

# Ho smesso di indossare la Stella di David perché è diventata un simbolo di supremazia e fascismo

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November 9, 2024

Qualche settimana fa, nel centro di Toronto, ho visto un gruppo di ebrei sionisti imbattersi in un'auto addobbata per Diwali. L'auto era ricoperta di decorazioni di fiori e candele, oltre che di simboli indù. Sbalordito nel notare una svastica tra le decorazioni, questo gruppo si è infuriato e ha iniziato a urlare di palese antisemitismo. Mi sono chiesto se conoscessero la relazione tra questo simbolo e la religione indù, ma dubitavo che gliene sarebbe importato. Nonostante le sue origini (e il diverso orientamento) nella cultura buddista e indù, per molti oggi la svastica è sinonimo di nazismo. Per quanto mi riguarda, conoscere la storia di questo simbolo non attenua la risposta viscerale che provo nel vedere una svastica.

Il 29 ottobre, un uomo di Oakland, in California, è stato cacciato dal Jerusalem Coffee House dal proprietario perché indossava un berretto da baseball blu con una stella di David bianca. La polizia sta ora indagando sull'incidente come crimine d'odio antisemita. È stato antisemita chiedere a quest'uomo di andarsene? Forse. Eppure nessuno si sta ponendo una domanda più grande su questo incidente: perché quest'uomo ha ritenuto opportuno entrare in una caffetteria palestinese indossando un cappello che rispecchiava così da vicino la bandiera di Israele? Non si aspettava di suscitare una risposta viscerale dalle stesse persone massacrate in nome di questa bandiera? I palestinesi che hanno assistito alla morte e alla distruzione della loro patria compiute sotto questo simbolo non hanno il diritto di esserne offesi?

In Canada, the Zionist lobby has spent the past year decrying any appearance of the Star of David within the pro-Palestine movement. From [social media posts](#) to [protest signs](#), they have claimed that depicting this star in anything critical of Israel is antisemitic and equates the entire Jewish people with the State of Israel. Yet, this lobby and the state of Israel have themselves worked tirelessly to conflate Judaism and Israel. Beyond putting the star in the middle of the Israeli flag, the [Centre for Israeli and Jewish Affairs](#) has also put the star in its logo. [B'nai Brith Canada](#) uses the Jewish symbol of the menorah in its logo. When Zionists themselves begin appropriating Jewish symbolism, the distinction between Judaism and Israel becomes blurred.



Israeli tanks carve a Star of David into a field in Gaza during Israel's ongoing ground invasion of Gaza. This photo was shared by Daniel Hagari on the @IDFSpokesperson X/Twitter account on November 17, 2023.

Perhaps more than anyone, it is Israel itself that is appropriating Jewish symbols for fascist purposes. As a genocide continues in Gaza, the Israeli army celebrates this devastation by carving or spray painting the Star of David into demolished buildings and neighborhoods. When spray paint falls short, soldiers and police brand and carve this symbol on Palestinians themselves. The co-optation of this symbol for terror is most evident in the West Bank. Palestinian cities and neighborhoods are often vandalized by settler youth who spray paint the star and accompanying fascist slogans over Palestinian murals and on flags. When settlers are finally able to displace these Palestinians from their villages, a star or menorah is frequently placed on top of this ethnically cleansed land.

On October 9, 2023, I proudly wore my Star of David necklace at the emergency rally for Gaza. I wanted people to know unmistakably that I was Jewish and still pro-Palestine. At the rally on October 5, 2024 marking one year of genocide in Gaza, my necklace instead featured the 'chai' symbol. I am no longer seeking to redeem and reclaim the Star of David.

Like the swastika, there is nothing wrong with the star in and of itself; this symbol existed before Israel and will exist after Israel's demise. Yet, this symbol which was once an integral part of how I show my identity, is now synonymous with the cruelty and evil of the Zionist regime. When Palestinians look at this symbol, which has been used to represent Jewish supremacy and Palestinian destruction, they do not feel a distinction between this symbol when it is blue and in between two stripes or if it is gold and around my neck. Both represent the destruction of the Palestinian people.

Star of David built by settlers on Palestinian land in the West Bank (Photo: Guy Hircefeld)

While discussing the incident in Oakland on social media, Mohammed El Kurd makes the same argument that the Star of David is now a hate symbol, whether Jews like it or not. Peter Beinart responded by saying the symbol is a Jewish symbol that exists outside of Israel's appropriation of it and thus criticizing the Star of David is in fact a condemnation of Judaism. I agree it is not the fault of Jews that Israel has decided to use our symbol as the logo for their fascist regime. However, we are not absolved of the current weight of these symbols and we should not fault Palestinians for their visceral emotions when they see these symbols.

During my most recent trip to the West Bank, some local children were scouring my belongings for potential gifts. Finding the Magen David necklace I wore through customs, a girl turned to me and said: "oh so you love Israel?" No! I vehemently responded. They giggled and asked why I have their symbol on my necklace? At first I tried to explain that this is a symbol of Jewish people, not the State of Israel. But I quickly trailed off. For Palestinians who know nothing of Judaism aside from its role in oppression and ethnic cleansing, this star symbolizes harm, destruction, and hate. I had specifically removed it when entering Palestine because I knew it was triggering to see.

In North America, the Jewish community is given special consideration during Diwali because of the use of the swastika and its associations with Nazi Germany and white supremacist movements. Palestinians must be afforded the same consideration when Jewish people choose to display the Star of David which has now become associated with the Gaza genocide and Israeli apartheid. Israel has made it impossible to divorce this symbol from the unfathomable devastation carried out under its banner. Israel has turned the Star of David into a symbol of supremacy and fascism. I refuse to associate myself and my Judaism with Israel and all it represents. That is why I am no longer wearing a Jewish star.

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