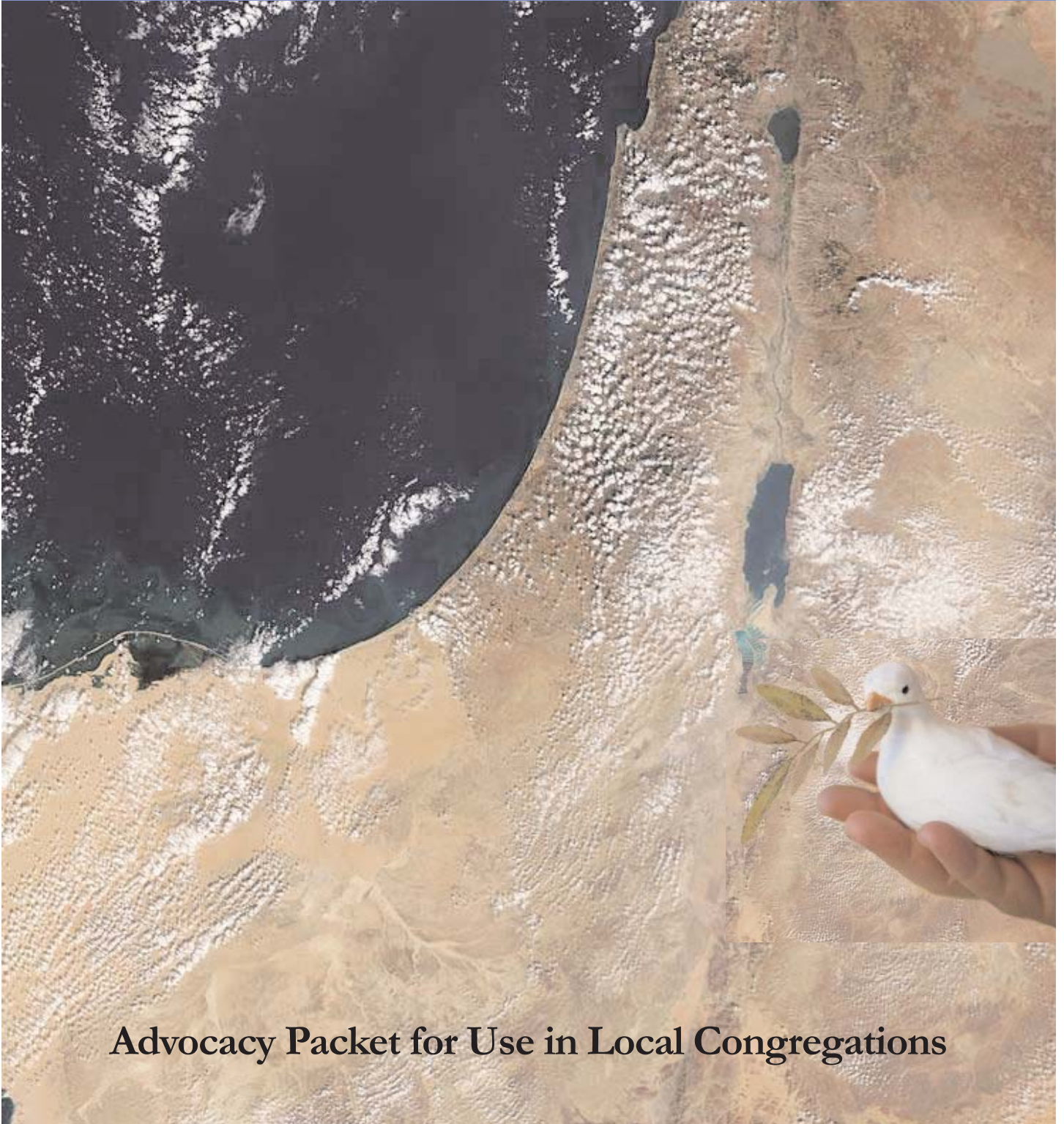


# Working for a Just and Lasting Peace *for Israelis and Palestinians*

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW • HOW YOU CAN HELP



**Advocacy Packet for Use in Local Congregations**



Prepared by the General Boards of Church & Society and Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church  
[www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/)

General Boards of Church & Society and Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, 2007

This advocacy packet was created in response to 2004 General Conference Resolution #312 that states:  
"The General Board of Global Ministries, working together with the General Board of Church & Society and interfaith organizations, develop advocacy packets for use in local congregations to promote a just and lasting peace and human rights for all in the region."

Packet created by Tamara Alexander, graduate intern,  
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Cover photo courtesy NASA, "Fires in the Nile Delta"  
Credit Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC  
<http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/>

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# 1. Introduction

*The Gospel of Christ knows no religion but social, no holiness but social holiness. You cannot be holy except as you are engaged in making the world a better place. You do not become holy by keeping yourself pure and clean from the world but by plunging into ministry on behalf of the world's hurting ones.*

– John Wesley, Methodism’s founder

Reports of the ongoing violence and suffering in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories are in the news almost daily. Often the stories lead to more questions than answers. How did the conflict start? Why does the fighting continue? How can it be resolved? What is the controversy over the settlements? What is the “Road Map?” Where is the “Wall” being built? After seeing pictures of children grieving over lost parents and parents grieving over lost children, you may ask, “What can I possibly do to help?”

This packet is designed to help answer your questions about the conflict and provide you with specific actions you can take to help bring about a just and lasting peace that will be good for both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. The packet is divided into two sections. The first section, What You Should Know, contains background information, maps and links to personal testimonies from people in the region, church statements, and resources for additional study. The second section, How You Can Help, provides detailed advocacy resources for churches and individuals.

It is possible to work for peace in the region without favoring one side or the other. This can be achieved by focusing on principles of justice and human rights. As Christians, it is important that we work to uphold the human rights of all persons. As U.S. citizens, it is important that we recognize the influence — sometimes coun-

terproductive — that U.S. policies and financial assistance have had on the region. As citizens and taxpayers, we have a role in the cycle of violence and, as such, a responsibility to speak out about injustice.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be a contentious topic for local churchgoers in the United States. Strong views about the region and misinformation about the current situation can lead to heated discussions and angry confrontations. However, discussion is an important first step toward working for peace. While recognizing that disagreements will exist, it is also important to remember that it is not un-American, anti-Semitic, or anti-Islamic to criticize government policies or individual actions. On the other hand, it is important to choose words carefully and not condemn a group based on the actions of a subset of that group. Using terms such as “Israeli government policies” or “suicide bombers” can be more productive than speaking in blanket terms about “Israelis” or “Palestinians.”

Rather than viewing ourselves as advocates for the state of Israel or the state of Palestine, we can be advocates for people — for those who have to live with the violence and daily hardships, for families who are still mourning the loss of loved ones while longing for peace and stability. By opening this packet you have already taken the first step toward becoming an advocate for peace.

## Our Social Principles

United Methodist Social Principles provide important guidelines for framing our response to the conflict. Our Social Principles recognize the rights and dignity of every person on earth and our responsibility to help see that these rights are upheld.

“As individuals are affirmed by God in their diversity, so are nations and cultures. We recognize that no nation or culture is absolutely just and right in its treatment of its own people, nor is any nation totally without regard for the welfare of its citizens. The Church must regard nations as accountable for unjust treatment of their citizens and others living within their borders. While recognizing valid differences in culture and political philosophy, we stand for justice and peace in every nation.

# 1. Introduction

We urge the major political powers to use their nonviolent power to maximize the political, social, and economic self-determination of other nations... We urge Christians in every society to encourage the governments under which they live and the economic entities within their societies to aid and work for the development of more just economic orders.”

*(For more information about United Methodist Social Principles, see <http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?ptid=1&mid=1686>.)*

## United Methodist Church Participation in the Campaign to End the Occupation

On October 17, 2000, the General Board of Global Ministries directors adopted a resolution firmly based on human rights and international law calling for an end to the escalating violence and systemic human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories. It states in part, “We recognize the current popular protest is an expression of deep Palestinian frustration over the ongoing disrespect, dehumanization, and denial of their basic human and national rights by an unjust political system.”

GBGM directors called for several key actions based on longstanding United Methodist Social Principles. The call to action urged “Israel to immediately insure respect for international law” and for the U.S. government to support UN involvement of both the Security Council and the Human Rights Commission. The GBGM resolution also called for the “U.S. Government to halt the sale of new armaments to Israel; [and for] the international community to ensure that steps are taken to reduce friction, including, the removal of Israeli forces from occupied Palestinian Territories.”

In May 2001 the United Methodist Council of Bishops spoke out forcefully calling on “the U.S. government, through Congress, to use all measures possible, including the cutting off of all funding to the Israeli government, to insure that the following conditions are met: All human rights violations cease. No more Jewish settlements are built in occupied territories. All home demolitions cease.”

Since its formation in October 2001, the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation has built wider and wider support for human rights for all Palestinians and Israelis as something that is non-negotiable. The U.S. Campaign affirms that ending military occupation is a necessary precondition for a just and lasting peace. Occupation is illegal under international law and must be ended. The Campaign categorically condemns the targeting of civilians by anyone.

The U.S. government rightly condemns Palestinian attacks on civilians; however, the U.S. continues to provide financial, military and political support for Israeli attacks on civilians. It is such imbalance that the U.S. Campaign, like the United Methodist Church, seeks to end.

The U.S. Campaign embodies the core values of human rights, international law, and involvement of the UN that are all espoused by GBGM directors, the United Methodist Council of Bishops and by the General Conference resolutions pertaining to Palestine/Israel for many years.

United Methodists from a growing number of annual conferences have participated in U.S. Campaign educational and advocacy actions and the annual organizing conference. Women’s Division and GBGM are both member organizations of the Campaign and have contributed annually to its work.

# 1. Introduction

## United Methodist Church Resolutions and Statements

Many statements have come out of the General Conference and other bodies within the United Methodist Church regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following are excerpts from two of these statements. For the complete text and additional statements, visit [www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/).

### Excerpts from the 2004 General Conference Resolution, “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land” (#312)

The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a “Greater Israel” that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings. [...]

We urge the U.S government to end all military aid to the region, and second to redistribute the large amount of aid now given to Israel and Egypt; to support economic development efforts of non-governmental organizations throughout the region, including religious institutions, human rights groups, labor unions, and professional groups within Palestinian communities. [...]

The church continues to work with ecumenical and inter-faith bodies to advocate for Palestinian self-

determination and an end to Israeli occupation; to affirm Israel’s right to exist within secure borders; to affirm the right of return for Palestinian refugees under international law; to call for region-wide disarmament; to urge Israelis and Palestinians to stop human rights violations and attacks on civilians, such as targeted assassinations and suicide bombings; and to urge the U.S. government to initiate an arms embargo on the entire Middle East region.

### Excerpts from a 2004 statement by the General Board of Church & Society

We recognize there will be no true and lasting peace in the Middle East until the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is equitably resolved and both states are safe and secure. We call upon the President of the United States to send a special envoy back to the region to restart negotiations between the parties. We call upon all participants in the conflict to cease military action and violence. We call upon Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and to tear down the wall it is constructing (an action already determined illegal by the International Court of Justice and denounced by most of the world). We call upon Palestinians to bring an end to terrorist attacks against Israel. [...]

Finally, we implore persons of faith throughout God’s world to be in constant prayer for the people of the entire Middle Eastern region and for the implementation of serious and effective plans of peaceful resolution of the region’s crises. We also recognize the United States has significant power to influence the course of events, and we urge it to use this power to work toward lasting peace in the region. Our prayer is that Ezekiel’s vision of peace, where all of us “shall no more be a prey to the nations ... and none shall make them afraid” (34:28 NRSV), will prevail.

## 2. What You Should Know

There is so much information available on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that it is easy to become overwhelmed. Many scholars spend a lifetime studying this issue, so don't expect to understand all the complexities of the issue overnight. This packet contains a few basic fact sheets and maps to get you started in your efforts to learn more about the people and the conflict. In this section, you will also find links for more background information, maps, testimonies, and a timeline. For more resources on the conflict, including books, DVDs, and Internet links, see section 4: "Additional Information."

### *Did you know?*

118 Israeli children were killed by Palestinians and 934 Palestinian children were killed by Israelis between September 2000 and May 2007.

### Fact Sheets

Three fact sheets from the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation ([www.endtheoccupation.org/](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/)) can be found in the Appendix. They provide a brief background of the conflict, explain the status of Palestinians under occupation, explain how international law and human rights standards apply to the occupation, and illustrate how the Wall is affecting life in the occupied territories.



**Fact Sheet #1: Palestine and the Palestinians.** UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 — the legal basis for the Oslo Agreements — calls for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories based on the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. It is also against international law for an occupying power to transfer its own population into occupied territory. In the West Bank, Israel has seized 59% of the land and uses 90% of the water.



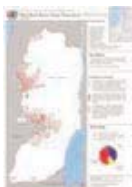
**Fact Sheet #2: Ending the Occupation: It's the Law.** International law is the only universally recognized framework that applies to all people everywhere. As an impartial and objective set of standards, international law is capable of resolving disputes without prejudice in favor of one party.



