

BRANDEIS STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE
JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE

<p>MON 11/8/10</p>	<p>5:30 - 6:30 pm International Lounge</p> <p>MISSING HEADLINES A Panel featuring Emily Schick and Elisha Baskin, on women's activism in the Palestinian Territories</p> <hr/> <p>6:30-8 pm Schwartz Auditorium</p> <p>SLINGSHOT HIP-HOP A Film about DAM, a popular Palestinian rap group</p>
<p>TUES 11/9/10</p>	<p>11 am - 12:30 pm International Lounge</p> <p>DAOUD NASSAR: A Palestinian farmer opposes settlements in his community</p> <hr/> <p>6 - 8 pm Pearlman Lounge</p> <p>DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS Alice Rothchild on Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions, specifically in the American Jewish Community (Cosponsored by the PAX Program!)</p>
<p>WED 11/10/10</p>	<p>7 pm Pearlman Lounge</p> <p>DIANA BUTTU Negotiator & Legal advisor to the PLO speaks on human rights & the peace process. FREE PALESTINIAN SWEETS</p>
<p>THURS 11/11/10</p>	<p>2 - 5 pm SCC Multi-Purpose Room</p> <p>BOSTON PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL 2010 Features: "To Shoot an Elephant" and "East Side Story"</p> <hr/> <p>6:30 pm Sherman Function Hall</p> <p>NOAM CHOMSKY Israel's Escalating Policies of Apartheid</p>
<p>FRI 11/12/10</p>	<p>6 pm MIT: Lobdell Hall, \$10</p> <p>DAM Palestinian hip-hop group performs at MIT! Celebrate a week of activism!</p>

CONTACT: BSJP@BRANDEIS.EDU
JEWISHVOICEFORPEACE@BRANDEIS.EDU

CONTENTS

Frequently Asked Questions	3
Democracy and the Jewish State	6
Refugees	7
Druze	9
Territorial Control	9
Economic Closure	10
The Wall	11
Water	12
East Jerusalem	12
House Demolitions	13
Terrorism	15

The Brandeis student body does not fall in line with AIPAC, the ADL, and other un-nuanced approaches to the State of Israel and the Palestinian people. We are young Jews, Muslims and Christians: Palestinians and Israelis, Americans, Europeans and others. We envision Israel and Palestine as a place of justice, and we hold Israel accountable for its military occupation. Peace can proceed when all Palestinians reclaim their rights to free movement, land, water, a home, a fair trial and due process, cultural preservation, national identity and democratic representation.

This zine is a small effort to set the record straight. It is a simple document of the conflict as we see it, and the facts therein reflect the passions and anxieties that drive us to do what we do. We are fighting for a just future out of a concern for the lives of our Jewish and Palestinian brothers and sisters. Peace CAN be achieved, and this is why we are fighting.

Contributors: Liza Behrendt, Renana Gal, Lev Hirschhorn, Madeleine Stix, Jon Sussman, Paraska Tolan.

Cover Art by Paraska Tolan

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Lev Hirschhorn

Why do you call it “The Occupation?”

“Occupation” refers to the military governance of the territories captured by Israel in the 1967 war. The Palestinian people did not elect the Israeli government, which controls land, zoning, construction, movement, imports and exports, housing, construction, policing, judicial processes, and other basic facets of life. Israel maintains control of these territories through military power rather than democratic legitimacy.

Isn’t Israel the only democracy in the Middle East?

While it’s true that Israel proper (within the Green Line) is governed as a democracy, Greater Israel (under Israeli control since 1967) is governed undemocratically, with Palestinians having almost no say in the governing process.

Don’t Jews have a right to their historic homeland?

Since extremists on both sides claim an historical “right” to the land, we could debate forever which claim is greater. Peace depends on a mutual acceptance of both narratives, and on both peoples holding sovereignty over a viable piece of land. Thus, Israel cannot expect to maintain full control over the occupied territories and to have peace.

Hasn’t the separation wall stopped terrorist attacks?

Correlation is not the same as causation. The primary reason for the drop in terror attacks, according to the Israeli Security Agency (Shin Bet), was the 2005 truce between Israel and the Palestinians.¹

The wall does not only separate Palestinians from Israelis: it also separates Palestinians from Palestinians. The wall expropriates Palestinian land in East Jerusalem, leaving over 210,000 Palestinians on the Israeli side of the wall. What makes these people less dangerous than their neighbors on the other side?

Today, there are thousands of Palestinian workers from the West Bank who have entered Israel illegally, through gaps in the unfinished wall. The wall does not deter possible terrorists from entering Israel.

Why won’t the Arabs accept Israel’s right to exist?

