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Dear Saths

Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng

On Monday, 12 March 2018 the Psychological Society of South Africa, the Pan-African Psychology Union, and the Steve Biko Foundation conferred the inaugural *Biko Fanon Award for Psychological Liberation* on Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng.

As he is a lay preacher and former 'state' prosecutor in the apartheid criminal justice system of the Bophuthatswana Bantustan we in the Palestine solidarity movement in South Africa and in other countries are not surprised at his support for Israel and its Bantustan-solution to the *land* question.

Israel is very active in South Africa trying to break up the worldwide BDS movement, which is based on the BDS model created by SACTU and successfully used internationally by the ANC-led Alliance. Prime Minister Netanyahu has a special budget of \$100-mn and is using the western media for this project. Israel recruits local Christians and transports them to India and Israel to be trained in 'Christian fundamentalism' to counter the concept of liberation or contextual theology. In 2004 SACC became part of the WCC's Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) through its Justice, Reconciliation and Healing desk. SACC has sent brave Christian soldiers of peace to Palestine who lived in the refugee camps and accompanied Palestinians to the checkpoints to monitor and to report human rights abuse to SACC/WCC/UNHCR. Israel deported one of our best international solidarity workers, Cde Itani Rasalanavho, when he had returned to serve his second term as EAPPI activist.

At the 2015 Conference in South Africa, Robert O Smith of the Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) successfully argued, 'Christian theology that supports Zionism is heresy...(which) is a false teaching that must be confronted...it is essential that we all understand that the Israel of the Bible, the ancient Israelites, are not linked in any substantive or material way to the contemporary modern state of Israel. The biblical narrative of Israel has almost nothing to do with contemporary Israel other than the intentional manipulation of sacred texts to justify a political project.' For the 2014 Nakba Day Smith messaged, 'the state of Israel continues its rapacious acquisition of Palestinian *land*...the only thing that will change Israel's policies and behaviour is international pressure.' In the same year at the Palestine Kairos Conference he said, 'Israeli occupation is a sin against God and humanity.' In 2013 the WCC referred to 'sixty-five years of continuing dispossession of Palestinian people – Christian and Muslim alike – from their *land* by Israeli occupation.'

In serrated contrast to revolutionary Christians their opposite fundamentalists are trained on how to form 'principal opinions' and influence the public mind. They indulge in decontextualized biblical history and study the roles of kings, consuls, dictators, decemvirs, military tribunes, and imperial rulers. These six roles also constitute forms of government and administration. Troublesome to these six forms of government is the 'beast' (Palestinians) who can be kept down by the outward Christianization or Zionisation of the state. 'While the Church passes through death of the flesh to the glory of the Spirit, the beast passes through the glory of the flesh to death.' Wars, earthquakes, and disturbances are the birth pangs, which prepare for the "regeneration" of the state. The implication is that Israel has to go through wars to defend its state. This is one sophisticated example of how the Israelis brainwash the fundamentalists, in spite of the historical fact that it was Jewish judges-collaborators who found Jesus guilty of sedition though the Roman emperor used his absolute power to sentence Jesus to death by crucifixion.



Israelis teach them that they will not change or give up what they had started. They believe in the Abrahamic covenant of God's promise and that they will not stop until all the *land* is regained, including Lebanon, the West Bank, Jordan, and substantial portions of Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. The seven features of the covenant are non-conditionality, personal, national, territorial, reciprocal, universal, and eternal.

The Chief Justice, too, conflates ancient Biblical Israel and Jerusalem with modern Zionist Israel and Jerusalem. He extrapolates the ancient to the modern. As he is not trained in the natural sciences he does not know that this is impermissible in scientific argumentation. This is a common error of many religious thinkers when they commute reductionist scientific truths to philosophical argumentation. It shows his unconscious embedded Eurocentric predisposition through the Judeo-Christian mind-set and betrays his inadequate grasp of formal logic that argues from false premise to arrive at a false conclusion. It also shows his perceptual bias in favour of the Zionist narrative of historical lies. He is supposed to be a BC adherent. The late Advocate Imraan Moosa, the former Dean of Law at Fort Hare, was his first political mentor.

His passionate support for Zionism, in retrospect, indicates that his mind is very far from 'psychological liberation', which is the very *essence* of the thought systems of Biko and Fanon. The Award should be de-conferred from him because it risks credibility and future recipients would be reluctant to accept the Award.

The struggle for transitional justice continues not only in South Africa but also in other parts of the world.

Yours, comradely

Haroon Aziz

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PS: my eight Whatsapp messages to you between June 22-July 4, 2020 remain unopened.

Note: Prof Cooper acknowledged receipt of this letter with thanks on July 7, 2020.

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