**Cementing the Occupation: Israel's Illegal Wall Puts Palestine Behind Bars.** In June 2002 Israel began working on its largest construction project to date, the Wall. At completion, the Wall will be three times as long and twice as high as the Berlin Wall, trapping tens of thousands of Palestinians inside what will effectively be an open-air prison. In addition to impact that the Wall has on the mobility of the Palestinian population, it also cuts off Palestinian farmers from their agricultural land and water sources, and will have severe consequences for the natural environment.

### Maps

Because land ownership and geography are such important factors in the conflict, two maps are also included in the "Appendix." These maps show the path of the Wall, the Green Line and the locations of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. (Available online from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, [www.ochaopt.org/](http://www.ochaopt.org/). Click on "Map Centre.")



**West Bank Barrier Route Projections** (July 2006). Shows the current and projected path of the separation barrier or Wall.

**Reference Map: West Bank & Gaza Strip** (October 2005). Shows the location of Israeli settlements and areas of control under the Oslo Agreements



## 2. What You Should Know

### Key Web Sites

These links and more can be found on the advocacy Web site:

**Advocacy Web Site**  
[www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/)

### Background

- ***Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict***, Phyllis Bennis (book)  
[www.endtheoccupation.org/](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/) (Click on “Resources”)
- **U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation**  
[www.endtheoccupation.org/](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/)
- **Brief history of the conflict**  
[www.ifamericansknew.org/history/](http://www.ifamericansknew.org/history/)
- **Detailed history of the conflict**  
[www.ifamericansknew.org/history/origin.html](http://www.ifamericansknew.org/history/origin.html)
- **Israeli Palestinian Conflict 101** (Jewish Voice for Peace)  
[www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/101conflict.shtml](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/101conflict.shtml)
- **UNICEF: At a Glance: Occupied Palestinian Territory**  
[www.unicef.org/infobycountry/oPt.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/oPt.html)
- **UNICEF: Occupied Palestinian Territory Web site**  
[www.unicef.org/oPt/](http://www.unicef.org/oPt/)

### Timeline

- **A Timeline of the Conflict** (from Churches for Middle East Peace)  
[www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Timeline\\_New.pdf](http://www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Timeline_New.pdf)

#### ***Did you know?***

According to international law, it is illegal for a country to acquire territory through force.

Occupation is a temporary status: Annexation, confiscation of resources, population transfer, and destruction of personal property are all illegal under the Geneva Conventions.<sup>6</sup>

## 2. What You Should Know

### Testimonies

The best way to find out what life is like for people in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories is to go there and talk with them in person. For those who are unable to travel to the region, however, testimonies from people in the region can help to paint a clearer picture of how their daily lives are affected by the Wall and ongoing violence.

- **Children of the Nakba** (Mennonite Central Committee, 2005, DVD, 26 minutes)  
[www.thenovgroup.com/MCC/catalog/](http://www.thenovgroup.com/MCC/catalog/)
- **Defining the Barrier** — A Washington Post multimedia section on the Wall  
[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/interactives/israel/israelFence.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/interactives/israel/israelFence.html)
- **One Family Fund: Survivor Stories**  
[www.onefamilyfund.org/](http://www.onefamilyfund.org/) (click on “Portraits” à “Survivor Stories”)
- **Sawahreh: Against the Wall** (World Council of Churches, 2005)  
[www.eappi.org/](http://www.eappi.org/) (click on “Documents” à “Security or Segregation?”)
- **Separated Families**, A report by Anna Seifert, Ecumenical Accompanier, January 2005  
[www.quaker.org.uk/templates/internal.asp?nodeid=91091](http://www.quaker.org.uk/templates/internal.asp?nodeid=91091)
- **Testimonies from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)**  
[www.eappi.org/](http://www.eappi.org/) (click on “Accompaniers' Reports”)
- **Testimonies from B'tselem**, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories  
[www.btselem.org/English/Testimonies/](http://www.btselem.org/English/Testimonies/)
- **UNICEF: Real Lives**  
[www.unicef.org/infobycountry/oPt\\_reallives.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/oPt_reallives.html)
- **UNICEF: Voices of Children in the Occupied Territories**  
[www.unicef.org/oPt/voices\\_children.html](http://www.unicef.org/oPt/voices_children.html)
- **The Wall Around Bethlehem** by Zack Sabella  
[www.palestinemonitor.org/nueva\\_web/articles/eyewitness/wall\\_bethlehem.htm](http://www.palestinemonitor.org/nueva_web/articles/eyewitness/wall_bethlehem.htm)

#### *Did you know?*

In Gaza, 64% of people live below the poverty line, and around a quarter live in deep poverty.

The combination of significant distress and the long-lasting effects of rising poverty and unemployment is having an extremely negative effect on all aspects of life.<sup>7</sup>

## 2. What You Should Know

### Maps

- **From B'tselem showing the route of the separation barrier in the West Bank**  
[www.btselem.org/English/Maps/](http://www.btselem.org/English/Maps/)
- **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**  
[www.ochaopt.org/](http://www.ochaopt.org/) (click on "Map Centre")
- **Global Policy Forum**  
[www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/israel-palestine/occupindex.htm#maps](http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/israel-palestine/occupindex.htm#maps)

#### ***Did you know?***

The path of the Wall does not follow the established Green Line border between Israel and the West Bank. It juts up to 13 miles into Palestinian territory, demolishing ancient olive groves and destroying the livelihood of Palestinian farmers.<sup>8</sup>

### **Resolutions & Statements from the United Methodist Church**

*(For more resolutions and statements, see Section 4, "Additional Information.")*

- **General Conference Resolutions** (see the *2004 Book of Resolutions* or
  - [www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/)
  - Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land (#312)
  - United Nations Resolution on the Israel-Palestine Conflict (#323)
  - The Church's Response to Ethnic and Religious Conflict (#81)
  - Holy Land Tours (#292)
  - Our Muslim Neighbors (#315)
- **Council of Bishops' Statement on the Middle East Crisis**  
<http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?ptid=21&mid=1616>
- **Ezekiel's Vision: A Statement by the General Board of Church & Society on Crises in the Middle East**  
[www.umc-gbcs.org/middleeast/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/middleeast/)

#### ***Did you know?***

Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid.

Direct U.S. aid for each Israeli citizen in 2001 was over \$500 (per capita annual income in Israel: \$16,710)

In contrast, direct U.S. aid for each Ethiopian citizen in 2001 was about \$0.45 (per capita annual income in Ethiopia: \$100)<sup>9</sup>

### 3. How You Can Help

#### TAKE ACTION!

There are several ways you can act to help bring peace and justice to all those living in the region:

#### PRAY

- Get to know the people in the region
- Keep them in your network of concern

#### GIVE

- Learn about specific needs
- Provide direct assistance to refugees

#### STUDY

- Learn all you can
- Raise awareness in your church/community
- Travel to the region

#### ENGAGE

- Teach and learn through dialogue
- Serve as an 'Accompanier' in the region
- Participate in corporate engagement

#### ADVOCATE

- Join the campaign & sign up for action alerts
- Contact your legislators
- Write a letter to the editor
- Consider divestment

## 3. How You Can Help

PRAY

- Get to know the people in the region
- Keep them in your network of concern

### PRAY

This seems obvious. Yet, intentionality in our prayers is very important for our work of solidarity. This is more than the prayer — “Let there be peace and justice in Middle East” — in Sunday morning worship. That’s a good place to begin but doesn’t go nearly far enough.

Prayer makes people part of our family, part of our network of concern. As we continue to pray for the people, the leaders, projects, our circle of concern and caring grows. Specificity in prayer helps us to connect to the human dimension and moves it from “that conflict over there.”

For example, the General Board of Global Ministries has numerous Advance projects in the region that we help support through our second mile giving. Discover what they are, find out their needs and what struggles they are facing. Find out what the joys are helping keep hope alive. Get to know the projects and people and keep them close in your life of meditation and prayer.

As we seek to work for change, prayer is one of the foundations for non-violent response. Jim Wallis, the founding editor of *Sojourners Magazine*, expressed it well in a short reflection (see box). Another example is to go to [www.rememberthechildren.org/](http://www.rememberthechildren.org/) and get the list of all the children killed since September 28, 2000. This includes both Palestinian and Israeli children. Tragically there are hundreds of families who have lost their children to the violence of the conflict in the last 5 years. We can name them specifically in our prayers, offering our own comfort in these families’ time of grief and healing.

— *The Rev. Sandra Olewine*  
*United Methodist Liaison to Jerusalem (1996-2006)*

### Prayer: Antidote to Violence

*By Jim Wallis*

Prayer is a necessity. Without it we see only our point of view and ignore the perspective of our enemies. Prayer breaks down those distinctions. To do violence to others, you must make them enemies. Prayer, on the other hand, makes enemies into friends.

When we bring our enemies into our hearts through prayer, it becomes most difficult to maintain the hostility necessary for violence. In bringing them close to us, prayer serves to protect our enemies. Thus prayer undermines the propaganda and policies of governments designed to make us hate and fear our enemies. By softening our hearts toward our adversaries, prayer can become treasonous. Fervent prayer for our enemies is a great obstacle to war and the feelings that lead to it.

Jesus says love our neighbors, including our enemies, “as yourself.” Here lies the key to peacemaking. If we seek our security and peace at the expense of someone else’s, it can only fuel the cycle of retribution. Caring for the well-being of our enemies — loving our enemies — is the only thing that can break the cycle of violence and ultimately protect our own well-being.

— *Living with Christ, NOVALIS, July 2004*

## 3. How You Can Help

### Additional Resources:

- “Prayers for Peace in the Middle East,” from the National Council of Churches  
[www.nccusa.org/2003peaceprayers.html](http://www.nccusa.org/2003peaceprayers.html)
- A Season of Prayer from NCC’s interfaith relations ministry  
[www.seasonofprayer.org/](http://www.seasonofprayer.org/)  
(Prayers, litanies, scripture texts, hymns, poems and other prayer aids from many religious traditions, appropriate to the current crisis in the Middle East)
- CMEP(Churches for Middle East Peace)  
[www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Toolkit\\_home.htm](http://www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Toolkit_home.htm)  
(Click on “Jerusalem Prayer Card” or “Worship Resource: Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”)
- Prayers and other Resources for Worship for Peace in the Middle East  
[http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=874](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=874)

### A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with Discomfort ...  
at Easy Answers, Half-Truths, and Superficial  
Relationships,  
so that you may live Deep Within Your Heart.

May God bless you with Anger ...  
at Injustice, Oppression, and Exploitation  
of People,  
so that you may work for Justice, Freedom,  
and Peace.

May God bless you with Tears ...  
to shed for those who suffer from Pain,  
Rejection, Starvation, and War,  
So that You may reach out Your Hand to  
Comfort them  
and to turn their Pain into Joy.

And may God bless you with enough  
foolishness ...  
to Believe that You can Make a Difference  
in this World,  
so that You can Do  
what others claim cannot be Done.

Amen.

### Prayer Authored by Christian, Jewish and Muslim Clergy

*(This prayer was used in many places for interreligious worship around the world at the time of the Gulf War in 1991.)*

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but You.  
Great and wonderful are Your works, wondrous are your ways.  
Thank You for the many splendored variety of Your creation.  
Thank You for the many ways we affirm Your presence and  
purpose, and the freedom to do so.

Forgive our violation of Your creation.  
Forgive our violence toward each other.  
We stand in awe and gratitude for Your persistent love  
for each and all of Your children:  
Christian, Jew, Muslim,  
as well as those with other faiths.

Grant to all and our leaders attributes of the strong;  
mutual respect in words and deed,  
restraint in the exercise of power, and  
the will for peace with justice, for all.

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, there is no God but You.

Amen.

*(Excerpted from Current Dialogue 24/93, p.36,  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/international/iraqprayers-e.html>)*

### 3. How You Can Help

GIVE

- Learn about specific needs
- Provide direct assistance to refugees

#### Projects in the Region Supported by The United Methodist Church's Advance for Christ and His Church:

For more information about any of these projects, go to the advocacy Web site, [www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/), or the Global Ministries Advance Web site at <http://gbgm-umc.org/advance/> and search for projects in the "Middle East."

| Name   | Project # | Area        | Ministry             |
|--|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Bethlehem Bible College (capital fund)                 | #12017    | Middle East | Education            |
| Bethlehem Bible College (operating expenses)           | #13557    | Middle East | Education            |
| Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees         | #14908    | Middle East | Refugees/Immigration |
| Hope Secondary School                                  | #12018    | Middle East | Education            |
| Jerusalem Church Renovation                            | #14907    | Middle East | Church Development   |
| Jerusalem Infant Welfare Center                        | #11544    | Middle East | Children & Youth     |
| Jerusalem Princess Basma Center                        | #14238    | Middle East | Children & Youth     |
| Wi'am — Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center         | #14910    | Middle East | Community Ministries |
| Prophet Elias School & College                         | #12832    | Middle East | Education            |
| Sabeel Youth Program                                   | #14909    | Middle East | Children & Youth     |
| Urban Agriculture in Gaza                              | #629001   | Middle East | Urban Ministries     |
| Middle East Emergency Fund *                           | #601740   | Middle East | Relief Aid           |
| Middle East Recurring Fund                             | #10837A   | Middle East | Miscellaneous        |
| Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine & Israel | #14676A   | Global      |                      |

## 3. How You Can Help

### Missionary Support:

The General Board of Global Ministries has personnel stationed in Israel/Palestine. You may support their work through the Advance or through becoming a Covenant Relationship Congregation. For information on this program visit [http://gbgm-umc.org/who\\_we\\_are/mp/covenant.cfm](http://gbgm-umc.org/who_we_are/mp/covenant.cfm).

| Name                          | Project  | Missionary Code |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| The Rev. Alex and Brenda Awad | East Jerusalem Baptist Church<br>& Bethlehem Bible College | 10825Z & 10826Z |
| Janet Lahr Lewis              | Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation<br>Theology Center            | 14183Z          |

### How to Donate:

You can give directly to any of these projects or missionaries through the United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries Advance Giving:

- **Online:** <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/>
- **Through Your Church:** Make your check payable to your local church. Write the name of the ministry and the Advance code number on the check. Drop your gift in any United Methodist church offering plate or give your gift to your church treasurer, so that your church and annual conference will get Advance credit.
- **By Mail:** Make your check payable to ADVANCE GCFA. Write the name of the ministry and the Advance code number on the check. Send your check to:  
**Advance GCFA**  
**P.O. Box 9068, GPO**  
**New York, NY 10087-9068**
- **By Phone:** Credit card gifts can be accepted by phone at **(888) 252-6174**.