The Palestinians have already done so, repeatedly. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) first recognized Israel’s right to exist within ’67 borders as early as 1987, and re-affirmed this right in 1993. In 2002 and 2007, the “Arab Peace Initiative,” endorsed by 22 Arab countries, recognized Israel’s right to exist within the ’67 borders. In return, they ask for a complete withdrawal from the occupied territories, which Israel refuses. Although Hamas does not officially back this initiative, many of its members and leaders do.²

The new demand that Palestinians accept Israel as a Jewish State is absurd given that Israel hasn’t even defined what “Jewish” means in this context.

¹ Harel, Amos. “Shin Bet: Palestinian truce main cause for reduced terror.” *Haaretz*: Feb 1, 2006.

<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/shin-bet-palestinian-truce-main-cause-for-reduced-terror-1.61607>.

² Ynet News. “Hamas’ al-Zahar: Arab peace initiative impractical.” June 1, 2006. <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3257932,00.html>.

FAQ CONTINUED...

Didn't Ehud Barak make a "generous offer" to Arafat at Taba in 2000?

No. Mainstream media asserts that Ehud Barak offered 85% - 97% of the occupied territories to Yassir Arafat at the 2000 Camp David Summit, though the details of the actual offer remain unknown (there are no maps from Taba).³

Yet control of land does not necessarily indicate control over viable territory. *Israel is capable of controlling all of Palestine simply by retaining only a small percentage of the land.* Under Barak's plan, Arafat probably would have forfeited control of the borders, airspace, and free movement between separated Palestinian enclaves. Even by simply retaining control of the settlement blocs around Jerusalem, Israel would have cut off access to the Palestinian capital from the rest of the state. Such a Palestinian state would not have been territorially, judicially, or economically independent.

Why aren't you condemning Hamas? What about Gilad Shalit and the people of Sderot?

We see violence as unjust and ineffective, whether from a state or a non-state actor. We deeply sympathize with all citizens of Israel who have suffered violence, including the people of Sderot, Gilad Shalit, and his family. Yet we reject the prioritization of one peoples' suffering over the others', as there are also countless Palestinians in prison for political reasons, hundreds without a fair trial. All of these people are victims of a conflict that Israel sustains with its ongoing occupation. The most effective way to deter violence from Hamas is to eliminate their ability to justify it.

We condemn Hamas, but ultimately we recognize that they are largely powerless. Their charter may call for the obliteration of Israel, but there is simply no way that they can achieve that goal. They are a weak, divided, decentralized organization, while Israel is an economically and technologically advanced country with nuclear weapons and the region's strongest army.

Why are you so opposed to the settlers? Why can't Jews live in the Judea and Samaria?

While we have no objections to the principle of Jews living in the West Bank, we object to them controlling their Palestinian neighbors, often on stolen land. Israeli settlers in the West Bank don't just want to live there as equals among the Palestinians, they want to live there as citizens of Israel, with all the rights and privileges entitled, while they want their Palestinian neighbors to be segregated, second-class citizens. Israelis who live in the West Bank are allowed to vote, while the Arabs are not. They are subject to Israeli civilian law, whereas the Arabs are subject to military law. They travel on Jewish-only roads and are not subject to the same brutal occupation as their neighbors. Furthermore, many of the settlements are built illegally on land owned by Palestinian farmers.

We will defend the right of Jews to live as equals in the West Bank, but we cannot support allowing them to live as first-class citizens while the Palestinians suffer.

³ Halper, Jeff. *Obstacles to Peace*. Jerusalem: ICAHD, 2009. p. 73.



FAQ CONTINUED...

We withdrew from Gaza! How is this an occupation?

While no Jews currently live in Gaza, Israel, with the support of Egypt, maintains total control over Gaza's borders, airspace, and coastline. In 2007, Israel imposed an economic blockade that led to the closing of 90% of Gazan factories and thousands of businesses, and the loss of tens of thousands of jobs.⁴ Gaza suffers from grave shortages of fuel, electricity, water, food, and raw building materials, artificially producing a humanitarian crisis.

Are you anti-Israel?

No. Peace with the Palestinians will benefit both the Israeli and Palestinian people, and we believe that Israel's current policies compromise Israeli security by breeding resentment among the Palestinians. A sustainable, just peace for all depends on the end of Israel's occupation.

Why are you focusing so much attention on Israel? Why not criticize China, Sudan, and the countless other countries committing human rights abuses?

It is important to remember that there are many places in the world where human rights abuses are being committed. We oppose all human rights abuses committed anywhere in the world. We encourage other groups to condemn violence in China, Sudan or North Korea and other such places, and to start campaigns attempting to influence America's foreign policy in those regions. With that said, as American Jews and Israelis we feel a very strong connection with this particular region of the world. Furthermore scholars have identified America's relationship with Israel as "special" both financially and politically. Thus by influencing America's foreign policy we can, to a certain extent, change Israel's domestic policy. This is especially true here at Brandeis University, given the strong relationship between the American Jewish community and the State of Israel.

We encourage everyone here at Brandeis University and in America to pressure politicians and leaders to demand an end to the occupation of Palestine.

