Occupation, for civil rights within Israel, and for the right of return are the three demands of the BDS campaign initiated by Palestinian civil society, and the terms under which the campaign would be ended. Do you or do you not support those demands? Apparently, you think that allowing Palestinians to return to their homes and homeland conflicts with your desire to see Israel as a “refuge state for Jews facing oppression elsewhere.”

It’s fine for Professor Zunes or Rabbi Lerner to denounce other occupations or prolonged wars. But in the real world, there is no campaign led by the Western Saharanists (internationally recognized as occupied) or the Chech-nyans (not so recognized) for BDS by other nations or other civil societies. It is also telling that when you consider occupations, you do not mention Puerto Rico (where the UN has called for decolonization) or any other U.S. “territories.”

David Kronfeld responds:
Let me translate Professor Zunes’s article: let us create a flimsy smokescreen (by adding Morocco into the equation) so that we can continue to attack Israel, but under cover of attacking “all” occupations.

Like so much of the anti-Israel sentiment infecting the progressive movement, the article is disingenuous to the core. Its intention is to push the BDS movement directed primarily at Israel and to deflect criticism of that movement, without any substantive change.

This piece is just a specious argument, which adds to the self-righteous stance of “just helping the downtrodden” professed by those who seek to fundamentally harm Israel. I think it is a shameful piece of attempted sleight of hand, aimed at gaining propaganda value alone.

Diane Reike responds:
Well, we all know where this is going. Heal the rest of the world, and then maybe (or maybe not) Israel will consider thinking about it.

Immigration
I am a political activist whose only allegiances are to God, myself, and doing what I can to heal the world. My motto is “take care of myself so that I can take care of others, be good to myself and be good to others, and use everything that comes my way for my uplifting, learning, and growth.” I truly respect your work and see you as one of those around the world who are anchor points for God to work through. From my perspective, the web article on immigration that you shared via email is so right on. I do see that there will be a time when we will be living in a society wherein we all know we are our brother’s/sister’s keeper. In the moments when the picture looks bleak, through God’s grace I can remind myself to look for the good in all things. At these times I can perceive that perhaps the plan is for all that has been hidden to come to Light so completely that the darkness will not be able to survive. It gives me great joy to know that you are here and making a difference.

—Annette Saint John Lawrence, Sherman Oaks, CA

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