## 3. How You Can Help

### STUDY

- Learn all you can
- Raise awareness in your church/community
- Travel to the region

#### Learn All You Can

Start with the information provided in this packet, then browse some of the additional resources (Web links, books and videos). Make a commitment to study the issues and keep up with current events (see the list of “Current News” Web sites in section 4, “Additional Information”).

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#### Raise Awareness

Share what you have learned with others:

- **Teach** a Sunday school class
- **Organize** an informational meeting
- **Invite** representatives from Palestinian and Israeli peace and human rights groups to be speakers at your briefings
- **Talk** with family and friends
- **Suggest** a book on the topic for your book club (see Suggested Reading List)

#### Teaching Resources

- “Christians and the Middle East,” a discussion guide from Sojourners  
[www.sojournal.net/index.cfm?action=resources.discussion\\_guides](http://www.sojournal.net/index.cfm?action=resources.discussion_guides)
- United Methodist Women’s Division: “Geographic Study (2007) — Israel/Palestine”  
[new.gbpm-umc.org/umw/work/mission-education/mission-studies/geographic-study-2007/](http://new.gbpm-umc.org/umw/work/mission-education/mission-studies/geographic-study-2007/)
- Children of the Nakba, Mennonite Central Committee  
[www.thenovgroup.com/MCC/catalog/](http://www.thenovgroup.com/MCC/catalog/)  
(contains a Study Guide with questions for small group discussion)
- A Quest for Peace in the Middle East: A Web Quest for 11th Grade World History  
<http://drb.lifestreamcenter.net/Lessons/mid-east/>

## 3. How You Can Help

### Travel

Travel to the region is encouraged for those who are able. General Conference Resolution #292 provides guidelines for such trips:

#### **292. Holy Land Tours** (excerpts from the 2004 resolution)<sup>10</sup>

Concern has been raised across the church about special opportunities that are often being missed by United Methodists traveling to Israel/Palestine, often called the Holy Land. Christians indigenous to the area have also sharpened the question by wondering why they are so often ignored by Christian pilgrims to the region. Why, they ask, do travelers tend to honor the inanimate stones that testify to Jesus' life and ministry while ignoring the "living stones," the indigenous Christians who represent an unbroken line of discipleship to Jesus in the land that he called home?

Travelers to this land have the opportunity to be ambassadors of unity and concern to the churches and Christians in a troubled land. They also have an opportunity to learn from the spiritual traditions of the churches indigenous to the Middle East. Further, they have a special opportunity to discover firsthand the realities of a region of deep meaning and vital importance to Christians, as well as to Jews and Muslims.

Therefore, The United Methodist Church ... asks the bishops, clergy, members, agencies, and congregations of The United Methodist Church, as they plan visits to the Holy Land, to devote at least 20 percent of the program time to contact with indigenous Christian leaders and to hearing the concerns of Palestinians and Israelis on the current crisis of Palestinian self-determination; [...]

[...] recommends that United Methodists planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine consult with the United Methodist liaison in Jerusalem and the Middle East Council of Churches Ecumenical Travel Office to seek opportunities to worship with indigenous Christian congregations and to visit United Methodist-supported mission sites; [...]

[...] expresses deep concern that evidence continues to accumulate that Christianity is dying in the land of Jesus through economic, social, and political pressures, which have greatly diminished the numbers and percentage of Christians in the Holy Land. United Methodist bishops and other organizers of Holy Land tours have a special responsibility to adhere to these recommendations to strengthen the witness of the remaining Palestinian disciples of the Living Lord; [...]

### Travel Opportunities:

- Advocacy Web site  
[www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/)  
(click on "How You Can Help" > "Study" > "Visit the Region")
- Current Opportunities to Visit Palestine and Israel from MENUM (Middle East Network of United Methodists)  
[www.mfsaweb.org/special\\_middleeast/SPme0000.html#Opportunities](http://www.mfsaweb.org/special_middleeast/SPme0000.html#Opportunities)
- Society for Biblical Studies  
[www.sbsedu.org](http://www.sbsedu.org)

## 3. How You Can Help

### ENGAGE

- Teach and learn through dialogue
- Serve as an ‘Accompanier’ in the region
- Participate in corporate engagement

**Dialogue for Justice:**

- Organize a series of discussions with local groups
- Invite other groups to your information meetings

**Don’t just talk for the sake of talking.** Be careful that dialogue isn’t merely a forum for letting “all sides” of an issue be heard. It’s easy to get caught up in discussion and debate and not really accomplish anything for the people of Israel and Palestine. “We must listen respectfully to differing views but also be able to be clear about our church’s stances towards Israeli government policies and Palestinian actions” (Rev. Sandra Olewine, United Methodist Liaison to Jerusalem, 1996-2006). The goals of dialogue should be to:

- **Locate Partners:** Identify groups in your community with shared values and common goals, groups that you think might be willing to work with you on education and advocacy. Don’t focus exclusively on church groups. Many secular groups — such as human rights organizations and anti-discrimination groups — can be great partners in the struggle for a just peace.
- **Educate:** Dialogue can be part of building awareness in your community. You now have the tools and the resources to intelligently discuss the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, to teach about the consequences of building the Wall, to explain why church groups are considering divestment, and to talk about the implications of international law. Share what you have learned. “Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9 NRSV)

### Resources for Dialogue

- The General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (United Methodist Church)  
[www.gccuic-umc.org/web/printedresources.htm](http://www.gccuic-umc.org/web/printedresources.htm)
- Interfaith Relations and Christian Living: Study and Action Suggestions (National Council of Churches)  
[www.nccusa.org/interfaith/guidehome.html](http://www.nccusa.org/interfaith/guidehome.html)
- Global Ministries eStore (United Methodist Church)  
[www.scorders.org](http://www.scorders.org)

Books/study guides/pamphlets:

- #3286 — Creating Interfaith Community (\$2.50)
- #3840 — Call to be Neighbors & Witnesses (free)
- #2994 — Methodist-Catholic Dialogues (\$2)
- #1018 — God is One — The Way of Islam (\$9.95)
- #3491 — Christianity, Judaism, and Islam: A Missiological Encounter (\$7)
- #3754 — For the Peace of the World: A Christian Curriculum on International Relations (\$7.95)
- From the 2004 Book of Resolutions (visit [www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/) for full text)
  - #88 Building New Bridges in Hope (Christian-Jewish relations)
  - #89 Called to Be Neighbors and Witnesses — Guidelines for Interreligious Relationships

## 3. How You Can Help

### Serve as an “Accompanier” in the Region

... as part of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)

The EAPPI is an initiative of the World Council of Churches under the Ecumenical Campaign to End the Illegal Occupation of Palestine: Support a Just Peace in the Middle East. Its mission is to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions and concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation. Participants of the programme are monitoring and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, supporting acts of non-violent resistance alongside local Christian and Muslim Palestinians and Israeli peace activists, offering protection through non-violent presence, engaging in public policy advocacy and, in general, standing in solidarity with the churches and all those struggling against the occupation. To learn more, visit [www.eappi.org/](http://www.eappi.org/).

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### Participate in Corporate Engagement

“Shareholders and consumers possess enormous economic leverage that can influence the behavior of companies, and ultimately change the policies of governments. When companies sell products to a country that consistently uses them to violate human rights, these groups have a responsibility to act.

“Selective divestment, boycotts, and corporate engagement are not intended to harm the Israeli economy. Only a few companies listed here are Israeli. However, such actions can send a message to U.S. and foreign companies that there is a significant cost to supporting Israel’s occupation. They can also help end a system that transfers money from U.S. taxpayers into the pockets of corporations and political leaders using the conduit of Israel’s military procurement.

“Congress approves billions of dollars each year for Israel, knowing full well that a large portion of these funds will flow back to their states in the form of contracts for military supplies. Corporations receiving these contracts then contribute to members of Congress. It is enormously profitable to these companies and politicians to keep Israel at war.

“This system has had devastating consequences for Israeli society, with a quarter of the population living in poverty while their defense establishment prospers. It also discourages efforts toward peace.

“In our religious organizations, our towns and our individual investment portfolios, we have become unwitting participants in his ethos of destruction. We have an opportunity to change it through economic action. It is hoped that this research will provide a framework for beginning.”

— *Interfaith Peace Initiative*

- Interfaith Peace Initiative Web site  
[www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/](http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/)  
(click on “Economic Action to End Occupation”)
- Fact sheet: “The Caterpillar Campaign: Demanding an End of Caterpillar Bulldozer Sales to Israel”  
[www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/CAT%201-2006.pdf](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/CAT%201-2006.pdf)
- Sabeel's Call for Morally Responsible Investment: A Nonviolent Response to the Occupation  
[www.sabeel.org/pdfs/mri.htm](http://www.sabeel.org/pdfs/mri.htm)

## 3. How You Can Help



- Join the campaign & sign up for action alerts
- Contact your legislators
- Write a letter to the editor
- Consider divestment

### Join the Campaign & Sign up for Action Alerts

#### ***U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation***

The U.S. Campaign is a diverse coalition working for freedom from occupation and equal rights for all by challenging U.S. policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Campaign is based on human rights and international law, providing a non-sectarian framework for everyone who supports its Call to Action. Its strategy is to inform, educate, and mobilize the public so as to change the U.S. role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to support peace, justice, human rights, and international law. (The United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries and Women's Division are members of the campaign.)

Go to the advocacy Web site to join the campaign and sign up for action alerts to keep aware of current issues and advocacy opportunities:

- [www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/)  
(click on "How You Can Help" > "Advocate" > "Join the Campaign")

You will have the opportunity to subscribe to e-mail action alerts from any or all of the following organizations:

- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)  
[www.cmep.org/](http://www.cmep.org/)

The United Methodist Church General Board of Church & Society and the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries are members of CMEP.

- U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation Listserv  
[www.endtheoccupation.org/](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/)
- Americans for Peace Now  
<http://peacenow.org/>

## 3. How You Can Help

### Contact Your Legislators

- Write Letters
- Make Phone Calls
- Make an Appointment to talk with your legislators in person
- Organize Interfaith and Interdenominational Delegations to speak to your representative/senatorS
- If your representative/senators support your positions, don't forget to write Thank You Letters, expressing your support for speeches, votes, and bill sponsorship

### Resources

- UMPower  
[www.umpower.org/](http://www.umpower.org/)  
(Resources for finding your elected officials and media contacts, and planning congressional meetings)
  - Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Church Toolkit for Israeli-Palestinian Peacemaking  
[www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Toolkit\\_home.htm](http://www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Toolkit_home.htm)  
(See the topics: "Advocacy Tips," "Instructions for Holding a Meeting at a Representative or Senator's Local office" and "How to Get Your Message Heard in Washington")
  - Jewish Voice for Peace — Three Ways to Help End the Gaza Invasion  
[www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/jvfp/campaign.jsp?campaign\\_KEY=4443](http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/jvfp/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=4443)  
(Forms and samples for writing your congresspersons and the president)
  - U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation  
[www.endtheoccupation.org/](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/)  
(Congressional report cards and other activist resources; click on "Legislative Project")
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### Write a Letter to the Editor

Writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper is another way to speak up for those whose voices are not heard and to share what you learn about injustices and continued suffering.