⁴ B'Tselem: http://www.btselem.org/english/Gaza_Strip/Siege.asp



Photo: Liza Behrendt

DEMOCRACY AND THE JEWISH STATE

Jon Sussman

Nationalism based around a particular identity group excludes those of different ethnicity or religion from the privileges of democracy. Thus, a fundamental tension exists between Israel's self-proclamation as a democracy and as a Jewish state. **The occupation**, which governs Palestinians without granting them the right to vote, **is eroding the foundations of Israeli democracy**.

Palestinian citizens of Israel also suffer from **endemic discrimination and harassment**, even though they make up 20% of the population and vote within Israel. They are often excluded from government coalitions and cabinet posts. Because the government has not recognized any new Arab villages since 1948, many Israeli Arabs (including 90,000 Bedouin¹) live in unrecognized villages are denied access to basic services such as education, housing assistance, and sanitation.

Far-right Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman – whose party won power by denouncing the 'internal enemy' – is famous for denying the legitimacy of Arab legislators and promoting the forced transfer of Israeli Arabs to a future Palestinian state. Discriminatory laws have been considered and/or passed at the highest levels: notable among them are the citizenship oath (to the 'Jewish and democratic state of Israel'), the bill to outlaw remembrance of Palestinian refugees (collective mourning of the Nakba), and recently to allow Jewish municipalities to exclude Arabs.

According to polls, public opinion is increasingly hostile to minorities. More than half of Israelis are in favor of curbing dissent (in the form of speech or political protest) during times of military action or political turmoil. 36% of Israelis and 50% of young Israelis are in favor of revoking Arab voting-rights.²

Dissent is viewed with suspicion and subjected to violent repression. The IDF has responded to weekly nonviolent demonstrations against settlements and the separation wall by arbitrarily declaring these areas 'closed military zones', arresting demonstrators and firing lethal ammunition at crowds. Criticism of Israeli policy meets increasing repression: legislation to register NGOs and restrict their funding is solely targeted at human rights groups and Arab/Palestinian advocacy organizations, including Breaking the Silence, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, and the Mossawa Center.³ Courageous individuals – Jews and non-Jews alike – are fighting to extend Israeli democracy for all inhabitants of Israel and Palestine, regardless of religious and ethnic identity.

Israeli democracy now depends on the maintenance of a Jewish majority. Considering the growth rate of the Palestinian population and the immigration of non-Jews to Israel, the demographic balance of power might soon change. If and when Jews cease to be a majority in the state, Israel will be forced to make a fundamental choice. What price is Israel willing to pay to maintain the ideology of exclusive ethnonationalism?

¹ *Internal Displacement*

² *Ynetnews*: "Poll: 36% of Jews want to revoke Arabs' voting rights" 15 Oct 2010.
<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3969831,00.html>

³ <http://www.mossawacenter.org/files/files/File/Reports/2010/Netanyahu%20final.pdf>

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

Paraphrased from the webpage of Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Refugee and Residency Rights

Who are Palestinian refugees?

Palestinian refugees can be divided into five major groups. The largest group is comprised of Palestinians who were displaced/expelled from their homes in 1948. This includes Palestinian refugees who received international assistance from the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), i.e., 'registered refugees'; and Palestinian refugees not eligible for international assistance.

The second major group of Palestinian refugees were displaced for the first time from their homes in the West Bank, east-Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip in 1967 (often referred to as '1967 displaced persons').

The third category of refugees includes Palestinian who are neither 1948 or 1967 refugees, are outside the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and are unable or unwilling to return due to revocation of residency, denial of family reunification, deportation, or fear of persecution.

In addition, there are two groups of internally displaced Palestinians. The first includes Palestinians who remained in the area that became the state of Israel in 1948. The second group includes Palestinians in the West Bank, east-Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

How did Palestinians become refugees?

The majority of Palestinians became refugees during armed conflict and war in Palestine. Reasons for flight include indiscriminate attacks on civilians, massacres, looting, destruction of property (including entire villages), and forced expulsion. Israeli military forces adopted 'shoot to kill' policies along the armistice lines to prevent the return of refugees. **In some cases refugees were forced to sign papers claiming that they were leaving voluntarily.** It is estimated that in 1948 more than fifty percent fled under direct military assault and in 1967 sixty percent of refugees fled to Jordan as a result of direct military assault.

In 1948 eighty-five percent of the Palestinians living in the areas that became the state of Israel became refugees. More than 500 Palestinian villages, i.e. three quarters of the Palestinian villages, were depopulated and later destroyed to prevent the return of refugees. In the districts of Jaffa, Ramala and Bir Saba' not one Palestinian village was left standing. Approximately thirty-five percent of the Palestinian population of the West Bank, eastern Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip were expelled during the 1967 war. Two percent of villages were destroyed, as well as several refugee camps.

How many refugees are there?

