

Sanders recently made clear in a public message to the Israeli prime minister: “Mr. Netanyahu, antisemitism is a vile and disgusting form of bigotry that has done unspeakable harm to millions. Do not insult the intelligence of the American people by attempting to distract us from the immoral and illegal war policies of your extremist and racist government.”

College protesters have shown that they will not be distracted. They continue to insist — not flawlessly, but wonderfully — that all people’s lives matter. For decades, and since October in a particularly deadly fashion, the U.S.-Israel alliance has proceeded to treat Palestinian lives as expendable. And that is exactly what the protests are opposing.

Of course, protests can flicker and die out. Hundreds of U.S. campuses shut down in the spring of 1970 amid protests against the Vietnam War and the American invasion of Cambodia, only to become largely quiescent by the fall term. But for countless individuals, the sparks lit a fire for social justice that would never be quenched.

One of them, Michael Albert, a cofounder of the groundbreaking *Z Magazine*, has continued with activist work since the mid-1960s. “A lot of people are comparing now to 1968,” he wrote in April. “That year was tumultuous. We were inspired. We were hot. But here comes this year and it is moving faster, no less. That year the left that I and so many others lived and breathed was mighty. We were courageous, but we also had too little understanding of how to win. Don’t emulate us. Transcend us.”

He then added:

“The emerging mass uprisings must persist and diversify and broaden in focus and reach. And hey, on your campuses, again do better than us. Fight to divest but also fight to structurally change them so their decision makers — which should be you — never again invest in genocide, war, and indeed suppression and oppres-

sion of any kind. Tomorrow is the first day of a long, long potentially incredibly liberating future. But one day is but one day. Persist.”

Persistence will be truly essential. The gears of pro-Israel forces are fully meshed with the U.S. war machinery. The movement to stop Israel’s murderous oppression of Palestinians is up against the entire military-industrial-congressional complex.

The United States spends more on its military than the next 10 countries combined (and most of them are allies), while maintaining 750 military bases overseas, vastly more than all of its official adversaries put together. The U.S. continues to lead the nuclear arms race toward oblivion. And the economic costs are stunning. The Institute for Policy Studies reported last year that 62% of the federal discretionary budget went to “militarized programs” of one sort or another.

In 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr., described this country’s spending for war as a “demonic, destructive suction tube,” siphoning tremendous resources away from human needs.

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

With transcendent wisdom, this spring’s student uprising has rejected conformity as a lethal anesthetic while the horrors continue in Gaza. Leaders of the most powerful American institutions want to continue as usual, as if official participation in genocide were no particular cause for alarm.

Instead, young people have dared to lead the way, insisting that such a culture of death is repugnant and completely unacceptable.

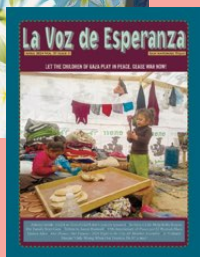
This column is distributed by TomDispatch.

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Update on Rolla Alaydi - Dianne Monroe - 4/30/24



EDITOR’S NOTE: *In the April 2024 issue of La Voz de Esperanza, Dianne Monroe wrote about her friend Rolla in the article, To Save a Life: Help Rolla Rescue Her Family from Gaza. An update follows...*



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The BIG NEWS is that on Saturday Rolla left for Egypt to meet her family when they leave Gaza! Huge thanks to all of you who helped to make this possible – by contributing money (some of you more than once) and by sharing my messages by email, social media and in other ways. You are part of something pre-

cious and meaningful. You have touched and changed the course of 21 lives.

And if you are someone who was not able to donate or share (for whatever reason) you are also part of this success, and have also contributed, by being here to witness this incredible story. Now comes the difficult part – Rolla’s family actually getting out of Gaza. We hope everything will go smoothly. But given the difficult situation, we know there may be some twists, turns and complexities.

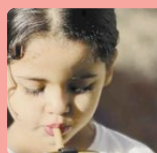
If you are a person who prays, please pray for Rolla and her

family. And if you reach out in a different way, please hold this family in your heart and send caring support their way.

Over 1.6k people donated the money needed to help this family leave Gaza! This is truly a group effort and an accomplishment to celebrate!

Yet, the family will still need some initial funds to settle once they are out of Gaza, plus some urgent medical expenses (one brother with diabetes, one brother with cancer and one child with epilepsy, all untreated since Israel invaded Gaza). Plus unexpected things that may (and likely will) come up in the course of them getting out of Gaza. So additional donations are still very much needed. So, please, continue to donate as you are able, and share this story and link widely.

I invite you to watch the small video at; bit.ly/rollas-bag, of Rolla’s bags packed with things she is bringing her family (Hint: vitamins, immune system support, fish oil and more). In the meantime, we continue to collect contributions at



**My Family is Trapped in Gaza.
Help Me Get Them Out**

<https://amzn.to/3ID1Zpy>



With gratitude and hope,
Dianne