Popular Resistance in Palestine: A History of Hope and Empowerment

Professor Mazin B. Qumsiyeh

Nuffield Lecture Theatre A, Building 6 (Nuffield Theatre), Room 1077, University of Southampton, Highfield Campus.

6.00 pm, Tuesday 1 March

The Western media paint Palestinian resistance against Israeli occupation as exclusively violent: armed resistance, suicide bombings, and rocket attacks. In reality these methods are the exception to what is a peaceful and creative resistance movement. In this fascinating book, Dr Mazin Qumsiyeh synthesises data from hundreds of original sources to provide the most comprehensive study of civil resistance in Palestine.

About the speaker
Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh teaches and does research at Bethlehem and Birzeit Universities in occupied Palestine. He serves as chairman of the board of the Palestinian Centre for Rapprochement Between People and coordinator of the Popular Committee Against the Wall and Israeli Settlements in Beit Sahour. Professor Qumsiyeh authored "Sharing the Land of Canaan: Human rights and the Israeli/Palestinian Struggle" (Pluto Press, 2004) and the newly published book “Popular Resistance in Palestine: A history of Hope and Empowerment” (Pluto 2011). He is one of those few Palestinian Americans who chose to return to his homeland in 2008 to continue non-violent resistance at grass roots level. In America, he served on the faculties of Yale and Duke Universities, and the University of Tennessee.

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Popular resistance in Palestine is a movement of direct action intended to accomplish what other similar movements have done before:
1. Pressuring opponents to understand the injustice that they engage in.
2. Weakening the grip of opponents on power.
3. Strengthening the community, including forms of empowerment and steadfastness (sumud in Arabic).
4. Bolstering the ability to withstand injustice and do something about it (a positive, can-do attitude is challenging with any other technique).
6. Achieving justice, including the right...