It is estimated that there were more than **7 million Palestinian refugees** and displaced persons at the beginning of 2003. This includes Palestinian refugees displaced in 1948 and registered for assistance with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) (3.97 million); Palestinian refugees displaced in 1948 but not registered for assistance (1.54 million); Palestinian refugees displaced for the first time in 1967 (753,000); 1948 internally displaced Palestinians (274,000); and, 1967 internally displaced Palestinians (150,000).

Where do refugees live?

More than one and a quarter million Palestinian refugees reside in 59 official refugee camps located in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. There are a smaller number of unofficial refugee camps. The large number of Palestinians remaining in camps after more than five decades of exile can be explained by several factors: family and village support structure in the camp; lack of resources to rent or buy alternative accommodation outside the camp; lack of living space outside the camp due to overcrowding; legal, political, and social obstacles which compel refugees to remain in the camp; physical safety; and, the refugee camp as a symbol of the temporary nature of exile and the demand to exercise the right of return.

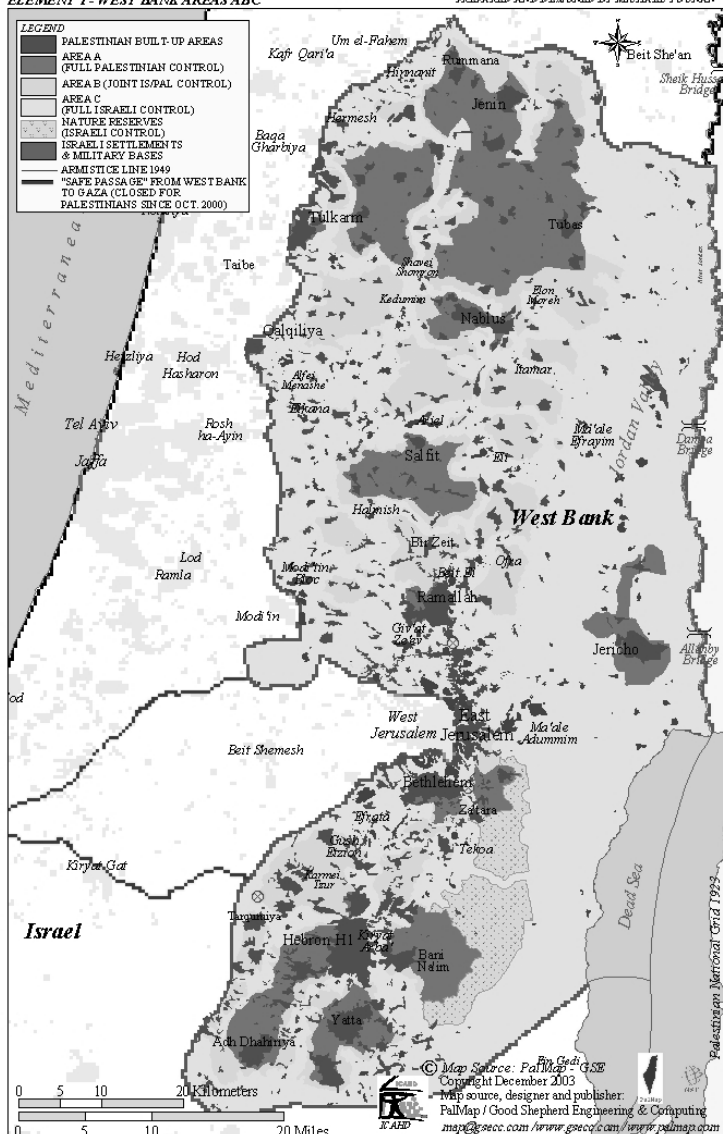
PALESTINAIN REFUGEES CONTINUED...

Why are Palestinians still refugees after 50 years?

Palestinian refugees are still refugees because they are **unable to exercise their basic human right to return to their original homes**. Israel refuses to allow the refugees to return to villages, towns and cities inside Israel due to the ethnic, national and religious origin of the refugees. Israel defines itself as a Jewish state and not a state of all its citizens. This self-definition emphasizes the need for a permanent Jewish majority, Jewish control of key resources like land, and the link between Israel and the Jewish diaspora. Jewish citizens, residents and the Jewish diaspora are therefore granted special preferences to citizenship and land ownership. **Did you know? 1 out of 5 refugees in the world is Palestinian!**

MAP 3 : DEFINING THE PALESTINIAN BANTUSTAN
ELEMENT 1 - WEST BANK AREAS ABC

PREPARED AND DESIGNED BY MICHAEL YOUNAN



TERRITORIAL CONTROL IN THE WEST BANK

Summarized from "Obstacles to Peace," Jeff Halper

"Creating facts on the ground" was coined by Ariel Sharon as a strategy for incorporating the West Bank into the urban fabric of Israel proper. The Israeli government does this by expropriating land for settlements, highways, "by-pass roads," military installations, nature reserves, and infrastructure, all of which take up 24% of West Bank, 89% of Arab East Jerusalem.

