

false teachings of Christian Zionist doctrines that advance racial exclusivity and war and endanger the lives of the people living in the region. The statement emphasizes that security is not possible without a foundation of justice.

There is also a strong current of Palestinian liberation theology, the doctrine originating from Latin America that offers an interpretation of Christianity focused on the liberation of the oppressed. Its principal organization in Palestine is the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center.

Historically, the Palestinian Christian community is made up of the Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church and smaller mainline Protestant churches. But a Palestinian Evangelical community, that has tried to challenge the Christian Zionist influence within the Evangelical movement, has recently emerged. The Bethlehem Bible College, which serves as the intellectual and spiritual center for this community, organizes conferences called "Christ at the Checkpoint." They invite evangelical leaders from around the world including the United States to meet with the local Palestinian church and provide guided tours in the occupied territories. Their mission is to "reclaim the prophetic role in bringing peace, justice, and reconciliation in Palestine and Israel." Alex Awad, pastor of the East Jerusalem Baptist Church and a professor at the Bethlehem Bible College told the Electronic Intifada in 2012: "We want people to come, see the wall, see the checkpoints, see the reality on the ground, and

then open the Bible."

Many Palestinians have been killed and injured as Israel has cracked down on the protests that have come out against Trump's decision. I'm not sure the US recognition of Jerusalem

as Israel's capital makes the already perilous conditions of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation any worse? It does however provide Israel with diplomatic support for its exclusivist claims and de facto control over both West and East Jerusalem.

Analysts have warned of the consequences of the Jerusalem decision on the peace process and the two-state solution. But the peace process has not been a serious thing for a very long time, if it ever

was. Israel's refusal to end its illegal occupation of Palestinian lands is proof that it never approached peace negotiations with good faith and is not interested in resolving this conflict. The two-state solution, for its part, has been preempted by Israel's building of settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israel's plan is to maintain its occupation and rule over Palestinians while refusing to give them human, political and civil rights. Trump's decision adds yet another US brick to this edifice of injustice.

Bio: Nadine Saliba, born in Lebanon, immigrated with her family to San Antonio. She has an MA in Political Theory and International Relations. She will be a contributing writer to La Voz de Esperanza on a bi-monthly basis.



A Palestinian woman sits next to the remains of her home after it was demolished by Israeli bulldozers, not an uncommon experience for Palestinians.

Kiss 1986

Bipolar disorder
Rare unknown blood disorder
Broken inside his head
Unable to leave the hospital bed
She comes to him unafraid
Nothing said
AIDS decimating loving men
Her romantic love for women
Just the sight of fresh fruit in her hand
Injecting life in a dying man
Showing no fear

She comes near

Faith, hope, love, and peace
Softer than the brush of a
fuzzy peach

On the cheek she
plants a gentle kiss

To live becomes his wish
2018
Happy to be seen
Life is better than great
Praying gratitude is not too late

Dedicated to Deborah Myers and Nickie Valdez

—Tom Noonan, Minot, ND

The Esperanza staff, board & buena gente congratulate Nickie and Deb on thirty-two years of partnership. Wishing you the best in the coming years. You continue to lead and inspire our community of activists.