### Resources

- Jewish Voice for Peace — Three Ways to Help End the Gaza Invasion  
[www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/jvfp/campaign.jsp?campaign\\_KEY=4443](http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/jvfp/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=4443)  
(Forms and samples for writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper)

## 3. How You Can Help

**Divestment:** Learn about Nonviolent, Moral, Economic Pressures to End Injustice

### FAQs & Fact Sheets:

- “Frequently Asked Questions: Economic Pressure as a Tool for Establishing a Just Peace in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict” (Prepared by Ecumenical Advocacy Group, Jerusalem, Spring 2005)  
[www.mcc.org/papers/](http://www.mcc.org/papers/)
- Fact Sheet: “Divestment: Why it Can’t Wait”  
[www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/divestment10-7-04.pdf](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/divestment10-7-04.pdf)

### Articles & Additional Information:

- “Why Divestment? And Why Now?” by David Wildman, United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries  
[www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/wildman\\_divestment.pdf](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/wildman_divestment.pdf)  
or [www.ameu.org/](http://www.ameu.org/) (August/September 2006 issue)
- Sabeel’s Call for Morally Responsible Investment  
[www.fosna.org/investment\\_activism/sabeels\\_call.html](http://www.fosna.org/investment_activism/sabeels_call.html)
- “Profiting from the Occupation” from War on Want: Fighting Global Poverty  
[www.waronwant.org/](http://www.waronwant.org/)  
(click on “Resources”)

### Resolutions & Statements:

- Annual Conference Divestment Resolutions (United Methodist Church)  
[www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/)  
(click on “What You Should Know” à “Statements on Divestment”)
  - California Pacific Conference (2006)
  - New England Conference (2005)
  - New York Conference (2006)
  - Virginia Conference (2005)
- Also, see “Statements on Divestment” in the Additional Information section

### Opposition to Divestment:

- Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
[tools.isovera.com/organizations/org/QuestionsandAnswersaboutEconomicSanctionsincludingDivestment1.5formatted.pdf](http://tools.isovera.com/organizations/org/QuestionsandAnswersaboutEconomicSanctionsincludingDivestment1.5formatted.pdf)

## 3. How You Can Help

### Be Creative

Don't be afraid to try something new. Just because an action or activity is not mentioned in this packet does not mean it won't be effective. Your church may want to organize a rally, an interfaith book club, or a benefit auction. Someone might suggest creating skits for worship, writing a blog, or taking out ads in a newspaper or on a billboard. Be open to creative ideas and pursue whatever methods will best reach the members of your church and community.

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### ADDITIONAL ADVOCACY RESOURCES

- Church Toolkit for Israeli-Palestinian Peacemaking

[www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Toolkit\\_home.htm](http://www.cmep.org/Toolkit/Toolkit_home.htm)

Includes:

- A timeline of the conflict
- Prayers
- Worship resources
- Tips for speaking with your elected officials
- Additional ideas for church-based advocacy

- Involving Congregations in Advocacy Now (ICAN)

[www.elca.org/advocacy/congregations/ministry/faith1.htm](http://www.elca.org/advocacy/congregations/ministry/faith1.htm)

(A resource from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America designed to help local churches develop an advocacy ministry.)

## 4. Additional Information

### Additional Links

#### Israeli-Palestinian Groups Working for Peace

- A Different Future  
<http://www.adifferentfuture.org/>
- Combatants for Peace  
<http://www.combatantsforpeace.org/>
- Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information  
<http://www.ipcri.org/>

#### Other Groups Working for Peace

- Americans for Peace Now  
<http://peacenow.org/>
- Love Thy Neighbor  
<http://www.ltneighbor.com/>

#### Human Rights

- Badil — Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights  
<http://www.badil.org/>
- B'tselem — The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories  
<http://www.btselem.org/>
- Israeli Committee Against House Demolition (ICAHD)  
<http://www.icahd.org/eng/>
- Jerusalem Center for Women  
<http://www.j-c-w.org/>
- Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR)  
<http://www.pchrgaza.org/>

#### Current News

- The Electronic Intifada  
<http://electronicintifada.net/>
- Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper  
<http://www.haaretz.com/>
- International Middle East Media Center  
<http://www.imemc.org/>
- The Jerusalem Post  
<http://www.jpost.com/>

- PBS News Hour with Jim Lehrer (stories on the conflict)  
[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle\\_east/conflict/](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/conflict/)
- UN News Centre Web site on the Middle East  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=70&Body=Palestin&Body1=>

#### Israel Security Barrier (the Wall)

- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Resource Center on the "Separation Barrier"  
<http://www.cmep.org/documents/separationwall.htm>
- Israel's Security Fence and Wall  
[http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article\\_15.shtml](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article_15.shtml)
- Map of Israel Security Barrier (the Wall) from MidEast Web  
<http://www.mideastweb.org/thefence.htm>
- WCC Booklet: "Security or Segregation?"  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/international/palestine/security-orsegregation.html>

#### Environment/Land

- Applied Research Institute, Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
<http://www.arij.org/>
- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC)  
<http://www.pal-arc.org/>
- Palestinian Environmental NGO Network (PENGON)  
<http://www.pengon.org/>

#### Development and Relief Organizations

- Al Asalah e-Magazine by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)  
<http://www.usaid.gov/wbg/asalah.htm>
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: Humanitarian Information in the Occupied Palestinian Territory  
<http://www.ochaopt.org/>  
(\* Very comprehensive information)
- Relief Web  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/>

## 4. Additional Information

- Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committee (UPMRC)  
<http://www.upmrc.org/>
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People  
<http://www.papp.undp.org/>

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### Groups with a Focus on Arab or Middle East Issues

- American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee  
<http://www.adc.org/>
- American Task Force on Palestine  
<http://www.americantaskforce.org/>
- Middle East Research and Information Project  
<http://merip.org/>

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### Palestinian Groups

- Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA)  
<http://www.passia.org/>
- Palestinian Center for Rapprochement Between People  
<http://www.rapprochement.org>
- Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center (Wi'am)  
<http://www.planet.edu/~alaslak/>
- Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy  
<http://www.miftah.org/>

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### Christian Organizations — United States

- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)  
<http://www.cmepe.org/>
- Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)  
<http://www.eappi.org/>
- Friends of Sabeel — North America: Voice of the Palestinian Christians  
<http://www.fosna.org/>
- Middle East Network of United Methodists (MENU)  
[http://www.mfsaweb.org/special\\_middleeast/\\_SPme0000\\_contents.html](http://www.mfsaweb.org/special_middleeast/_SPme0000_contents.html)
- Peaceful Ends through Peaceful Means: A Christian Witness for Peace in Israel and Palestine  
<http://www.pepm.org/>

- Visions for Peace — Voices of Faith: Initiative of World Council of Churches, Action by Churches Together International & Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/>

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### Christian Organizations — Palestine

- International Center of Bethlehem  
<http://www.annadwa.org/>
- Sabeel Ecumenical Palestinian Liberation Theology Center  
<http://www.sabeel.org/>

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### Multi-Faith Organizations

- Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace  
<http://www.wiamep.org/>

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### Jewish Organizations

- American Jewish Committee  
<http://www.ajc.org/>
- Israeli Policy Forum  
<http://www.israelpolicyforum.org/>
- Jewish Voice for Peace  
<http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>
- Rabbis for Human Rights  
<http://www.rhr.israel.net/>
- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
<http://rac.org/>
- Tikkun  
<http://www.tikkun.org/>

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### Muslim Organizations

- American Muslim Alliance  
<http://www.amaweb.org/>
- American Muslim Taskforce  
<http://www.americanmuslimvoter.net/>
- Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
<http://www.cair.com/>
- Islamic Society of North America  
<http://www.isna.net/>
- Muslim Public Affairs Council  
<http://www.mpac.org/>

## 4. Additional Information

### Additional Resources and Statements

#### Christian Ecumenical Statements

- National Council of Churches (NCC): “Barriers Do Not Bring Freedom,” 2005  
[http://www.pepm.org/2005\\_ncccusa\\_delegation\\_report.htm](http://www.pepm.org/2005_ncccusa_delegation_report.htm)
- World Council of Churches: WCC Statements on Jerusalem & the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict Since 1948  
<http://www.eappi.org/eappiweb.nsf/documents/since48.htm>
- Statements from Visions for Peace — Voices of Faith, a joint initiative of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Action by Churches Together (ACT) International and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA)  
<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/behindthenews/text17.html>
- Additional Ecumenical Statements  
<http://www.cmep.org/Statements/ecumenstat.htm>

#### Palestinian Christian Churches

- Statements from Arab Christian Churches in the Region  
<http://www.cmep.org/Statements/denomstat.htm>
- CMEP (Churches for Middle East Peace) Statements and Press Releases  
<http://www.cmep.org/Statements/cmepstat.htm>

#### Jewish Organizations

- Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions: “Resisting Occupation, Constructing Peace: People Rebuilding Palestinian Homes”  
<http://www.icahd.org/eng/campaigns.asp?menu=4&submenu=2>
- Jewish Voice for Peace: “U.S. Military Aid and Israel”  
[http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article\\_17.shtml](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article_17.shtml)
- Union for Reform Judaism Resolution: “Unilateral Withdrawals, Security Barriers, and Home Demolitions: Striving for Security and Peace for Israel and the Middle East,” June 2004  
[http://rac.org/\\_kd/Items/actions.cfm?action=Show&item\\_id=930&destination=ShowItem](http://rac.org/_kd/Items/actions.cfm?action=Show&item_id=930&destination=ShowItem)
- The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism: “Jews, Christians, Muslims Meet at Conservative Jewish Campus in Jerusalem to Pray for Peace”  
[http://www.uscj.org/Praying\\_for\\_Peace\\_in6850.html](http://www.uscj.org/Praying_for_Peace_in6850.html)

#### Muslim Organizations

- Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) Position Statements  
<http://www.mpac.org/press/position-statements/>
- Islamic Society of North America:  
“ISNA Denounces Terrorism in the Name of Islam” (May 2004)  
<http://www.isna.net/weblinks/>

#### Interfaith Statements

- Jewish and Christian Leaders on Mission of Peace to Jerusalem (September 2005)  
<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/middleeast/>
- National Interreligious Leadership Initiative Statements  
<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/>

## 4. Additional Information

### UN Security Council Resolutions

“The United Methodist Church calls upon the United States, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to accept the authority of Security Council resolutions and abide by Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as all other relevant Security Council resolutions, that provide a framework for bringing this conflict to a just and permanent end.”

— 2004 UMC General Conference Resolution #323, “United Nations Resolutions on the Israel-Palestine Conflict”

### UN resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

- UN News Centre Web site on the Middle East  
(links to Security Council and General Assembly resolutions pertaining to the region)  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=70&Body=Palestin&Body1=>
- U.S. Vetoes of Security Council Resolutions  
<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/membership/veto/vetosubj.htm>

### Additional Statements on Divestment and other Forms of Nonviolent, Moral, Economic Pressure

- Presbyterian Church USA Statement (2006)  
<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/mideastpeace/>  
(click on “What You Should Know” à “Statements on Divestment”)
- Christian Statements on Morally Responsible Investment  
[http://www.mfsaweb.org/special\\_middleeast/SPme0000.html#MorallyResp](http://www.mfsaweb.org/special_middleeast/SPme0000.html#MorallyResp)
- WCC central committee encourages consideration of economic measures for peace in Israel/Palestine  
<http://www2.wcc-coe.org/pressreleasesen.nsf/index/pr-cc-05-08.html>
- Jewish Voice for Peace:
  - Statement on Divestment as a Strategy to End Israel's Occupation (December 8, 2004)  
[http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/artman/uploads/jvpdivest\\_statement.pdf](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/artman/uploads/jvpdivest_statement.pdf)
  - Statements on Selective Divestment  
[http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article\\_19.shtml](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article_19.shtml)

## 4. Additional Information

### DVDs / Videos

- **Children of the Nakba**

Mennonite Central Committee (2005, 26 minutes)

<http://www.thenovgroup.com/MCC/catalog/>

For Palestinians, the events between 1947 and 1949 are remembered as a time when Israeli military forces destroyed over 500 Palestinian villages and expelled between 700,000 and 900,000 Palestinians from their lands — about 85 percent of the Palestinian population at that time. These refugees have lived exiled from their land since then. Today Palestinians represent one-third of the global refugees and internally displaced population. Learn about the Palestinians who call these events the Nakba, an Arabic word meaning catastrophe. This DVD includes the videos “Dividing Wall” and “Walking the Path Jesus Walked.” For grade 10 to adult with study guide included.

- **Sacred Space Denied: Bethlehem and the Wall**

Peter J. Nagle (2005)

[http://www.fosna.org/resources/documents/dvd\\_sacred\\_space\\_denied.pdf](http://www.fosna.org/resources/documents/dvd_sacred_space_denied.pdf)

Nagle acknowledges that the conflict in the West Bank is complex, a situation that cries out for responses that are not simply “pro-Israeli” or “pro-Palestinian.” “I support Israel,” Nagle said. “I want them to thrive — but the Wall is not going to add to their security.” Nagle views the building of the Wall as counter-productive to the quest for peace and security, since by many accounts it is a strategy of land acquisition. “Confiscating people's land unnecessarily,” he asserts in the film, “cannot possibly lead to peace.”

- **Searching for Peace in the Middle East**

Landrum Bolling (2006, 30 minutes)

[http://www.fmep.org/searching\\_for\\_peace\\_in\\_the\\_middle\\_east.html](http://www.fmep.org/searching_for_peace_in_the_middle_east.html)

(You can view the film online or request a free copy.)

This 30-minute film, sponsored by the Foundation for Middle East Peace, is a vivid compassionate portrayal of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through the voices of Israeli and Palestinian citizens of diverse backgrounds, it reveals their hopes and fears and explores the issues that divide them. It also describes in a compelling way a broad common ground of yearning for peace, pointing the way toward a resolution of this tragic conflict that would meet the deepest needs of both societies.