With the signing of Oslo II in 1995, the negotiations process that created the Palestinian Authority, the West Bank was divided into approximately 70 disconnected enclaves. Seven major settlement blocks break up the land, limiting the control of the Palestinian Authority to confined areas. Palestinians face approximately 650 obstacles to movement.

Refer to the map on the left-hand side: Darkened areas are under control of the Palestinian Authority. Areas in between are subject to full or partial control of the Israeli military: Map created by Jeff Halper of The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD)

The occupation extends above and below ground. Above ground, Israeli security operates surveillance equipment and an electro-magnetic communications field. Below ground, Israel controls all water resources, sending 80% of water from the West Bank goes to Israel and settlements. **It is a violation of international law for an occupying power to utilize the resources of an occupied territory.**

MILITARY CONSCRIPTION BUT NO STATE SUPPORT

Madeleine Stix

"The covenant of blood" is a phrase often used to describe the bond between Druze and Israeli soldiers in military service, implying an everlasting and reciprocal relationship between the State of Israel and the Druze, an ethnoreligious group branching off of Islam. But despite the compulsory military service for the male population of 100,000 Druze in Israel, once they shed their military jacket, they are left with little support by the Israeli government.

The Druze represent an essential part of the IDF— as native Arabic speakers they are often on the front line of Palestinian disputes and confrontations. Prime Minister Netanyahu has even said that he owes his life to "a Druze soldier" who saved him during his military service.¹ Yet the Druze population in Israel still faces discrimination when finding employment and residence in certain Jewish-Israeli towns, and particularly in underfunded Druze schools.² **How can Israel use the Druze on the frontlines and not support them afterward?**

This neglect of state support has not come without anger from the Druze population. While Israel sees the Druze as a useful part of the military, the Druze have been increasingly disassociating themselves from an Israeli identity. Many now are now shifting political affiliations and showing greater sympathy for Arab nationalism, switching from Jewish to Arab parties.³ Without state support, one of the few pro-Israel Arab communities might soon be changing their views.

¹ Haaretz: "Druze Rally Against State Discrimination Near Netanyahu's Office." 21 June 2009.
<http://www.haaretz.com/news/druze-rally-against-state-discrimination-near-netanyahu-office-1.278517>

² Schultz, Rachael Gelfman. "Druze in Israel."
http://www.myjewishlearning.com/israel/Contemporary_Life/Society_and_Religious_Issues/Arab-Israelis/druze.shtml

³ Ynetnews: "Rift between Israel, Druze growing." 18 Jan 2008.
<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3495934,00.html>

ECONOMIC CLOSURE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

Liza Behrendt

Sustainable peace depends upon a **viable Palestinian economy**, but the Israeli occupation artificially stifles economic development in the West Bank and Gaza. The Paris Economic Protocol was signed in 1995 as an annex to Oslo II, the extended negotiations process that created the Palestinian Authority, and established Israel's right to stop all shipments of goods for security reasons and to hold them for as long as possible. This has destroyed Palestinian commerce, since slow movement ruins agricultural exports and undermines the reliability of all Palestinian business abroad.¹

Israel controls the issuance of import/export permits and the licensing of industrial and commercial enterprises, further limiting the ability of Palestinian firms to maintain a supply to customers. Israeli authorities stipulate which Israeli companies will manage shipping, storage, clearance, and insurance, which bring impossibly high costs to Palestinian firms. Since the Paris Protocol, **Palestinian businesses have greatly suffered**, with many firms closing or significantly reducing production and staff payrolls.

These restrictions have exacerbated poverty among the Palestinian people. A full 75% of Palestinians, (including 2/3 of children) live on less than \$2 a day, described by the UN as "deep poverty". Malnutrition plagues 30% of all children under 5. Unemployment runs at 67% in Gaza. The Palestinian economy is forced into **dependency** on the Israeli economy: about 90% of Palestinian trade is with Israel.² Although the economy in the West Bank has been growing tremendously over the last few years, the system lacks any sort of independence from Israel.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza has intensified with Israel's 2007 economic blockade.

"The closure of the crossings to the import of goods continues to prevent the reconstruction of vital infrastructure damaged during the operation. About 90 percent of Gaza residents suffer from blackouts lasting from four to eight hours every day, and some 10,000 Palestinians in the northern part of the Gaza Strip have no access to running water. It is impossible to rebuild the 3,450 residential dwellings that were destroyed and the 2,879 houses that were damaged. Twenty thousand uprooted Palestinians live in crowded conditions in rented apartments, with relatives, or in tents. The health system, which had to cope during and after the military operation with thousands of injured persons and with the damage resulting from Israeli attacks on medical teams and facilities, was severely harmed."

