public.
- Major Press Conference.
- Informational promo film.
- Strategy for dealing with hostile encounters and challenge counter points (Committees)
- Calendar of events (Public)
- Deadlines and calendar of action (internal).
- Contacting major sponsors. Lists of endorsements. For contact and outreach.
- Endorsements and testimonials (Continuous)
- Unconventional publicity. Campaign/ working group.
- Organizing cultural events around ODS.
- List of entertainers who have boycotted performing in Israel (Pixies, etc.) Get celebrities benefit concerts to endorse ODS.
- Organizing an ODS convoy to Gaza.

Immediate action (11 items):

MEDIA:

- Major Press Conference.
- Strong multilingual website (Media).
- Social media (Consistent updating).
- Official announcement & Press Release.
- Distribute press release locally to affiliated groups and solicit their participation.
- Creating educational flyers and materials (Social Media).
- Unconventional publicity. Campaign/ working group.

Media Committee:

17 participants volunteered for this committee.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

- Touch base and cooperate with other ODS. organizations and chapters as a continuation of their efforts.
- Shift discussions to One State within existing organizations.
- Align ourselves with NGO's and organizations in Israel to sign on with ODS.
- Strategy for dealing with hostile encounters and challenge counter points (Committees).

Outreach and education Committee:

12 participants volunteered for this Committee.

Long Term:**Media (12 items):**

- Develop public service announcements on satellite radio on free speech.
- Informational promo film.
- Calendar of events (Public).

Outreach and education:

- Representatives and speakers to other Palestinian events and programs.
- Local education and outreach of ODS.
- Organize debates for those who oppose the ODS movement, including Palestinian political parties.
- Targeting campus leaders, and lobby important leaders and VIP's.
- Contact large international human rights organizations.
- Contacting major sponsors. Lists of endorsements. For contact and outreach.
- Organizing cultural events around ODS.
- List of entertainers who have boycotted performing in Israel (Pixies, etc.) Get celebrities benefit concerts to endorse ODS.
- Organizing an ODS convoy to Gaza.

Continuous:

- Establishing means for funds.
- Endorsements and testimonials.

In house Organizational:

The Committees organized into sub-committees and agreed on deadlines for implementations.

The Conference adjourned at 6:00 PM.