## 4. Additional Information

### Suggested Reading List

(An excellent source for discount price books is Americans for Middle East Understanding, <http://www.ameu.org/>)

#### Christians in the Middle East/Palestine

***The Arab Christian in the Middle East***, Kenneth Cragg, 1991.

Deals perceptively with Arab Christians living in the Middle East. Cragg discusses pre-7th-century Christianity, the effects of the rise of Islam, the influence of Greek and Latin Christianity, the effects of Western attitudes toward the region as expressed in crusades, and the problems of survival and self-fulfillment. (Louisville: Westminster-John Knox Press, 1991; London: Mowbray, 1992.)

***Bethlehem Besieged: Stories of Hope in Times of Trouble***, Mitri Raheb, 2004.

This book highlights hope in the time of trouble, focusing on the siege of Bethlehem in April/May 2002. (Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress Press.)

***Children of Biblical Lands***, 2005.

Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, and Israel, four lands described in the Bible, are locations of stories about young people today. Read about children living with war and deprivation, but also living with hope and dreams for their future. (General Board of Global Ministries, available from <http://www.cokesbury.com/>.)

***Dying in the Land of Promise***, Don Wagner, 2001.

(Melisende, 300 pp.)

***I am A Palestinian Christian***, Mitri Raheb, 1995.

Raheb, a Christian pastor in Bethlehem, explores the recent history of the Palestinian Christians, and the complex meeting of the world's three major monotheistic religions. (Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress Press.)

***Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation***, Naim Ateek, 1989.

This captivating bestseller by a clergyman and leader of the Palestine Christian community examines the problems and prospects for Palestinians, Jews, and Christians in the Middle East. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books.)

***We Belong to the Land***, Elias Chacour with Mary E. Jansen, 1990.

(London; Marshall Pickering and San Francisco: Harper, paperback 1992.)

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#### Impact of Religious Fundamentalism on the Conflict

***Anxious for Armageddon: A Call to Partnership for Middle Eastern and Western Christians***, Donald Wagner, 1995. (Herald Press, 272 pp.)

***Forcing God's Hand: Why Millions Pray for a Quick Rapture — And the Destruction of Planet Earth***, Grace Halsell, 1999.

This is an enlarged new edition of Grace Halsell's last book. This edition includes a transcript of CBS 60 Minutes program "Zion's Christian Soldiers," aired October 6, 2002, and additional articles on the subject written by the author; explores the new religious doctrine sweeping America, said to constitute the fastest growing movement in Christianity today. Forcing God's Hand explains the popularity of this End Time doctrine. (Crossroads International Publishing, 132 pp.)

***Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel***, Israel Shahak and Norton Mezvinsky, 1999.

Provides a thorough assessment of fundamentalism in modern Israel. The authors trace the history and development of Jewish fundamentalism, examining the various different strains, and identify the messianic tendency as the most dangerous. (London: Pluto Press, 176 pp.)

## 4. Additional Information

***Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam***, John L. Esposito, 2002.

One of America's foremost experts on contemporary Islam seeks to correct popular misconceptions about this faith. A professor of religion and international affairs and director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, Esposito does an admirable job of explaining sociopolitical and cultural developments in the Muslim world in a fashion that is easily accessible to non-specialist readers. (Oxford University Press, 196 pp.)

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### History of Israel/Palestine Conflict

***Burning Issues: Understanding and Misunderstanding the Middle East — a 40-Year Chronicle***, Jane Adas, John Mahoney, and Robert Norberg (Editor), 2006.

Nineteen authors, mostly Americans with first-hand experience in Occupied Palestine, examine the ideological genesis of the Israeli state and detail the moral, economic, and political costs — both foreign and domestic — that Americans pay every day for their uncritical support of a problematic ally. (Americans for Middle East Understanding.)

***A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples***, Ilan Pappé, 2003.

Pappé is an Israeli historian who tackles the complex history beginning in the late 19th century up till the end of the 20th in a very readable form. (Cambridge University Press.)

***The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World***, Avi Shlaim, 2000.

A comprehensive examination of the “Arab question”: how the Zionist movement should deal with the Arab population of Palestine and, secondarily, with the Arab world at large. Shlaim follows the question from the first days of Zionism to the present. His title comes from the “Iron Wall” strategy promulgated in the 1920s: to deal with the Arabs from a position of unassailable strength. While intended to yield to a stage where Israel, strong enough, could negotiate a satisfactory settlement with the Arabs, Shlaim documents why Israel has been unable — or unwilling — to move to this end. (WW Norton & Co., Paperback, 704 pp.)

***The Middle East, Tenth Edition***, 2005.

The Middle East has been a staple text in most college courses on the modern Middle East for years, and is an essential part of most academic and public library collections. Major revisions in this 10th edition make this volume an even more important component of library collections that serve patrons interested in this crucial region of the world, whether for research or personal interest. The Middle East devotes half of its coverage to key thematic topics and the other half to in-depth discussions of individual countries in the region. Updates to the 10th edition include an updated chapter on the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the impact of Yasir Arafat's death and updated discussions of the Middle East policies of the Bush administration, including the U.S. push for democratization in the region. (CQ Press, paperback, 641 pp.)

***Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict***, Phyllis Bennis, 2003.

Organized as a set of frequently asked questions, this primer discusses not only the history of the conflict but the current situation and the implications of U.S. foreign policy. (Trans-Arab Research Institute, Inc., 82 pp.) (Available online at <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/>. Click on “Resources”)

***Whose Promised Land?***, Colin Gilbert Chapman, 2002.

Unravels the complex issues surrounding the continuing crisis between Israel and Palestine. This fully revised and updated edition, including new chapters on Zionism, Christian Zionism, and dispensationalism, provides an even-handed approach that seeks to present an honest appraisal of modern Israel while clearly delineating the inter-related issues surrounding the crisis in the Middle East. (Collin Chapman Baker Book House.)

## 4. Additional Information

### Current Views on Israel/Palestine Crisis

***Drinking the Sea at Gaza***, Amira Hass, 1999.

In 1993, Amira Hass, a young Israeli reporter, drove to Gaza to cover a story and stayed, the first journalist to live in the grim Palestinian enclave so feared and despised by most Israelis that, in the local idiom, “Go to Gaza” is another way to say “Go to hell.” Hass reflects on what she has seen in Gaza’s gutted streets and destitute refugee camps. (Metropolitan Books, 352 pp.)

***Christians and a Land Called Holy: How We Can Foster Justice, Peace, and Hope***, Charles P. Lutz and Robert O. Smith, 2006.

Fair-minded and sympathetic to Jewish, Muslim, and Christian concerns, Lutz and Smith provide a clear account of the Israeli-Palestinian situation and a compelling plea for Christian involvement in the area. Carefully sorting out the tangled historical and religious roots of the problems, they reveal the strong forces at work in the conflict and lay out the driving biblical notions of election and covenant, the historical causes of the bitter and divisive clashes of the last 50 years, the complex demographic and political issues today, how Palestinians, particularly Christians, have been affected by the turmoil, and how, finally, Christians must engage the future of justice and peace. Includes maps and 12 black-and-white photos. (Fortress Press, 168 pp, paperback.)

***The End of the Peace Process: Oslo and After***, Edward Said, 2001.

In 50 essays, most of which were originally published in the Cairo *Ahram Weekly* and London’s *al-Hayat*, Said offers a bleak and somewhat cynical view of the Middle East peace process since Oslo. Deeply concerned with the fate of the Palestinian people, and without mincing words, Said probes their relationship to the Israeli government and their lives under Arafat’s Palestinian Authority. He skewers the Oslo Agreements, arguing that Palestinians merely surrendered to the Israelis, as well as the Palestinian Authority and Arafat. (Knopf.)

***The Land of Promise: Biblical, Theological and Contemporary Perspectives***, Philip Johnston (Editor), 2000.

A selection of essays aptly chosen to help Christians better understand and come to terms with the contemporary meaning of God’s biblical promise to Abraham; all the writings featured within share a desire to understand Scripture and how it applies today. It is a sober, thought-provoking collection. (Peter Walker, InterVarsity Press, 240pp.)

***The Other Israel: Voices of Refusal and Dissent***, Roane Carey & Jonathan Shainin (eds.), 2002.

Writings by Israelis challenging the failed policies of the Sharon government and the continuing occupation of Palestinian land. The collection features essays on the movement to refuse military service in the occupied territories, the security ramifications of Israel’s “War on Terror,” and the damaging effect of occupation on civil society within Israel. (New Press, Hardcover, 208 pp.)

***Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid***, Jimmy Carter, 2006.

In this book President Carter shares his intimate knowledge of the history of the Middle East and his personal experiences with the principal actors, and he addresses sensitive political issues many American officials avoid. Pulling no punches, Carter prescribes steps that must be taken for the two states to share the Holy Land without a system of apartheid or the constant fear of terrorism. (Simon & Schuster, 288 pp.)

***Reporting from Ramallah: An Israeli Journalist in an Occupied Land***, Amira Hass, 2003.

Culled from her dispatches during the past five years, these pieces offer a three-dimensional portrait of the daily experiences of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. The early pieces, written while serious peace talks were being conducted in the late 1990s, show the roots of the current violence: most notably, Palestinians’ frustration that the Oslo peace accords hadn’t produced many tangible results. But what distinguishes this book is its emphasis on the personal—and how the conflict has created a logic that has driven both sides to violence. (MIT Press.)

***Through the Eyes of the Victims: The Story of the Arab-Israeli Conflict***, Alex Awad, 2002.

Alex and Brenda Awad serve as GBGM Mission Personnel in Bethlehem. (Bethlehem Bible College, Bethlehem, 118 pp.)

## 4. Additional Information

### U.S. Foreign Policy in Relation to the Conflict

***The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements***, 1967-1977, Gershom Gorenberg, 2006.

A dramatic story featuring the giants of Israeli history — Moshe Dayan, Golda Meir, Levi Eshkol, Yigal Allon — as well as more contemporary figures like Ariel Sharon, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres. Gorenberg also shows how the Johnson, Nixon and Ford administrations turned a blind eye to what was happening in the territories, and reveals their strategic reasons for doing so. Drawing on newly opened archives and extensive interviews, Gorenberg reconstructs what the top officials knew and when they knew it, while weaving in the dramatic first-person accounts of the settlers themselves. (Times Books, Hardcover, 480pp.)

***Deliberate Deceptions: Facing the Facts about the U.S.-Israeli Relationship***, Paul Findley, 1995.

Through well-documented research the author refutes the myths of U.S.-Arab-Israeli relations since 1948. He warns that the U.S. has undermined its vital interests and weakened its position of professed commitment to the rule of law and respect for human rights. (American Educational Trust, Paperback, 326 pp.)

***Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel, and the Palestinians***, Noam Chomsky and Edward Said, 1999.

First published in 1983, *Fateful Triangle* is a comprehensive indictment of what Noam Chomsky calls the “disgraceful and extremely dangerous” policy the United States has enacted towards Israel, particularly with regard to Israel's actions concerning the Palestinians. (South End Press Classics Series, 2nd edition)

***The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace***, Ross, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

Dennis Ross, the chief Middle East peace negotiator in the presidential administrations of George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, is that rare figure who is respected by all parties: Democrats and Republicans, Palestinians and Israelis, presidents and people on the street in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Washington, D.C. Ross recounts the peace process in detail from 1988 to the breakdown of talks in early 2001 that prompted the so-called second Intifada, and takes account of recent developments in a new afterword written for this edition. (Paperback, 2005, 848 pp.)

### Miscellaneous

***Jewish History, Jewish Religion: The Weight of Three Thousand Years***, Israel Shahak, 1994.

Shahak, who came to Israel in 1945 after surviving the concentration camp in Belsen during the Holocaust, contends that the potential for Israel's right-wing Jewish religious movements to seize power represents a threat to the peace of Israel and to the Zionist movement. He posits that Israel as a Jewish state constitutes a danger not only to itself and its inhabitants, but to all Jews and to all other people and states in the Middle East. (Pluto Press, 1994, 127 pp.)

***Palestine, Palestinians & International Law***, Francis Anthony Boyle, 2003.

This book provides a comprehensive survey of the international legal principles related to the Palestinian struggle for self-determination: starting with the League of Nations awarding the Mandate for Palestine to Britain after the First World War; through the partition of the Palestine Mandate by the United Nations after the Second World War; to the Palestinian Declaration of an Independent State of their own in 1988; to the diplomatic recognition of the Palestinian State by about 130 other states; through the United Nations granting the State of Palestine all the rights of a UN Member State except the right to vote, etc. (Clarity Press.)

### Other Book Lists

- Booklist from Jewish Voice for Peace  
<http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/booklist.shtml>
- Recommended Reading List from Israel Policy Forum  
<http://www.israelpolicyforum.org/display.cfm?rid=1749>

## 4. Additional Information

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<sup>2</sup> From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, © 2004 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission. 165B. National Power and Responsibility

<sup>3</sup> From the 2004 Book of Resolutions, #312, © 2004, The United Methodist Publishing House, used by permission

<sup>4</sup> Ezekiel's Vision: A Statement by the General Board of Church and Society on Crises in the Middle East,  
<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/middleeast/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ifamericansknew.org/>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/fact\\_sheet\\_2.pdf](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/fact_sheet_2.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.unicef.org/oPt/overview.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/article.php?id=1107>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article\\_17.shtml](http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/publish/article_17.shtml)

<sup>10</sup> From the 2004 Book of Resolutions, #292, © 2004, The United Methodist Publishing House, used by permission.