— B'Tselem³



"A report issued by the Red Cross stated that, in May 2009, only 2,662 trucks carrying goods entered the area, a drop of 80 percent from the 11,392 trucks that entered in April 2007." — B'Tselem⁴

"After Operation Cast Lead, the Red Cross reported that 3,750 businesses had closed and approximately forty thousand persons (94 percent of the personnel in these businesses) had lost their jobs." — B'Tselem⁵

¹ Halper, Jeff. *Obstacles to Peace*. Jerusalem: ICAHD, 2009. p. 52.

² *ibid.* 52

³ B'Tselem: *The Siege of Gaza*: http://www.btselem.org/english/Gaza_Strip/Siege.asp

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ *ibid*

THE SEPARATION WALL

Renana Gal

The separation wall¹ was built in 2002 to prevent Palestinians in the West Bank from entering Israel. The separation wall averages almost 20 feet high (towering at some points at 26 feet), ringed by electric fences and 200 foot exclusion zones for the majority of its 436 mile length. The barrier goes all the way from Salem in the north of the West Bank to Arab Al'furiyat south of Jerusalem.

While the officially announced route of the wall was supposed to stick to the borders that existed between Israel and Palestine before the 1967 War (the Green Line), 85% of the separation barrier's route goes inside the Palestinian territories. This means that instead of simply demarcating the border, the wall effectively **annexes Palestinian territories to Israel**, a direct violation of international law and the rulings of both the International Court of Justice and the Israeli Supreme Court. Once complete the wall will annex 10% of the West Bank. This is in addition to illegal Israeli settlements and closed military areas that are nearly off-limits to Palestinians, which take up another 38% of the West Bank.²

The wall has cut through hundreds of Palestinian communities, destroying homes, neighborhoods, and livelihoods. Many Palestinians have lost access to the agricultural lands that are their main source of income. The wall (and accompanying settlements) completely surrounds 78 Palestinian villages, **creating ghettos** where residents require permission of the Israeli Defense Forces to enter or exit. 210,000 Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem remain on the Israeli side, separated by the wall from their neighbors. What makes these Palestinians safer than those on the other side?

The wall, along with 650 additional obstacles for movement within the West Bank, divide Palestinians from school, family, and even accessing medical treatment: "The coherence of the Palestinian health system is being destroyed. The wall will isolate 97 primary health clinics and 11 hospitals from the populations they serve...There have been at least 87 documented cases (including 30 children) in which denial of access to medical treatment has led directly to deaths, including those of babies born while women were held up at checkpoints."³

If the separation barrier is really being constructed for security reasons only, then the route is illogical. Thus, the real purpose of the separation barrier is to annex Palestinian land and to maintain the settlements. The Palestinians basic rights and means of subsistence are under attack, which only increases their resentment of the State of Israel.

Palestinian responses to the wall have been largely peaceful, but are violently suppressed by the Israeli armed forces. **Weekly nonviolent demonstrations in several villages** — such as Bil'in and Budrus — **are met with tear gas, stun grenades, rubber bullets, and occasionally live ammunition.** The IDF suppresses the right of nonviolent resistance by arresting the community leaders who organize these demonstrations.

¹ The wall has no official name, but 'separation barrier' is considered the most neutral. Israelis often refer to it as the 'security fence', whereas it is known amongst Palestinians as the 'racial segregation wall' or 'Apartheid wall'.

² <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/unescwa/unpan035390.pdf>

³ Summerfield, Derek. *Palestine: The Assault on Health and Other War Crimes*. 16 Oct 2004.

<http://www.ifamericansknew.org/stats/assault.html>

WATER AND THE OCCUPATION

From B'Tselem: <http://www.btselem.org/english/Water/Index.asp>

“Israel's citizens, like those of developed countries worldwide, benefit year-round from unlimited running water to meet their household needs. On the other hand, **hundreds of thousands of Palestinians suffer from a severe water shortage** throughout the summer.

“This shortage of water affects every function that water plays in human life: drinking, bathing, cleaning, and watering of crops and animals.

“The shortage drastically affects the residents' **health and economic well-being**. The shortage of drinking water can cause dehydration and the inability to maintain proper hygiene and thus lead to illness. **Failure to water crops and animals** affects the livelihood of the residents.

“The water shortage violates the basic human rights of Palestinian residents of the Occupied Territories such as the right to health, to adequate housing, to equality, and to benefit from their natural resources. This harm results from Israeli policy, in effect since 1967, based on an unfair division of resources shared by Israel and the Palestinians.”

THE OCCUPATION OF EAST JERUSALEM

From B'Tselem: <http://www.btselem.org/english/Jerusalem/Index.asp>

“Since East Jerusalem was annexed in 1967, the government of Israel's primary goal in Jerusalem has been to create a demographic and geographic situation that will thwart any future attempt to challenge Israeli sovereignty over the city. To achieve this goal, the government has been taking actions to increase the number of Jews, and reduce the number of Palestinians, living in the city.

