

October 23, 2025

This is Peter Bohmer representing Palestine Action of South Sound (PASS) and a member of Economics for Everyone (E4E). I will speak to Palestine and global solidarity, anti-repression and political education. I am a long-term organizer for global solidarity, anti-racism and radical transformation towards participatory socialism and a teacher of political economy.

One important recent change that will affect Palestine solidarity organizing is there is now a cease fire in Gaza but no justice or peace. (Note: Israel may go back to total war by November 15th). The murderous Israeli occupation of Gaza and all of Palestine continues although there is a common perception in the U.S. that the war is over. A challenge we face is that there is nothing that can be done to stop the Israeli and U.S war and aggression against the Palestinian people. Mounting an effective campaign for an arms embargo against Israel has been difficult.

Energy in our group, PASS, has declined although we continue into our third year. We have been somewhat effective in educating the Olympia community about Palestine and the Israeli genocide and US complicity by activism that has continued for over two years and raised significant money for Gaza. As part of the national Palestine solidarity movement, we have contributed to changing public opinion to where a significant majority in the U.S. is now opposed to the Israeli war and U.S. support of it. This is an important step although we have had little effect on U.S. policy.

We have worked closely with the Rachel Corrie foundation and have had a continual public presence through weekly vigils and a boycott of Chevron every two weeks.

In addition, in my view, Palestine solidarity continues to be urgent. Difficult is how to build a movement that incorporates the many key areas of struggle: anti-fascist and anti-repression, climate and environmental justice, worker rights, anti-poverty, affordable housing and healthcare and economic justice, trans rights, racial justice, immigrant justice, Palestine and global solidarity, no war with Venezuela and Cuba, reproductive and gender justice. During the Biden administration a focus on Palestine was right; under Trump, Palestine is one of many central issues. Connecting them better is necessary.

Moreover, how do we fight back against the major attacks on civil rights and civil liberties and social welfare while simultaneously organizing and advocating for significant reforms that go well beyond the Obama-Biden neoliberalism. In addition, we need to continue to educate and advocate for a participatory socialist alternative that is sustainable and globally just.

NPSM-7, Trump's Security Presidential Memorandum of September 25th, called Countering Domestic Terrorism and Violence is dangerous and must be stopped. It is Cointelpro on steroids and could be used against any group in the Round Table. Let us proudly call ourselves antifascist partly to make it more difficult for the state to isolate individuals and organizations.

We need three levels of resistance: an underground that practices security culture and can protect and support those under direct attack, e.g., undocumented immigrants from ICE, and do strategic actions.

The other two levels should be open and welcoming to those who share its values, not security culture. The second level is a coalition of progressive and left groups. This is what the Round

Table should be. We should engage in political education, solidarity among its members and actions in the streets including rallies, demonstrations and direct action that connect the issues.

Also of central importance is that our coalition, the Round Table insert itself in a principled but non-sectarian manner into the third level, what I am calling the United Front Against Fascism. This is needed locally and nationally. This is presented most obviously by 50501 nationally and The Evergreen Resistance locally. 7 million people took part in their No Kings Rally on October 18th nationally and 8000 in the rally in Olympia. This is impressive, significant and positive but limited. Nationally, 50501 a liberal organization, many who are close to the Democratic Party although less so in Olympia. The other main group sponsoring "No Kings", Indivisible, at least in Olympia is less sympathetic to making Palestine solidarity a major issue in these rallies. Many if not most of the 7 million participants on October 18th are open to a more left analysis and practice than the official program.

We should not try to take over 50501 or The Evergreen Resistance but participate by sharing our analysis with them and rally attendees and request that The Evergreen Resistance incorporate more centrally key issues, e.g., Palestine and no war on Venezuela, and help make it more inclusive, more young people, more diverse. Round Table groups should have more of a presence at future rallies. The Round Table coalition should do this by actively participating in the next No Kings rally and organizing a demonstration in the streets at the end of it.

In solidarity, Peter B