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# APPENDIX

## **Fact Sheets:**

Fact Sheet #1: Palestine and the Palestinians

Fact Sheet #2: Ending the Occupation: It's the Law

Cementing the Occupation: Israel's Illegal Wall Puts Palestine Behind Bars

## **Maps:**

West Bank Barrier Route Projections

Reference Map: West Bank & Gaza Strip

# FACT SHEET #1: Palestine and the Palestinians

## WHAT IS PALESTINE?

The area known to the Greeks as Philistia and the Romans as Palaestina became Arab after the spread of Islam in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. From that time and until 1948, the majority of the population was predominantly Muslim. Christian and Jewish communities also maintained a continuous presence in the area since these religions were established. The modern borders of Palestine were drawn by the British, whose forces occupied this part of the Ottoman Empire in 1917-18. The stage for conflict was set when Britain declared that it viewed “with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”<sup>1</sup>, ignoring the legitimate national rights of the Arab people and its own promise to the Arabs to support their independence from Ottoman rule.<sup>2</sup>

British mandate rule opened the door to large-scale Jewish migration from Europe. Unlike existing Jewish communities in Palestine, the new immigrants were Zionists, meaning they believed in establishing a Jewish

state as the solution to European anti-Semitism. In 1947, the United Nations proposed the partition of Palestine into an Arab state on 43% of the land and a

### Palestine 1914

Pop. 689,272  
Arabs 629,272 - 92%  
Jews 60,000 - 8%

### Palestine 1946

Pop. 1,912,112  
Arabs 1,303,887 - 68%  
Jews 608,225 - 32%

Source: The Anglo-Palestine Yearbook 1947-8 (London: Anglo-Palestine Publications, 1948), p.33



Source: United Nations Department of Public Information, Cartographic Section, June 1997.

Jewish state on 56%, with Jerusalem given international status and open borders.<sup>3</sup> Arabs, who comprised two thirds of the population and owned 93% of the land, rejected the UN Partition Plan as unjust.

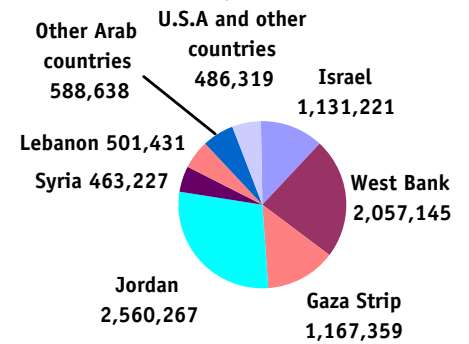
In the 1948 War, Jewish forces conquered additional territory and established the state of Israel on 78% of mandate Palestine. Some 750,000 Palestinians fled or were driven from their homes.<sup>4</sup> Israel was established; Palestine was not. Egypt took over Gaza and Jordan annexed the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Israel conquered the rest of Palestine and has since ruled Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, through military occupation.<sup>5</sup>

## WHO ARE THE PALESTINIANS?

Today there are close to 9 million Palestinians in three major population groups:

- ◆ 3.2 million live under Israeli occupation in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem;
- ◆ 4.6 million live in exile, with 2.2 million in refugee camps; and
- ◆ 1.1 million are citizens of Israel.<sup>6</sup>

## ■ Palestinian Population Worldwide



Estimated Palestinian Population in the World by Place of Residence - End Year 2000. Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics <http://www.pcbs.org/inside/selcts.htm>

## ■ Palestinians Under Occupation

The West Bank and Gaza total only 1,000 sq km (smaller than Delaware).<sup>7</sup> UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 – the legal basis for the Oslo Agreements<sup>8</sup> – calls for Israel’s withdrawal from occupied territories based on the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. It is also against international law for an occupying power to transfer its own population into occupied territory.<sup>9</sup> Yet in the →

1 Letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Baron Lionel Walter de Rothschild – known as the Balfour Declaration - 2 November 1917. This referred to the indigenous majority population of Palestine as “non-Jewish” and did not recognize its political or national rights. It stated: “it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine”.

2 Sir Henry McMahon, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, confirmed “Great Britain is prepared to recognize and support the independence of the Arabs in all the regions within the limits demanded by the Sheriff of Mecca” - second note from Sir Henry McMahon to Sharif Hussein of the Hijaz, October 1915. British Government, “Correspondence between Sir Henry McMahon and

Sherif Hussein of Mecca,” October 24, 1915, Parliamentary Papers – Cmd. 5957 (1939)

3 U.N. General Assembly Resolution 181 of 29 November 1947, which designated Jerusalem and Bethlehem as an international zone.

4 See Benny Morris, *The birth of the Palestinian refugee problem, 1947 – 1949*, Cambridge University Press, 1987.

5 For more on the history of Palestine, see the forthcoming CESR Fact Sheet on Palestine No. 3: *Palestine & Israel: Past, Present, Future*

6 From Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics <http://www.pcbs.org/inside/selcts.htm> See also the Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook* <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>

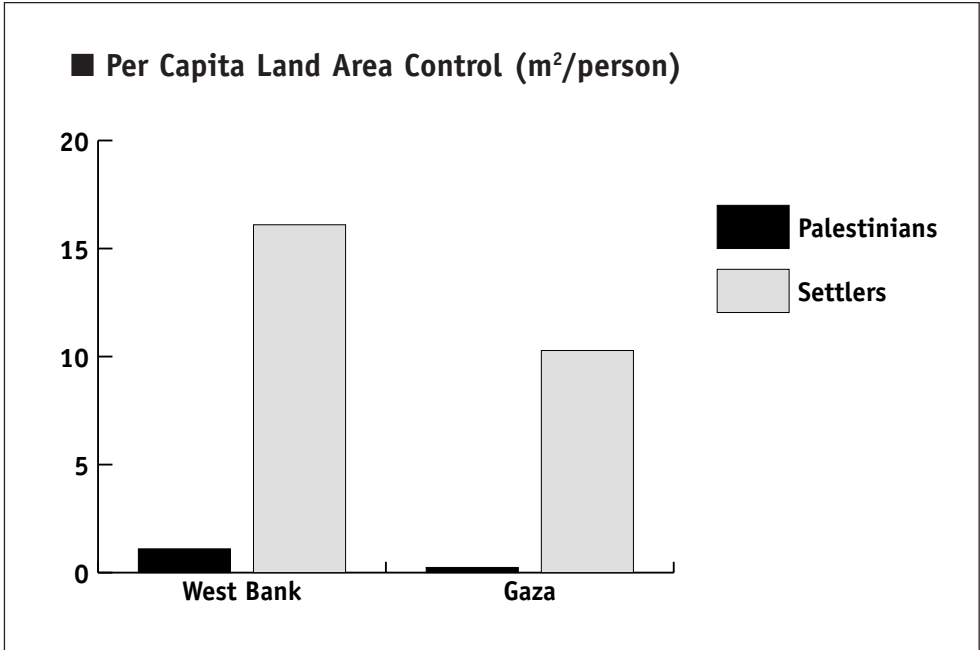
7 If UN Resolution 181 were to be implemented, the Palestinian state would

have been established on 43% of mandate Palestine. As it is, the West Bank and Gaza, seen by all U.N. member states, including the U.S., as the site of the future Palestinian state, occupy just 22% of the land of mandate Palestine.

8 The first Oslo Accord was signed by the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. In September 1993. By 1999, a dozen more accords had been signed.

9 Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel is a signatory.

# FACT SHEET #1: Palestine and the Palestinians



past 35 years, successive Israeli governments have established over 200 Jewish-only settlements with a population of 383,000 on confiscated Palestinian land, separated from the local population through a series of bypass roads and physical barriers.<sup>10</sup> In the West Bank, Israel has seized 59% of the land and uses 90% of the water.<sup>11</sup> In Gaza, 7,000 settlers, who comprise less than 1% of the population, directly control more than 20% of the land.<sup>12</sup>

## ■ Palestinian Refugees

Palestinians are the largest and oldest refugee population in the world. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was established in 1948 as a temporary mechanism to address the needs of Palestinian refugees<sup>13</sup> until they could exercise their right to

return to their homes and receive compensation in accordance with human rights principles and U.N. Resolution 194.<sup>14</sup> UNRWA provides education, health care, relief assistance and social services to the 3.6 million registered refugees, one-third of whom live in 59 refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.<sup>15</sup> Due to lack of funds, average annual spending per refugee has dropped from about \$200 in 1975 to about \$70 in 1997. In Jordan, refugees are citizens and enjoy a range of economic and social rights. In Syria, refugees are not citizens but have some civil, economic, and social rights. Lebanon bars Palestinian refugees from working in over 70 job classifications, and politicians across the spectrum are against including Palestinians in Lebanese political life.

## ■ Palestinians in Israel

The Palestinians (and their descendants) who remained in Israel now comprise 20% of the population, about 1.2 million people.<sup>16</sup> Although granted citizenship when the Israeli state was established, they lived under direct martial law from 1949 until 1966. Israel currently retains 20 laws that discriminate against the Palestinian national minority in basic aspects of civic life, including laws of citizenship, emigration, education, and land ownership.<sup>17</sup> As a result of such systemic, institutionalized discrimination, Arab communities have the least access to state resources and suffer by far the lowest living standards in all socio-economic categories.<sup>18</sup> During street demonstrations in early October 2000, Israeli police used live ammunition, rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas against the unarmed protestors; hundreds were injured and 13 Palestinian citizens of Israel were killed.



CESR Fact Sheets on Palestine are produced as a contribution to the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. The US Campaign promotes the application of international law to the conflict, contributing to a just peace and human rights for all – Palestinians and Israelis. If you would like more information on the US Campaign, go to [www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org) or contact [us\\_campaign@endtheoccupation.org](mailto:us_campaign@endtheoccupation.org)

The Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) was established in 1993 to promote social justice through human rights - [www.cesr.org](http://www.cesr.org)

10 The Washington-based Foundation for Middle East Peace, *Report on Israeli Settlement in the Occupied Territories: A Guide*, March 2002. Go to <http://www.fmep.org/reports/2002/sr0203.html> article entitled *Creating Facts: Israel's Settlement Vision*

11 World Bank statistics quoted in <http://mondediplo.com/focus/mideast/territories-eco-en>

12 Ibid.

13 UNRWA defines a refugee as a person whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, and who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1948, including the descendants of persons who became refugees in 1948. See <http://www.un.org/unrwa/refugees/index.html>

14 U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 provides for the return of the refugees to their homes in what became Israel or to compensation. Israel has formally accepted both Resolutions 181 and 194 (see the preamble of the resolution admitting Israel to U.N. membership).

15 <http://www.refugees.org/world/countryrpt/mideast/lebanon.htm> & <http://www.afsc.org/ispal/refugees.pdf>

16 From: <http://www.cbs.gov.il/shnatone52/shnatone52.htm#2>

17 <http://www.adalah.org/background.html>

18 See [http://www.merip.org/mer/mer223/223\\_yiftachel.html](http://www.merip.org/mer/mer223/223_yiftachel.html) for information about recent legislation that exacerbates racial discrimination.

# FACT SHEET #2: Ending the Occupation: It's the Law

## WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL LAW?

International law is the only universally recognized framework that applies to all people everywhere. As an impartial and objective set of standards, international law is capable of resolving disputes without prejudice in favor of one party.

Human rights is a fundamental component of international law. The adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt, made possible the rapid evolution of international law, and specifically international humanitarian law, during the 20th Century.<sup>1</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

To date, the enforcement of international law is the crucial missing element in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Agreements between the two parties will inevitably be biased by power imbalances unless international law serves as a bridging framework. Under the Geneva Conventions, direct agreements between an occupying power and an occupied people are presumptively invalid for this very reason. U.S. support for Israel has prevented the U.S. Government from playing an objective mediating role between the two sides. A just Israeli-Palestinian peace is simply not possible until U.S. policy changes to reflect the universal standards of international law.

Yet the law is not only the most objective statement of justice in a

conflict. Its application also protects both sides. International law can provide a just solution to all the issues at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

## FREEDOM & SELF-DETERMINATION

Self-determination is the most basic of all human rights, the foundation upon which all other human rights depend.<sup>2</sup> The United Nations system is built on the concept of self-determination as expressed in the U.N. Charter.<sup>3</sup> It is, on the one hand, the most basic collective right of peoples and nations, and on the other hand, the indispensable foundation for all individual human rights. If a people lack the right to self-determination, then all individual members of such people are necessarily deprived of the full realization of their human rights.

The inalienable right of self-determination stands as the very first article in the two treaties which, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, comprise the International Bill of Rights – the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both adopted in 1976.<sup>4</sup>

The prominence of this article is extremely significant. It is placed at the very beginning of both treaties to underscore that all human rights – civil, political, economic, social and cultural – depend upon the effective exercise of self-determination.<sup>5</sup> The widespread international consensus regarding this right was remarkable given Cold War political and ideological divisions at the time.<sup>6</sup>

The right to self-determination may be claimed and asserted only by the legitimate representative of a people or nation.<sup>7</sup> The realization of the right to self-determination, through the attainment of sovereignty and legal personality, is governed under international law according to recognized factual criteria of statehood. One of the classic formulations of these criteria, Article 1 of the 1933 Montevideo Convention of Rights and Duties of States, declares that: “The State as a person of international law should possess the following qualifications: (a) a permanent population; (b) a defined territory; (c) government; and (d) capacity to enter into relations with other states.” In addition to these factual criteria, recognition is an important factor in the granting of legal statehood. The General Assembly, responsible for admitting members to the UN, is the most authoritative forum for state recognition, although bilateral recognition by other states is also an important factor.