“At the end of 2005, the population of Jerusalem stood at 723,700: 482,500 Jews (67 percent) and 241,200 Palestinians (33 percent). About 58 percent of the residents live on land that was annexed in 1967 (45 percent of whom are Jews, and 55 percent Palestinians). With the Palestinians having a higher growth rate than the Jews, Israel has used various methods to achieve its goal:

- Physically isolating East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, in part by building the **separation barrier**;
- Discriminating in land **expropriation, planning, and building, and demolition of houses**;
- Revoking residency and social benefits of Palestinians who stay abroad for at least seven years, or who are unable to prove that **their center of life** is in Jerusalem;
- Unfairly dividing the budget between the two parts of the city, with harmful effects on **infrastructure and services** in East Jerusalem.

HOUSE DEMOLITIONS IN EAST JERUSALEM

Paraphrased from the website of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: http://www.icahd.org/?page_id=5374

Since 1967, around 2,000 Palestinian homes have been demolished in East Jerusalem, which is recognized internationally as the future capital for a Palestinian state. According to official statistics, from 2000 – 2008 the Israeli authorities demolished more than 670 East Jerusalem homes. The number of outstanding demolition orders is estimated at up to 20,000.

There are two types of housing demolitions: **Punitive demolitions** punish the family of persons suspected of participation in terrorist attacks. This was officially banned in 2005, but does continue infrequently. There are also **Administrative Demolitions**, which occur in response to construction without a proper permit, and account for the vast majority of home demolitions. These demolitions are performed by the Jerusalem municipality or the Ministry of the Interior.

Palestinians are forced to build without permits. The master plan for Jerusalem follows the Israeli Government and Jerusalem Municipality policy of demographic and ethnic control, aimed at preserving demographics in the city at 70% Jewish to 30% Arab. This policy is clearly stated in the Jerusalem Municipality's Master Plan. The result is that permits are routinely denied to Arab petitioners with the goal of stifling Arab population growth. Densely populated Palestinian neighborhoods are encircled by 'green space' or 'unzoned land' where building is forbidden. The density of housing units permitted per plot is also restricted, being far lower in Palestinian than in Jewish neighborhoods. Applications to rezone or increase density are regularly denied. Palestinians therefore have no opportunity to lawfully meet the housing needs of a growing population.

Despite a shortage of 25,000 housing units in the Palestinian sector, the Jerusalem Municipality grants just 50-100 building permits each year for Palestinian housing.

Illegal settlement construction: Since 1967 Jewish settlements have been multiplying in East Jerusalem for the stated purpose of expanding the Jewish character of the city and guaranteeing its indivisibility. The municipality regularly grants building permits to settlement companies while denying them to Palestinians. Settlements built on the outskirts of Jerusalem also dissect the continuity between the northern and southern West Bank, jeopardizing the feasibility of a future Palestinian State.

Precarious residency status: Palestinians in Jerusalem hold a 'Jerusalem resident' ID. The status permits employment and gives access to services available to citizens, but these rights are permanently lost if the cardholder changes residency, even temporarily, outside of Jerusalem. Once they lose permanent resident status, they are shut out from the city of Jerusalem. With no ability to build legally, **Palestinians are being squeezed out.** *Palestinians are left with no choice but to either build illegally, crowd into inadequate housing, or abandon Jerusalem, risking the loss of residency status and consequent permanent exclusion from the city.*

Political Implications

House demolitions are just one mechanism within a matrix of control implemented by Israel via military, economic, administrative, and cultural occupation. Discrimination against Palestinians in Jerusalem is aimed at delegitimizing their presence and claims over the Holy City. Settlements are strategically constructed in Palestinians neighborhoods in order to reduce the feasibility of a future Palestinian state. Israeli local and national governments systematically deny Palestinian legitimacy and make their lives unsustainable, while concurrently colonizing Palestinian neighborhoods. These processes are aimed at the quiet transfer of Palestinian residents out of Jerusalem. Denying the occupation of East Jerusalem, Israel pursues a policy of “facts on the ground” that incrementally erases the prospect of a shared capital for both nations.

House demolitions also occur in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Negev.

Please visit www.icahd.org for more information

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF HOUSE DEMOLITIONS

Paraska Tolan

Beit Hanina, Ashkaria village, July 13th 2009, 9.30 am.

A woman, wearing a navy blue djelaba, and a purple headscarf, extends her hands to the sky crying "Hasbiallah aleikum, al rahman, al rahim." Photographers, Palestinian and Western European, tell her to lean this or that way, to speak louder, to look at the sky... She ignores them all and continues shouting in Arabic at the top of her lungs, while clutching her wrist. Another woman, holding a curly haired boy is crying, yelling, pointing out parts of the house to the 70 or so spectators, "We did not have time to take milk for the children, the beds and toys they were all destroyed". She stands in the middle of the rubble of her demolished house, 3 children clutching her dress, the backyard overflowing with her furniture, pillows, toys, lamps, fridge, washing machine, all lying pell-mell, hastily thrown out of the house. She is about 4 or 5 months pregnant.

