

People for Justice in Palestine (PJP) is a nonpartisan group of people who are concerned about the crisis in Israel and the Occupied Territories. We sponsor film screenings, lectures, discussions, and other events that are open to the public in order to educate ourselves and others about this crisis.

As organizers of these events, we request that participants with views contrary to ours—whether they are anti-Jewish or uncritically in favor of Israeli policy—make it clear that they do not represent PJP. They may choose not to honor this request, however, and we cannot be responsible for all the opinions expressed by all the individuals who attend our public events. We regret that some of our audience may be offended as a result.



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# Who's who in the debate about Israel & Palestine?

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## One of the most complex aspects of the Israel/Palestine conflict is the "cast of characters".

- Zionists are not necessarily Jews, who are often not Israelis, and not all Israelis agree with the Israeli government.
- Some Christians are Zionists, and some Jews are anti-Zionist.
- Some Israelis are Arabs, and some Arabs are Christians. (See [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org).)
- Many Palestinians are engaged in nonviolent resistance to Israeli occupation of their land, and many Jews, in Israel and elsewhere, oppose Israel's policies of occupation and oppression and are working for peace. (See [www.icahd.org](http://www.icahd.org).)
- Most Muslims are not radical Islamists, and many Palestinians (as well as many Israelis) are secular.
- All Muslims honor Moses and Jesus as prophets.
- Muslims, Christians, and Jews are members of the world's three monotheistic faiths that claim descent from the Jewish patriarch Abraham.

■ **Indiscriminate accusations are made by people on both sides of the conflict.** False or unthinking charges of anti-Semitism are often made by those who seek only to discredit critics of Israeli policy. **But opposition to a nation's policy is not the same as oppression of that nation's people,** and "crying wolf" is especially dangerous because bigotry, stereotypes, and malicious language and statements about Jews as a group are all examples of the very real and dangerous anti-Semitism that has so often resulted in mass violence against the Jewish people.

■ As activists for justice and peace for all people in the Middle East, we can control only our own language and actions—but we seek to make that language clear and those actions strong and consistent. **Vigorous opposition to anti-Jewish bigotry whenever it appears is crucial to our struggle.** PJP was founded in large part by Jewish students at the University of Iowa in 2001, and we maintain a firm commitment to opposing anti-Semitism just as we oppose anti-Arab and anti-Muslim racism. (See *Dismantling Myths: Anti-Semitism and its myth of a Jewish conspiracy*, an essay from PJP's website, [www.iowapjp.org](http://www.iowapjp.org).)

■ Finally, as Americans who sometimes criticize our own government's policies, we understand that neither all Jews nor all Israelis support the Israeli government's actions. We strongly support Jews and Israelis who speak out against the oppression of Palestinians, and we stand with *all* activists for peace and justice, regardless of nation, race, or creed.



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