Dear NEK [North East Kingdom] Friends [in Vermont],

And so the horrors continue. . . Could you please distribute the links below from today's updates to the rest of the Meeting? As I watched the destruction unfolding in Gaza once again, I had two thoughts:

1) The barbarity of the Holocaust/genocide of World War II lasted six years and we are still paying for that in generational trauma; the wars against the Palestinian people, although vastly different in scale, have never ended. The Naqba, which began in 1948, continues to this day - 71 years. How will Israel and Palestine, either together or separately, *ever* overcome that trauma, as it destroys the humanity of both sides with every new death and home demolition? Each of these acts increases the rage against the perpetrators and thus undermines the very security that Israelis so desperately want.

2) Please consider this: *if* this 71 year war were being waged against Israel rather than against Palestine, would we stand aside and quibble over the wording of a statement in support of the victims? What would that say about us if we did?

I wasn't aware yesterday of the extent of the violence over the weekend. As a result, I didn't mention that it is deliberate Israeli policy to test out weapons developments on Gaza before selling new systems around the world. Renowned Israeli academic, peace activist, and author, Jeff Halper, describes the Israeli security state phenomenon in his most recent book, *War Against the People.*There are many YouTube video clips of the talks he has given about this, including several in western Massachusetts that we attended.

Here are the clips that I hope you will share, in light of the important and difficult discussion during Business Meeting yesterday. Please note that the first item includes an interview with a young Gazan who works for the AFSC in the Chicago office. In addition - and isn't it a reflection of our collective fears that it is critical to include this information for transparency? - Amy Goodman, the creator and anchorwoman of Democracy Now!, is herself Jewish. Her brother, David, whose work may already be familiar to local Friends, is a Vermont resident and author in his own right.

'The Occupation is a Crime of Aggression: Gazans React After 25 Palestinians, 4 Israelis Die'

[https://www.democracynow.org/2019/5/6/the\_occupation\_is\_a\_crime\_of](https://www.democracynow.org/2019/5/6/the_occupation_is_a_crime_of%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

'Gaza: Ceasefire Reached After Intense Fighting Kills 25 Palestinians and 4 Israelis'

[https://www.democracynow.org/2019/5/6/headlines/gaza\_ceasefire\_reached\_after\_intense\_fighting\_kills\_25\_palestinians\_and\_4\_israelis](https://www.democracynow.org/2019/5/6/headlines/gaza_ceasefire_reached_after_intense_fighting_kills_25_palestinians_and_4_israelis%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

'Pro-Palestinian UMass Panel Attracts 2,000 After Lawsuit Fails to Halt Event'

[https://www.democracynow.org/2019/5/6/headlines/pro\_palestinian\_umass\_panel\_attracts\_2\_000\_after\_lawsuit\_fails\_to\_halt\_event](https://www.democracynow.org/2019/5/6/headlines/pro_palestinian_umass_panel_attracts_2_000_after_lawsuit_fails_to_halt_event%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

Because of the long and terrible history of victimization on all sides, we owe it to both Palestinians and Israelis to know what is happening on the ground, much of it with US weapons and certainly with our tax dollars.

Thank you!