The mother of the landlord attempted to defend the house, when the police came to evacuate her family early that morning. Ten police men pushed her to ground, beat her up, breaking her arm. After having prayed over the ruins of her house, in front of the cameras of journalists from around the world, she gets picked up by an ambulance and brought to the hospital. The brother of the landlord was also beat up, and carried away in a police car. "They took away our phone, it was forbidden to call for help." It was the neighbors who warned the press and the Israeli Committee Against Housing Demolitions (ICAHN).

When we finally found the house, it was already almost completely destroyed; the bulldozer was still there, striking relentlessly the thin plaster walls. The house overlooked the valley, supposedly East Jerusalem. The sound of the demolition in Beit Hanina, was accompanied by construction sounds on a hill opposite to Beit Hanina; one of the illegitimate settlements separating East Jerusalem from the West Bank.

Silwan, July 13th 2009, 11.30 am

Dalia, 11 years old, stands next to me crying while a huge bright yellow bulldozer creeps toward her small house. She is a beautiful girl, dressed all in black, with deep brown eyes. She lived with another ten children, in about 20 square meters. "We are going to destroy a terrorist's house, we are going to push all the Arabs into the sea" say the Israeli soldiers, while trying to block our way onto the road. Sdura, the commander, and his company of about 10 brigadiers laugh at Liza and me, for being so ignorant. He gives us cold water from a cooler, and tells us "this is not the French police force, or the Boston Police force, we have to deal with real terrorists." He attempts to prevent me from climbing the hill overlooking the house, but when I insist he retreats, and I scramble up amongst the gravel and thorns, until I get a good view over the house and its residents. The father is being held back by the police. There are at least 50 Palestinian onlookers, neighbors, friends, squinting from the sun, clinging to each other.

The bulldozer unfolds its long metallic paw, and starts hitting the walls of the house, which crumble offering no resistance whatsoever.

When the bulldozer, driven by an old Palestinian man, has finished its job, it retreats squeaking as it goes, followed by the army of Israeli police men and IDF soldiers (at least one hundred for a family of five) looking back, making sure the job had been done appropriately. They do not clean away the rubble. The Silwan villagers, who were forced to stand some 20 meters away from the house during the demolition, all flock to the pile of rubble, searching in vain for a remnant of the house. Once again journalists, and photographers from Europe and Palestine, ask the family to stand in front of the demolished house, take pictures, and interview the mother in broken Arabic. Somebody is explaining that the family had no permit for the house, but that it had been built in the 1970's. There was no terrorist living in this house. Yet for the Israeli soldiers all house demolitions are houses of Palestinian terrorists.

UNDERSTANDING TERRORISM

Paraska Tolan

During the French Revolution the Jacobins imposed a "Reign of Terror" to frighten the French population into silence. After the Jacobins lost power, "terrorist" became a pejorative term used to describe groups across the globe. Some of these groups operated with the support of the government, others were fighting against the government; some were motivated by religious goals, others by political or ideological aims. **The common denominator between these groups is often difficult to identify.**

No standard definition of terrorism has been established, making this a polemical and subjective task for government agencies. The U.S. Department of Defense defines terrorism as "the calculated use of unlawful violence to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological." The FBI identifies terrorism as "the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." And the State department: "Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience."¹

Many organizations that have been labeled as terrorist organizations in the past are now seen as righteous in their intentions if not in their means. The African National Congress, although violent in its methods, is now perceived as fighting for a "just" cause against South African Apartheid. The African National Congress, much like Hamas and Hezbollah today, was composed of a political faction and a military faction. Voices from within and without condemned its military actions and supported a nonviolent response to the oppression of blacks in South Africa. However, because it represented the main opposition to the Apartheid government it played a major role in resolving the conflict by participating in the peace-building process. The fight against Apartheid led by agencies across the globe afforded the ANC's political wing legitimacy. When the political faction was given a place to bargain the military faction lost much of its grip on the population; in 1990 the ANC dismantled its military branch in preparation for the end of Apartheid.

Similarly, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was considered a terrorist organization until the Madrid Conference in 1991, when it when **rejected "violence and terrorism" in exchange for recognition from Israel.** The PLO is now recognized as the **"sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people,"** although limiting the Palestinian population to a single representative does not accommodate possible changes in the political climate of the Palestinian territories.

The Palestinians elected Hamas. By labeling Hamas as a terrorist groups Israel is disregarding the group's political function and preventing any possible peace-building process with the Gaza population. **Hamas should not be immediately disregarded as a possible partner for peace,** since terrorist groups in the past have been willing to negotiate when offered concessions. Israel's best chance to quell Hamas' terrorist activities is to hold out a hand and recognize Hamas as a political party in exchange for changes in the Hamas charter.

¹Burgess, Mark. "Terrorism: The Problem of Definitions" 1 Aug 2008.
<http://www.cdi.org/friendlyversion/printversion.cfm?documentID=1564>