

A review of posters, signs and graffiti around Seattle since October 7th

By Eric Gordon, *Seattle Workers' Voice*

Since the early days after the October 7th Hamas attack on Israeli civilians, which sparked an over-the-top retaliation from Israel, the masses around the world have poured out their solidarity for the Palestinian people. This has appeared in multiple forms, but one notable one here in Seattle is the huge number of posters and graffiti which have been increasingly showing up around the city. Many of these are unsigned, and clearly put up by individuals and small groupings. This is in addition to the handmade signs held up at demonstrations, which represent a large majority of the total signs. Political graffiti is also burgeoning in Seattle. This includes numerous chalk messages on sidewalks, and well as more permanent marker and spray paint messages which are ubiquitous around the city. This survey tries to leave aside the posters and signs from the major organized groups, although the slogans reflect their influence among people.

The slogans vary in how effective or advisable some of them are, and a few of them may reflect mistaken viewpoints. But the overall effect of this is very enlivening, and reflects an strong desire among the masses to have their say on the issue. People aren't waiting for someone else to tell them what they can do; they're finding ways to express their bitter opposition to Israel's atrocities

In contrast, there has been very little pro-Israel expression. One campaign early on was full-color posters of Hamas hostages, under the banner "Missing". These went up broadly in several neighborhoods around the city, and were answered with several pro-Palestinian posters, also spread widely in the city: "Wanted" posters, featuring Netanyahu and other Israeli officials, as well as Biden and other US officials; "Missing" posters for Palestinian prisoners held for years by Israel without charges; and "Missing" posters listing human rights, justice, and self-determination for Palestinians. The pro-Israel poster campaign ended quickly, as far as I saw, and has been followed up by only a very few posters here and there. Likewise, the early demonstrations always had a few pro-Israel counter-demonstrators the first month, though never more than 6-8 – initially aggressively in the middle of the crowd with their flags and signs, then as time passed, off to the side, and finally absent altogether for the last two months. This likely doesn't reflect that their Zionist views have changed, but that they feel ashamed to stand up in public for what Israel is doing.

General calls

- ***Palestine is our demand, no peace on stolen land*** – This has been a dominant slogan in the demonstrations, which powerfully puts the question is a nutshell.
- ***End the siege on Gaza now***
- ***Bank of America funds genocide*** – On a Bank of America branch
- Stop signs marked with ***[Stop] genocide***

- **Free Gaza now**
- **Resistance against occupation is a human right, Free Palestine**
- **End Apartheid**
- **Genocide is not defense** – some signs say “self-defense”
- **75+ years of ethnic cleansing, home dispossessions, apartheid, oppression and terrorism against Falastini people, yet their response is “unprovoked”?**
- **Land you have to kill for is not yours. Land you have to die for is yours.**
- **Free Palestine** – and similar messages on wheat pasted handmade posters with color
- **If you've ever wondered what you'd do during slavery, the holocaust, or civil rights movement, you're doing it right now** – using guilt?
- **We mobilize to win! “Rebellion and resistance are the source of strength of the Palestinian individual and Palestinian society” – Basim Sarhan**
- **Their blood is on our hands** – In this case the non-class orientation leads to a problematic message
- **Boycott apartheid**

Slogans and signs by Jewish supporters of the Palestinians

- **Jews for Palestine**
- **Never again for anyone** – Appropriating and expanding the Jews' call “never again” re the holocaust. That call underlies zionists' justification for Israel, claiming that Jews having their own state is the only way they can supposedly guarantee “never again”.
- **Chanukah for Ceasefire**
- **Jews say ceasefire now**
- **Only peace will bring safety** – in English, Arabic and Hebrew, and including a quote from a Jewish survivor of the October 7th attack by Hamas: **“How do your values ... fit in with what you see? I am demanding a just peace ... You owe me this.”**

Educating the reader, and explicit ties to other issues

- **Look up Nakba**
- **Think it can't happen here? Look up Gilee** [Georgia Law Enforcement Exchange program] Calling attention to US cops getting training from Israeli police and military forces.
- **Anti-zionism is not anti-semitism, 175+ faculty and staff at the University of Wisconsin say without this distinction they can't educate or facilitate civic discourse. Read their statement at: <https://sites.google.com/view/uwantisemitism/home>**
- **Starbucks sues its workers to repress the truth**
- **Israel has bombed the Gaza strip with over 65,000 tons of explosives. That's over one and a half times more than Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombs combined, This is not self-defense against terrorism, this is terrorism.** – A stark statistic, but also ignoring the critical difference of nuclear vs conventional explosives.
- **A free Palestine, A united Korea**
- **Raza en Gaza** – on a t-shirt worn by a Latinx protester.

- ***Make Israel Palestine again*** – on a MAGA-looking red and white hat worn by a Arabic-looking protester.
- ***Native Americans stand with Palestine. Condemn genocide.***
- ***Antifascist diaspora wants no stolen “homeland”*** – An implicit connection to the stolen land question in the US?
- ***Feminists say no to genocide, free Palestine*** – Signed by Palestinian Feminist Collective
- ***Massage parlor workers for Palestine*** and ***Chinese diaspora for Palestine*** – signs held by contingent of 8-10 Chinese-Americans
- ***Reparations for Palestine! Reparations for Black America!***

Focusing on imperialism

- ***Imperialism has laid it's body over the whole world, wherever you strike it, you damage it and serve the world revolution.***
- ***We will break all the chains*** – broadening from Palestine to all oppression. Maybe a stretch to say this opposes imperialism indirectly, but that is one strong interpretation.

While there have been an increasing number of signs and slogans drawing ties between other political issues and Palestine, it is notable that explicitly anti-imperialist signs are relatively rare. There are almost certainly some which I missed, but in scanning through about 75 photographs of demonstrations I found only these two which come close.

Picture: [<>](https://media2.fdncms.com/stranger/imager/u/large/79212048/0q6a8262.jpg)

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