

# 124 Jewish Studies Scholars on Trump's Jerusalem Declaration

By Stephen Lendman

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Theme: Law and Justice, Police State &
Civil Rights, Poverty & Social Inequality

In-depth Report: PALESTINE

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Trump's pronouncement ended the longstanding charade of a peace process - dead-on-arrival each time initiated.

It stripped the mask off Washington as an honest broker on any issues. It showed unforgivable contempt for Palestinian rights – revealed for the whole world to see, no longer lurking in the shadows, no pretense otherwise.

It assured continued occupation harshness, apartheid viciousness, land theft, ethnic cleansing, and cold-blooded murder at Israel's discretion, supported and encouraged by Washington.

It leaves Palestinians struggling for liberation alone, the world community dismissive of their longstanding suffering for failing to intervene on their behalf.

There's no joy in Occupied Palestine this holiday season. There never was before, just lingering hope for something better one day, nothing ahead in prospect.

### The **statement** by Jewish studies scholars said the following:

"We write as Jewish Studies scholars to express our dismay at the Trump administration's decision to reverse decades of bipartisan US policy by declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel, and authorizing the relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv, outside of a negotiated political framework that ends the legal state of occupation and ensures respect for the rights of all Israelis and Palestinians to Jerusalem."

"Jerusalem is of immense religious and thus emotional significance to Jews, Muslims, and Christians alike. It is the focus of national aspirations for both Israelis and Palestinians."

"We hope one day to see a world in which all inhabitants of the land enjoy equal access to the city's cultural and material resources. Today,

unfortunately, that is not the case."

"As the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem has documented, Palestinian residents of Jerusalem endure systematic inequalities, including an inequitable distribution of the city's budget and municipal services, routine denial of building permits that are granted to Jewish residents, home demolitions, and legal confiscation of property for Jewish settlement."

"In addition, Palestinians in the West Bank, unlike Jewish Israelis residents in that territory, require a special permit to visit Jerusalem's holy sites."

"In this context, a declaration from the United States government that appears to endorse sole Jewish proprietorship over Jerusalem adds insult to ongoing injury and is practically guaranteed to fan the flames of violence."

"We therefore call on the US government to take immediate steps to deescalate the tensions resulting from the President's declaration and to clarify Palestinians' legitimate stake in the future of Jerusalem."

#### Signatories include:

- 1. Beverly Bailis, Brooklyn College
- 2. Mark Baker, Monash University
- 3. Elissa Bemporad, Queens College and The CUNY Graduate Center
- 4. Mara Benjamin, Mount Holyoke College
- 5. Matthew Berkman, University of Pennsylvania
- 6. Joel Berkowitz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 7. Lila Berman, Temple University
- 8. David Biale, University of California, Davis
- 9. Jeffrey Blutinger, California State University, Long Beach
- 10. Ra'anan Boustan, Princeton University
- 11. Zachary Braiterman, Syracuse University
- 12. Francesca Bregoli, Queens College and The Graduate Center, CUNY
- 13. Emma Brodeur, Syracuse University
- 14. Samuel Brody, University of Kansas
- 15. Debra Caplan, Baruch College, CUNY
- 16. Jessica Carr, Lafayette College
- 17. Flora Cassen, UNC Chapel Hill
- 18. Geoffrey Claussen, Elon University
- 19. Aryeh Cohen, American Jewish University
- 20. Rebecca Davis, University of Delaware
- 21. Laura Duhan-Kaplan, Vancouver School of Theology
- 22. Barat Ellman, Fordham University
- 23. Barbara Epstein, University of California, Santa Cruz
- 24. Robert Erlewine, Illinois Wesleyan University
- 25. Sara Feldman, University of Illinois
- 26. Sandy Fox, New York University
- 27. Ben Freeman, Harvard Divinity School
- 28. Joshua Friedman, Duke University
- 29. Olga Gershenson, University of Massachusetts
- 30. Shai Ginsburg, Duke University
- 31. Evan Goldstein, Yale University
- 32. Andrew Gordon, University of Florida