## SELF-DETERMINATION: ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

The law protects. According to international resolutions, people in both Israel and Palestine have the right to self-determination and statehood. U.N. Resolution 181 of 1947 provides for the partition of Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish state. Israel already enjoys statehood, and has established formal relations with almost all countries in the world. However, Israel was admitted to the U.N. in 1948 on explicit condition that it respect the →

1 For information about UN agreements on human rights see <http://www.hrweb.org/lega/undocs.html>; for more on international humanitarian law and conventions see: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/ihl>

2 The continued invocation of the right to self-determination in international law and practice has given it the status of a peremptory norm, meaning that it trumps other legal principles. See, e.g., Hector Gros Espiel, “Implementation of United Nations Resolutions Relating the Right of People Under Colonial and Alien Domination to Self-Determination,” Special Rapporteur, Document E/CN.4/Sub.405 of 20 June, 1978, pp. 33-5.

3 The U.N. Charter affirms the principle of self-determination in several important articles, including Article 1 on the “Fundamental Purposes and Principles” of the U.N.

4 “All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development” - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Dec. 16, 1966, G.A. Res. 2200A, 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No.16) 52, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1967), Article 1; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Dec. 16, 1966, G.A. Res. 2200, 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No.16) 49, U.N. Doc. A/6319 (1967), Article 1.

5 This interpretation has been officially confirmed by the Human Rights Committee: “the right of self-determination is of particular importance because its realization is an essential condition for the effective guarantee and observance of individual human rights and for the promotion and strengthening of those rights” - HRC General Comments 12(21), para.1 (G.A.

Official Records Doc.A/39/40, pp.142-143.

6 The comments of the U.K. delegate to the Human Rights Committee are representative: “[the right to self-determination] is inalienable and indivisible. It is fundamental to international peace and security, and to the protection of national integrity... We cannot be selective in its application” - Statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly by Mr. R. Furstrand, 12 October 1984, (1984) 55 B.Y.I.L. 434.

7 The right to self-determination is not the same as an absolute right of secession from an established state. The territorial integrity and sovereign equality of states are also basic principles of international law recognized in the U.N. Charter and subsequent treaties. In the 1970 Declaration of Principles of International Law, the General Assembly affirms that every state

# FACT SHEET #2: Ending the Occupation: It's the Law

legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as embodied in UN resolutions 181 and 194 (calling for the return of Palestinian refugees) — both of which Israel continues to violate.<sup>8</sup>

The Arabs and Palestinians, having initially rejected the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan as unjust,<sup>9</sup> have since accepted a two-state solution to the conflict, most recently in the Saudi plan submitted to the Arab Summit in Beirut in March 2002, which was formally endorsed by the League of Arab States, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Yet Palestine does not yet enjoy statehood. The Palestine Liberation Organization has permanent observer status at the U.N., and over 120 states have recognized the PLO and/or the Palestinian Authority. But Palestine has not yet been seated as a member state of the U.N., in spite of the law's application to other peoples, most recently the people of East Timor.<sup>10</sup> The simple reason is that Israeli military occupation of Palestinian land continues to thwart the legitimate right of Palestinians to self-determination. U.S. political, military, and economic support for Israel is the most significant external factor enabling this occupation to continue in defiance of international law and justice.



CESR Fact Sheets on Palestine are produced as a contribution to the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. The US Campaign promotes the application of international law to the conflict, contributing to a just peace and human rights for all — Palestinians and Israelis. If you would like more information on the US Campaign, go to [www.endtheoccupation.org](http://www.endtheoccupation.org) or contact [us\\_campaign@endtheoccupation.org](mailto:us_campaign@endtheoccupation.org)

The Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) was established in 1993 to promote social justice through human rights.

## EQUALITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION

The fundamental principle of human rights law is that all human beings have equal rights without any discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or other categories. This principle forms the cornerstone of the modern democratic state in which all citizens enjoy full and equal rights under the law without discrimination of any kind. Under resolution 181, both the Arab and Jewish states were required to extend equal rights to all citizens. But Israel has never adopted a constitution or bill of rights and retains over 20 laws that discriminate against the Palestinian national minority on such fundamental civic rights as education, land ownership, and access to public resources.

## OCCUPATION

There is no such thing as a “legal” occupation, because the occupier cannot usurp by force the rights of the occupied people, who retain title to their land and resources by virtue of the fundamental right to self-determination. U.N. Resolution 242 of 1967, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied during the 1967 June War, is based on the principle of the “inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war”.

International law views occupation as a temporary status during which the occupier is obligated first to end the occupation as quickly as possible and second to safeguard the rights of the occupied population during the

temporary period in which the occupation is maintained. Any move by the occupier to infringe of the rights of the occupied or change the status of the occupied land through, for example, annexation, confiscation of resources, population transfer, or destruction of civilian property is illegal under the Geneva Conventions.<sup>11</sup>

## RESISTANCE

Occupied people have the right to resist the occupation itself, as well as the specific illegal practices of the occupier.<sup>12</sup> However, it is beyond dispute that attacks on unarmed civilians — whether by an occupying army or an armed resistance group — always constitute a violation of fundamental human rights and can never be justified under international law.

The legal status of combatants for the right to self-determination was defined by the General Assembly in 1973 according to the following principles:<sup>13</sup>

— Such struggles are legitimate and in full accord with the principles of international law.

— Attempts to suppress struggles against colonial and racist regimes are incompatible with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Such attempts themselves constitute a threat to peace and security.

must aid in the realization of the “self-determination of peoples” in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, but also that “nothing in the foregoing paragraphs shall be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair... the territorial integrity or political unity of a sovereign State.” Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Oct. 24, 1970, G.A. Res. 2625, 25 U.N. GAOR, Supp. (No. 28) 121, U.N. Doc. A/8028 (1971), art. 2. Similarly, the 1961 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples affirms both the right of all peoples to self-determination and the principles of territorial integrity and inviolability of state borders. Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Dec. 14, 1960, G.A. Res. 1514 (XV), 15 U.N. GAOR, Supp. (No. 16), UN Doc. A/4684 (1961).

<sup>8</sup> Resolution 194 provides for the right of return and compensation of refugees from what became the state of Israel. Israel has accepted both resolutions 181 and 194, as recognized in the preamble of the resolution admitting

Israel to U.N. membership.

<sup>9</sup> See CESR Fact Sheet 1 “Palestine and the Palestinians” for more details.

<sup>10</sup> In a 1995 decision, the International Court of Justice held that “Portugal’s assertion that the right of peoples to self-determination, as it evolved in the Charter and from United Nations practice, has an *ergo omnes* [universal application] character, is irreproachable.” Case Concerning East Timor (Port. v. Austr.), 1995 I.C.J. 90 (June 30).

<sup>11</sup> Israel is a signatory to the Fourth Geneva Convention, and, as such, obligated to uphold its provisions.

<sup>12</sup> Article 1(4) of Protocol I (additional to the Geneva Conventions) considers self-determination struggles in the context of international armed conflicts: the principle of self-determination itself provides that where forcible action has been taken to suppress the right, force may be used in order achieve self-determination.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations High Commission on Human Rights Fact Sheet on International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights: <http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu6/2/fs13.htm>

The 'Green Line' between Israel and the West Bank is based on the UN-brokered armistice agreements of 1949. Israel crossed the Green Line to occupy the West Bank and East Jerusalem as well as the Gaza Strip during the 1967 Arab-Israeli

towns like Qalqilya.<sup>2</sup> A total of 160 Israeli settlements with a population of 393,500 (87% of the settler population) are on the Israeli side of the Wall.

Palestinian communities have found themselves placed in shrinking enclaves,

leave the tiny Strip through two Israeli-controlled border crossings.

The Wall and checkpoints in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip barrier affect approximately 47% of the total Palestinian population. They relegate the Palestinian

# Cementing the Occupation

## Israel's Illegal Wall Puts Palestine Behind Bars

War that broke out on June 5. UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967), which Israel accepted, called for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces, based on the principle of the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war." Instead, Israel used the intervening years to settle some 400,000 Israelis in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza.

### THE WARPATH OF THE WALL

In June 2002, continuing its utter disregard for the international community, Israel began construction of the Wall on Palestinian land *inside of*, and not on, the Green Line, citing the pretext of security. However, the Wall's path betrays its real purpose: the illegal annexation of as many settlements as possible to Israel. The Wall juts up to 13 miles into the West Bank, demolishing Palestinian homes and grabbing Palestinian land and water resources.<sup>1</sup> It is twice as long as the 1967 border, snaking around and isolating major Palestinian

isolated from their lands and segregated from neighboring communities. The 132,000 Palestinians who are isolated by the Wall or contained in Israeli-controlled "closed areas" cannot enter or leave their communities without permission from Israeli soldiers.

### CUTTING OFF THE EASTERN WEST BANK, ISOLATING GAZA

The Wall plan also includes the appropriation of Palestinian territory in the eastern West Bank (the Jordan Valley). In this fertile region alongside the border with Jordan, Israeli checkpoints and settlements completely dominate the Palestinian population. The Israeli land seizures alongside the West Bank's border with Israel in the west and with Jordan in the east will *de facto* annex to Israel nearly 37% of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in defiance of international law.

The total isolation of the Gaza Strip from the rest of the world receives little attention, although its barrier predates the Wall in the West Bank. Most of the barrier encircling the Gaza Strip runs along the border, but approximately 9,000 Palestinians are trapped in tiny enclaves controlled by Israeli soldiers.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, the entire Palestinian population of Gaza is cut off by air, land, and sea, and can only enter and

people to ghetto-like enclaves on 12% of their historic land (see chart on reverse).

### ACCESS DENIED

The Wall isolates and appropriates some of the most fertile areas available to Palestinians. The loss of these resources



Caterpillar bulldozer in Jayyus destroys an olive grove. Photo by Christoph Gocke.

has deepened the humanitarian crisis in a population highly dependent on agriculture, grazing and access to water.

Palestinians can only reach lands and communities isolated by the Wall by presenting special permits at a limited number of gates and checkpoints controlled by Israeli soldiers. Issuance of permits is subject to security clearance from Israeli soldiers and proof of land ownership. The application process for land title documents and permits is long, tedious and expensive and Palestinian applications are often denied without reason.<sup>4</sup>

Palestinians who lack permits are prohibited from accessing their lands and

### COMPONENTS OF THE WALL

Generally, the Wall consists of two types of structures. In urban areas, the Wall consists of 25-foot high slabs of concrete. In agricultural areas, the Wall consists of a central electrified fence (10 ft. high) surrounded by razor wire.

The path of the Wall also features 100-300 ft. wide 'buffer zone' including military surveillance paths, ditches, and electrical fencing.

## END THE OCCUPATION

US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION

The US Campaign is a diverse coalition of over 200 groups working for freedom from occupation and equal rights for all by challenging US policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Campaign is based on human rights and international law, providing a non-sectarian framework for everyone who supports its *Call to Action*. Its strategy is to inform, educate, and mobilize the public so as to change the US role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

|   | Wall and Western Segregation Zone     | Eastern Segregation Zone (Jordan Valley) | The Barrier in the Gaza Strip   | Totals                      |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Length                                    | 400 m                                 | Not applicable                           | 63 m                            | 463 m                       |
| Length on the border                      | 78 m (19%)                            | Not applicable                           | 43 m (68%)                      | 121 m (26%)                 |
| Area Appropriated                         | 218 m <sup>2</sup> (10% of West Bank) | 600 m <sup>2</sup> (27% of West Bank)    | 36 m <sup>2</sup> (27% of Gaza) | 854 m <sup>2</sup> (37%)    |
| Agricultural Lands Appropriated           | 104 m <sup>2</sup>                    | 376 m <sup>2</sup>                       | 32 m <sup>2</sup>               | 512 m <sup>2</sup>          |
| Water Resources Appropriated              | 30 wells; 32 springs                  | 105 wells; 30 springs                    | 25 wells                        | 170 wells; 62 springs       |
| Palestinian Population Isolated           | 90,000 (55 communities)               | 42,000 (42 communities)                  | 9,000 (4 communities)           | 141,000 (101 communities)   |
| Palestinian Population Otherwise Affected | 550,000 (172 communities)             | N/A                                      | 900,000 (47 communities)        | 1,450,000 (219 communities) |
| Total Palestinian population*             | 2,336,354                             |  | 1,363,513                       | 3,699,767                   |

Source: The Applied Research Institute—Jerusalem (ARIJ), April 2005. \* Figures from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics ([www.pcbs.gov.ps](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps)); m = mile.

may lose the only source of income for their families. In addition, Israel uses centuries old Ottoman land laws to acquire Palestinian land: if properties are not cultivated for three consecutive years Israel can confiscate the lands without compensation to the owner.<sup>5</sup> As the Wall project enters its third year, increasing amounts of Palestinian land are under threat of outright confiscation by Israel.

