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**Office of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison**

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Dear Keith Ellison,

On October 20th, America for Peace Now will be holding a virtual memorial event for Yitzhak Rabin. Yitzhak Rabin was not a man of peace. His history had a negatively indelible effect on Palestinians. While he is wrongly remembered as the driving force behind the so-called “peace process,” he was anything but that.

Yithak Rabin was primarily responsible for Operation “Dani”, the largest ethnic cleansing operation during the height of the Nakba (catastrophe) from July 11-14, 1948. By direct orders from Yithak Rabin, Israeli forces occupied the Palestinian towns of Lydda and Ramleh and the villages around them. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) expelled 60,000-70,000 inhabitants, which accounted for 10 percent of the entire Palestinian exodus from 1947-1949.

As head of Operations, Yitzhak Rabin issued the following order: “The inhabitants of Lydda must be expelled quickly without attention to age.” A similar order was issued at the same time to the Kiryati Brigade concerning the Palestinian inhabitants of the neighboring town of Ramle.

In 1992, he was elected Prime Minister of Israel partially because he suggested the idea of separating the Israelis from the Palestinians. In 1994, Rabin set the groundwork for entrenching the physical and demographic separation of Palestinians by proposing to construct a fence around the Gaza Strip. The objective was two-fold: to separate Jewish Israelis from Palestinians in Gaza, and to cut off Gaza’s Palestinian population from the rest of the world. He infamously stated: “we have to decide on separation as a philosophy.” In 1995, Rabin proposed building a separation wall along the West Bank perimeter. This plan did not materialize until 2002, when the Israeli cabinet decided to construct the barrier.

During the first Intifada, Rabin, as Minister of Defense, called for the “breaking of bones” of protesters as a method of riot control. The army distributed truncheons to the soldiers who used them to implement the bone crushing policies.



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In his final address to the Knesset, a little less than one month prior to his assassination, Rabin proclaimed the eventual creation of a Palestinian “entity” as opposed to a State. Just so there was no confusion as to its meaning, he proposed that this entity will be “less than a state.” He also called for a “united Jerusalem . . . as the capital of Israel, under Israeli sovereignty.” Moreover, he did not denounce the settlements, but instead emphasized the political goal of maintaining their “security,” declaring that “we committed ourselves . . . not to uproot a single settlement.”

International law establishes a normative framework binding on Israel as a state, and its conduct in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). Settlements are illegal under international humanitarian law, specifically violating the Fourth Geneva Convention’s Article 49(6), which prohibits the “occupying power” from “deport[ing]” or “transfer[ing] parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.” Israel’s conduct on the West Bank also violates the Hague Regulations’ Article 43, which obligates the occupying power to “restore and ensure, as far as possible, public order and safety” in the occupied territory. Settlements also violate Palestinian human rights, including the rights to property, equality, and adequate standard of living and freedom of movement.

American Muslims for Palestine urges you to refuse to celebrate the life of a war criminal. We ask you to revoke your attendance from the Yitzhak Rabin memorial.

Sincerely,

Dr. Osama Abuirshaid  
Executive Director  
**American Muslims for Palestine**