30 August 2014

Dear Prof Monica Heller, Prof Edward Liebow and Dexter Allen CAP,

Allow me please introduce myself:

My name is Dr Uri Davis, a long-time member of the Israeli Anthropological Association (IAA).

I write this letter following the telephone conversation (yesterday, I believe) I initiated with Dexter Allen, Assistant to the Executive Director, in response to the letter to the AAA from the IAA signed by the current President of the IAA, Professor Emeritus Harvey E Goldberg (dated 28.8.2014) in respect of which my annotations are given in the in the document enclosed herewith (highlighted in italics and coloured red).

I write in my name alone as a concerned individual and a concerned professional anthropologist, citizen of Israel and the UK; born in Jerusalem (1943); and PhD graduate (1976) of the Department of Anthropology, New School for Social Research, Manhattan, New York.

I owe such professional anthropological skills as I may have developed over the years to my PhD supervisor, the late Professor Stanley Diamond. I subscribe to the school of Critical Anthropology, and would point to Stanley Diamond's work (e.g., *In Search of the Primitive: A Critique of Civilization*, 1974) and to Kathleen Gough's work (e.g., "Anthropology: Child of Imperialism", 1968) as critical signposts in the advancement of the said School within our discipline.

My teaching of anthropology and Israel Studies in the UK and in Palestine is profoundly influenced by the values of my postgraduate education at the New School, notably in that it is the professional duty of responsible anthropology practitioners to declare their value orientation up-front, and, where necessary serve as a voice on behalf of the communities without whose trust and hospitality they would not be able to pursue their research in the field.

As to my value orientation, my only professional and political loyalty is to the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As to serving, where necessary, as a voice on behalf of the communities without whose trust and hospitality I would not have been able to pursue my research – I am committed as a critical anthropologist to serve as a voice to the ethnically-cleansed, political-Zionist settler-colonized Palestinian people, who in 2009 crowned their trust in me by electing me at the Sixth FATH Congress convened in the city of Bethlehem (occupied by apartheid Israel in 1967) to the second-rank FATH leadership (the 130 odd FATH Revolutionary Council, the first rank being the FATH Central Committee).
I am one of the four IAA members who voted against the dispatch of the said letter from the IAA to the AAA, and, needless to say that the said letter does not represent me as a person nor as a professional anthropologist, let alone as a member of the IAA.

As you may be aware, I am, perhaps, the first critical academic to have identified Israel's strategic apartheid legislation in detail (notably in my Apartheid Israel: Possibilities for the Struggle Within, 2003). In sum, these include: the Law of Return; Absentees Property Law; Development Authority Law, all of 1950; World Zionist Organization – Jewish Agency Status Law of 1952; Keren Kayemeth Leisrael (Jewish National Fund) Law; Land Acquisition (Validations of Acts and Compensation) Law, both of 1953; Covenant between the Government of Israel and the Zionist Executive, also known as the Executive of the Jewish Agency for the Land of Israel of 1954; Prescription Law of 1958; Basic Law: Israel Lands; Israel Lands Law; Israel Lands Administration Law, all of 1960; Covenant Between the Government of Israel and the Jewish National Fund of 1961; and more …

The consequence of the said bundle of Israeli Parliament (Knesset) strategic apartheid legislation is that (exceptions notwithstanding) 93% of the entire territory of 1948 ethnically-cleansed and occupied Palestinian territories (otherwise known as "Israel proper") are reserved in law for "Jews" only. (In the former apartheid Republic of South Africa 87% of the territory of the Republic were reserved in law for "Whites" only). Note that the apartheid divide in law in the former Republic of South Africa was "White" vs "non-White", whereas in apartheid Israel the apartheid divide in law remains "Jew" vs "non-Jew".

I wonder whether you would kindly forward this my Cover Letter + the Letter to the AAA from the IAA dated 28.8.2014 with my annotations (highlighted in italics and coloured in red) to the Convenors of the relevant Panels of your December 3-7 2014 AAA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. (and maybe to your membership as a whole), as well as, perhaps, should you deem it suitable, find a way to invite me as a guest contributor to in the said Annual Meeting (the lateness of this latter suggestion, notwithstanding).

With all good wishes

Sincerely

Uri Davis (Dr)
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