

**Join us for Bridge Square Demonstrations,
Fridays 4:30-5:30 now through May 11th, 2018**

Support for Gaza demonstrators inspires Friday Bridge Square vigils

Northfield, Minn. – (April 16, 2018) This year marks 70 years since the Nakba, the mass expulsion of Palestinian people and destruction of their homes in their native land.

Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel is commemorating the anniversary with a series of events. Each Friday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., supporters of a just peace in Palestine will gather at Bridge Square in Northfield in support of demonstrators in Gaza, now through May 11.

Palestinians living in Gaza are marking the anniversary with a host of actions, starting with the March 30 “Great Return March,” in which tens of thousands of them marched to the fence that separates the enclave from Israel. Israel’s violent response to Palestinian resistance has been making headlines ever since.

The local observance will culminate in a Bridge Square event. Audience members at the 2 p.m., May 12, 2018, event will be invited to place Palestinian flags on a 4-foot-by-8-foot map of Palestine/Israel as the names of destroyed Palestinian villages are read.

“Nakba” refers to events that transpired in the era when the British vacated Palestine and Israel became a state in 1948. What followed was catastrophic for the Palestinian people. Told to vacate their homes temporarily, Palestinian families packed a few belongings, locked their doors, secured their keys and moved as directed by Israeli troops. They pushed more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homes, confiscated their land and destroyed more than 500 of their villages, leaving many with just the keys and their memories. That “temporary” expulsion turns 70 this year and signaled the start of the catastrophic ethnic cleansing of Palestine that continues today.