### THE WALL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

In July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) passed an advisory opinion that reaffirms that Israel's Wall is illegal.<sup>6</sup> The Court based its decision on existing international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Hague Regulations, various human rights treaties, and UN Security Council resolutions.

The Court confirmed that the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip, including East Jerusalem, are territories under occupation by Israel (Para. 78), making all Israeli settlements and population transfers illegal in line with the Fourth Geneva Convention (Para. 120).

The ICJ believes that the Wall is an attempt to connect settlements and settlers to Israel, (Para. 119) creating 'facts on the ground' and de facto annexing Palestinian land, which will have a significant impact on future negotiations regarding borders (Para. 121).

The Wall results in the violation of Palestinian human rights including the right to freedom of movement, work, health, education, and an adequate standard of living. The ICJ opinion upholds the Palestinian people's right to self-determination (Para. 118), which they are prevented from exercising by the wall's disruption of the territorial integrity and unity of the population (Para. 122). 'Self-defense' or 'state of necessity' can not be used as justification for violating this right and other international legal principles (Para. 142) and

therefore Israel must cease construction, dismantle portions of the wall already built, and compensate those whose property has been destroyed (Para. 145). It also calls on other states to refrain from supporting Israel in building the Wall (Para. 146).

### SNAPSHOT FROM JAYYUS

Jayyus village has been heavily impacted by the Wall, which has isolated 70% of the village's lands, including vast agricultural areas and six wells. Most Jayyus residents have been denied permits and are thus cut off from their lands. Furthermore, in December 2004, Israel began using CAT bulldozers to confiscate more land for the enlargement of a nearby settlement.<sup>7</sup>

Tawfiq Salim—just one of the many affected farmers—has seen his land destroyed as a result of the Wall. In December 2004, CAT bulldozers uprooted 750 of his olive trees, which then were taken to Israel to be sold. Tawfiq was devastated: "I depended on my olive trees for everything."<sup>8</sup>

### US POLICY ON THE WALL

The US Administration has never challenged Israel's Wall project. It still provides over \$3 billion in direct aid to Israel every year. This aid allows Israel to flaunt international law and construct the Wall. The US also provides crucial political and diplomatic support for the Wall.<sup>9</sup> On October 14, 2003, the US vetoed a UN Security Council Resolution declaring the Wall illegal.<sup>10</sup> It was in response to this veto that the General Assembly asked the ICJ to consider the case and issue an advisory opinion.

The US House of Representatives has acted to undermine the ICJ decision by passing House Resolution 713 deploring the Court's decision.<sup>11</sup> In the Senate, 46 senators co-sponsored a similar bill that has not yet come to a vote.

Private US corporations also contribute to the construction of the wall. One such

company is Caterpillar, which sells the Israeli army bulldozers used to demolish Palestinian homes and clear land for the Wall's construction in spite of the company's commitment to uphold human rights under its own Code of Conduct.<sup>12</sup>

In April 2004, President George W. Bush exchanged letters of support with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Bush implicitly endorsed the route of the Wall as a permanent boundary. This is a direct violation of international law and of the ICJ's call for all other states to refrain from supporting Israel's construction of the Wall.

### ENDNOTES

**1** All statistics here about the Wall come from the Applied Research Institute—Jerusalem (ARIJ). These figures reflect the status of the wall in April 2005, and are based on the completed Wall up to that date, and projections for its continuation, as based on the Israeli cabinet decision of February 20, 2005.

**2** "Barrier to Peace: Assessment of Israel's 'New' Wall Route," PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, March 2005, [www.nad-plo.org](http://www.nad-plo.org).

**3** ARIJ, "Israel's Segregation Wall: Isolation and Ghettoization in the Holy Land," available at: [http://www.poica.org/editor/case\\_studies/view.php?recordID=549](http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=549).

**4** B'tselem, "Not All it Seems: Preventing Palestinians Access to their Lands West of the Separation Barrier in the Tulkarm-Qalqilya Area," available at: [http://www.btselem.org/Download/200406\\_Qalqilya\\_Tulkarm\\_Barrier\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.btselem.org/Download/200406_Qalqilya_Tulkarm_Barrier_Eng.pdf).

**5** Israel's Absentee Property Law of 1967.

**6** Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Advisory Opinion July 9, 2004 para. 78.

**7** For more information on Jayyus, see: [http://www.poica.org/editor/case\\_studies/view.php?recordID=473](http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=473) and David Bloom, "West Bank Apartheid: Israeli Settlement Expansion in Jayyus," *ZNet*, December 15, 2004.

**8** Steven Erlanger, "Peace? West Bank Mayor Has Other Worries," *New York Times*, December 30, 2004.

**9** For more information on the US-Israeli relationship see the US Campaign's fact sheet at: [http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/us\\_policy.pdf](http://www.endtheoccupation.org/downloads/us_policy.pdf).

**10** Schlomo Shamir, "U.S. vetoes UN resolution on W. Bank security fence," *Ha'aretz*, 16 October 2003, available at: <http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=350348>.

**11** H Res 713 (108th congress).

**12** For more on Caterpillar's complicity in the occupation see [www.catdestroyshomes.org](http://www.catdestroyshomes.org).

**This fact sheet was produced in cooperation with The Applied Research Institute—Jerusalem (ARIJ). For more information and to see a full map of the route, see [www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org), [www.arij.org](http://www.arij.org), [www.btselem.org](http://www.btselem.org), and [www.nad-plo.org](http://www.nad-plo.org).**



# West Bank Barrier Route Projections - Preliminary Overview

July 2006



The Barrier's total length is 703 km, more than twice the length of the 1949 West Bank Armistice Line (Green Line) adjacent to Israel.

Twenty percent (20%) of the Barrier's length runs along the Green Line.

## Area Affected

The total area located between the Barrier and the Green Line is 10.17% of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

(142,130 acres or 57,518 hectares)

## Populations Affected

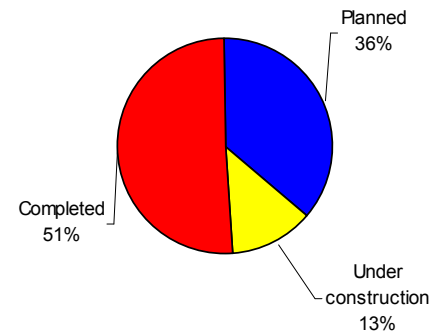
If the Barrier is completed based on the current route, 60,500 Palestinians living in 42 villages will reside in areas between the Barrier and the Green Line, not including East Jerusalem residents.

Of these, 12 villages and about 31,400 Palestinians are particularly affected as they will be completely encircled by the Barrier.

An additional, 124,300 Palestinians living in 28 villages will be located on the east side, but surrounded by the Barrier on three sides and controlled on the fourth with an associated physical structure.

## Barrier Route

- Completed - 362 km
- - - Under construction - 88 km
- Planned - 253 km



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Cartography and Barrier Themes: OCHA-oPT IMU  
Map 5 July 2006  
Base data: MoPIC (2000) updates OCHA (2005)

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# REFERENCE MAP - as of October 2005

## WEST BANK & GAZA STRIP



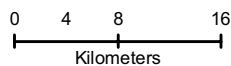
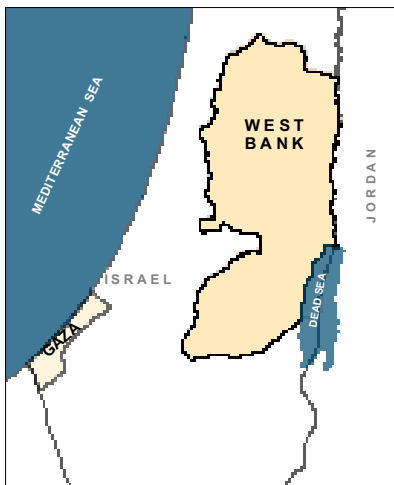
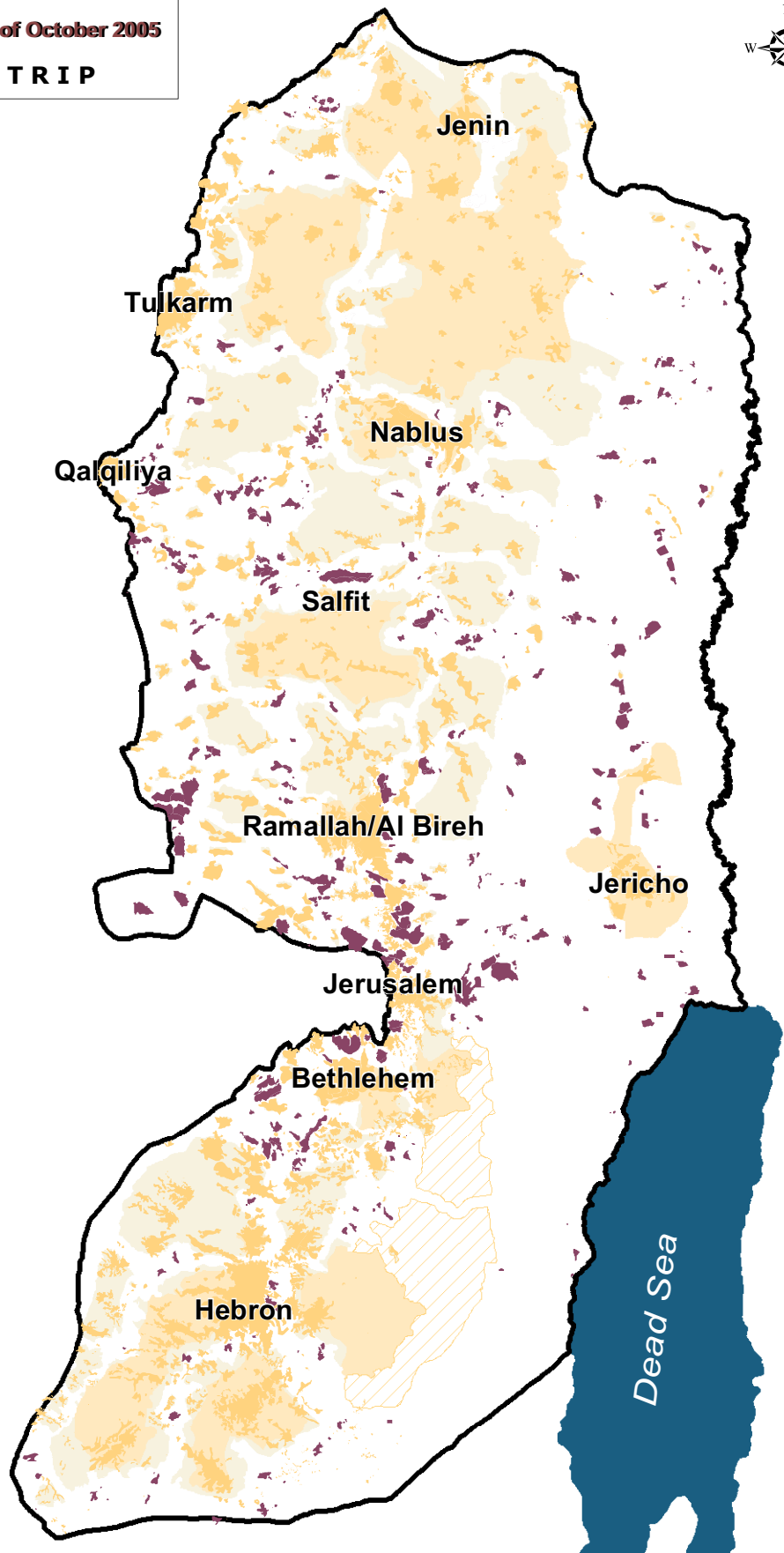
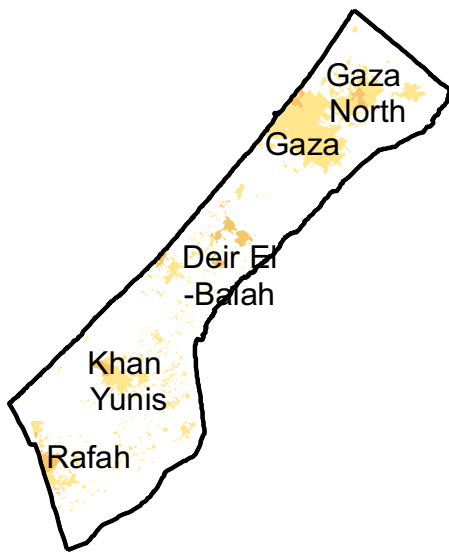
### Residential Areas

- Palestinian Communities
- Israeli Settlements

### Oslo Agreements

- AREA (A)<sup>1</sup>
- AREA (B)<sup>2</sup>
- AREA (C)<sup>3</sup>
- Nature Reserve
- Special Case (H2)<sup>4</sup>

1-Full Palestinian civil and military control.  
 2-Full Palestinian civil control and joint Israeli-Palestinian military control.  
 3-Full Israeli civil and military control.  
 4-Hebron Agreement.



**OCHA** **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

Cartography: OCHA - oPt - October 2005.  
 Base data: PA MoP, July 2000, OCHA update 2004  
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