- 33. Erin Graff Zivin, University of Southern California
- 34. Ronnie Grinberg, University of Oklahoma
- 35. Chaya Halberstam, Western University
- 36. Rachel Havrelock, University of Illinois Chicago
- 37. Elizabeth Heineman, University of Iowa
- 38. Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College
- 39. Jonathan Hess, UNC Chapel Hill
- 40. Curtis Hutt, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 41. Claire Katz, Texas A&M
- 42. Gwynn Kessler, Swarthmore College
- 43. Rebekah Klein-Pejsova, Purdue University
- 44. Michal Kofman, University of Louisville
- 45. Rachel Kranson, University of Pittsburgh
- 46. Chana Kronfeld, University of California, Berkeley
- 47. Jacob Labendz, Youngstown State University
- 48. Yitz Landes, Princeton University
- 49. Timothy Langille, Arizona State University
- 50. Nitzan Lebovic, Lehigh University
- 51. Daniil Leiderman, Texas A&M
- 52. Brian Leonard, Boston College High School
- 53. Maggie Levantovskaya, Santa Clara University
- 54. Daniel Levine, University of Alabama
- 55. Laura Levitt, Temple University
- 56. Lital Levy, Princeton University
- 57. Andrea Lieber, Dickinson College
- 58. Ari Linden, University of Kansas
- 59. Joe Lockard, Arizona State University
- 60. Ian Lustick, University of Pennsylvania
- 61. Lindsay Macumber, Saint Mary's University
- 62. Shaul Magid, Indiana University
- 63. Charles Manekin, University of Maryland
- 64. Barbara Mann, Jewish Theological Seminary
- 65. Ibrahim Miari, University of Pennsylvania
- 66. Michael Miller, Liverpool Hope university
- 67. Sarah Anne Minkin, UC Berkeley
- 68. Leslie Morris, University of Minnesota
- 69. Eva Mroczek, UC Davis
- 70. Rachel Neis, University of Michigan
- 71. Judith Newman, University of Toronto
- 72. Anita Norich, University of Michigan
- 73. Jess Olson, Yeshiva University
- 74. Ranen Omer-Sherman, University of Louisville
- 75. Riv-Ellen Prell, University of Minnesota
- 76. Vadim Putzu, Missouri State University
- 77. Shari Rabin, College of Charleston
- 78. Randi Rashkover, George Mason University
- 79. Elliot Ratzman, Lawrence University
- 80. Emily Rogal, Harvard Divinity School
- 81. Na'ama Rokem, University of Chicago
- 82. Kate Rosenblatt, Emory University

- 83. Jordan Rosenblum, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 84. Bruce Rosenstock, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 85. Michael Rothberg, UCLA
- 86. Adam Rovner, University of Denver
- 87. Nora Rubel, University of Rochester
- 88. Elias Sacks, University of Colorado Boulder
- 89. Alison Schofield, University of Denver
- 90. Benjamin Schreier, Penn State University
- 91. Joshua Schwartz, New York University
- 92. Naomi Seidman, Graduate Theological Union
- 93. Sasha Senderovich, University of Washington, Seattle
- 94. Joshua Shanes, College of Charleston
- 95. Nathaniel Shils, University of Pennsylvania
- 96. Anne Shlay, Georgia State University
- 97. David Shneer, University of Colorado Boulder
- 98. Maeera Shreiber, University of Utah
- 99. Larry Silver, University of Pennsylvania
- 100. Shana Sippy, Centre College
- 101. Andrew Sloin, Baruch College, CUNY
- 102. Rachel Smith, UCLA
- 103. Scott Spector, University of Michigan
- 104. Loren Spielman, Portland State University
- 105. Gregory Spinner, Skidmore College
- 106. Neta Stahl, Johns Hopkins University
- 107. Deborah Starr, Cornell University
- 108. Richard Steigmann-Gall, Kent State University
- 109. Mira Sucharov, Carleton University
- 110. David Teutsch, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
- 111. Irene Tucker, University of California, Irvine
- 112. Alana Vincent, University of Chester, UK
- 113. Burton Visotzky, Jewish Theological Seminary
- 114. Anika Walke, Washington University in St. Louis
- 115. Kerry Wallach, Gettysburg College
- 116. Mira Wasserman, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
- 117. Dov Waxman, Northeastern University
- 118. Liliane Weissberg, University of Pennsylvania
- 119. Beth Wenger, University of Pennsylvania
- 120. Barry Wimpfheimer, Northwestern University
- 121. James Young, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 122. Michael Zank, Boston University
- 123. Saul Zaritt, Harvard University
- 124. Sarah Zarrow, Western Washington University

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My newest book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

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Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III." http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cuttingedge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

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