

# Images of Resistance: Exploring Palestinian Poster Art

In this workshop, participants will view Palestinian and Israeli political posters and discuss what the art is expressing, exploring concepts of symbolism, as well as cultural production as an act of political “resistance.”

*Note: Some prior knowledge of Palestine is necessary for fully engaging with this lesson. See “Glossary of Events, etc. in Slingshot Hip-hop” for useful background on key terms.*

## Goals:

- 1) Participants will collectively define the term “resistance.”
- 2) Participants will develop tools for interpreting political imagery.
- 3) Participants will gain familiarity with symbols of Palestinian resistance.
- 4) *Extension activity:* Participants will make their own “resistance” posters.

**Length of Time:** 60+ minutes

## Materials Needed:

- Palestinian political posters (*images and descriptions at end of lesson plan*)
- Index cards
- *For extension activity:* large sheets of paper, markers

**Recommended Age Range:** 12 years and up (including adults)

## Preparation:

- Hang selected posters around the room.
- Print out descriptions of the posters (attached)
- Write out discussion questions on large paper and post visibly.

\*\*\*

---

## Sequence of Activities

### Introduction (10 minutes)

1. Ask each student to write down, on a separate piece of paper, their own definition of “Resistance.” This can be a political, social, or literal definition.
2. Once everyone has had time to write out a definition, have everyone pass their definition to the left.
3. Share with the group, each person reading from their neighbor's definition.
4. Discuss, and introduce that we will be looking at images of resistance from Palestine.

## **Images of Resistance (20 minutes)**

1. Gallery Walk: Having hung various Palestinian political posters around the room in preparation, ask participants to walk around and examine each one. Ask people to move towards the poster that strikes them the most. (There should be a small group gathered at each one.)
2. Ask each group to discuss the poster they are gathered in front of. Suggested questions for group discussion (have these written visibly in the room for reference):
  - What do you like about the poster?
  - What are the visual elements in the poster?
  - What story/message is it communicating? Who is the audience?
  - What does the image suggest about resistance--what qualities are being illustrated?
3. Depending on the group's knowledge of Palestinian history, you can go around to each group and reveal the available historical context of each poster (see descriptions below). Groups continue discussing. |

## **Closing (15 minutes)**

1. Have each group present to the larger class, sharing their responses to the questions above.
2. Questions for whole group discussion:
  - What have we learned?
  - Would anyone like to add to or change their initial definition of "resistance"?

## **Bringing it back home: Resistance in your own life/community (20+ minutes)**

Taking inspiration from the Palestinian posters, make your own resistance poster. What oppression are you resisting? How? Include some of the visual elements of the Palestinian posters.

# Images of Resistance: Exploring Palestinian Poster Art

## Selected Posters:

### [Where is Palestine?](#)

Adnan Zubaidy, 1993

*The artist depicts a youth spraying the words “Where is Palestine?” over the sky of Jerusalem. Illegal and punishable by imprisonment, Palestinians still resorted to spray-painting political messages on the walls of the city. Printing presses were illegal in the Occupied Territories, as was the production of anti-Israel material, so the walls became their means for disseminating information and political propaganda. Some youths were shot and killed for writing graffiti on walls.*

### [The Revolutions is Protected by its Armed Masses](#)

Abd El Rahman Al Muzzayin - Palestinian

(From the collection of Roots Palestinian Youth Organization, Washington D.C.)

*A painting by Al Muzzayin was recreated as a poster for the PLO- the Palestinian Liberation Organization.*

### [We are the Revolutionaries](#)

Artist unknown - Palestinian

(From the collection of Roots Palestinian Youth Organization, Washington D.C.)

*The Palestinian freedom fighters included men, women and children. This popular poster was smuggled into the Occupied Territories by the PLO.*

### [Land day March 30](#)

Artist unknown - Palestinian

(From the collection of the Middle East Division of the Harvard College Library)

*A take off of the popular American magazine LIFE, the artist, showing a youth with a slingshot, suggests that the life of the Palestinians is to fight for freedom.*

### [Don't Say You Didn't Know](#)

Rami and Jacky- Israeli, 1982

*The names of the Palestinian victims beaten to death by Israeli soldiers are listed on the poster. The text refers to the Holocaust and to those claiming “they didn't know” that it was happening, and a plea from the artists not to ignore what is happening in the Occupied Territories.*

All posters and descriptions from the collection [Both Sides of Peace](#).

Additional posters are available online at [Liberation Graphics](#).