

meet its obligations to the Palestinian people, we call for an immediate change in Canada's Middle East policy.

Collective punishment, land expropriation, home demolitions, extra-judicial killings and the daily humiliation of an entire population provide fertile soil for the growth of brutality and the perpetration of atrocities. Continuing military occupation is the root cause of the present spiral of violence between the Palestinian and Israeli populations.

We demand that the Canadian government assume its international responsibilities regarding the illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. We call on the Canadian government to publicly and unequivocally demand the immediate and unilateral withdrawal of all Israeli military forces from the Palestinian Territories occupied in June 1967 and the dismantling of illegal settlements.

We demand the Canadian government uphold the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding civilian populations under military occupation. We call on the Canadian government to respond to Israel's continuing non-compliance with the rule of law by joining the international community in the censure and sanction of the illegal Israeli occupation and colonization of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

In so doing, we affirm the universality of our basic human rights, and protest their selective application by the Canadian government.

What can we do?

Keep informed. Visit our website where you can join the Canpalnet mailing list to receive news that is seldom published in Canadian newspapers, and action alerts regarding government and media lobbying.

Join us. Our meetings are open to everyone. Contact admin@canpalnet-ottawa.org to find out when and where we are meeting.



Reuters: Magnus Johansson

Need more information?

Visit these sites:

www.electronicintifada.net
www.palsolidarity.org
www.gush-shalom.org
www.btselem.org
www.endtheoccupation.org

Recommended Books:

Images and Reality of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict
by Norman Finkelstein

The Fateful Triangle
by Noam Chomsky

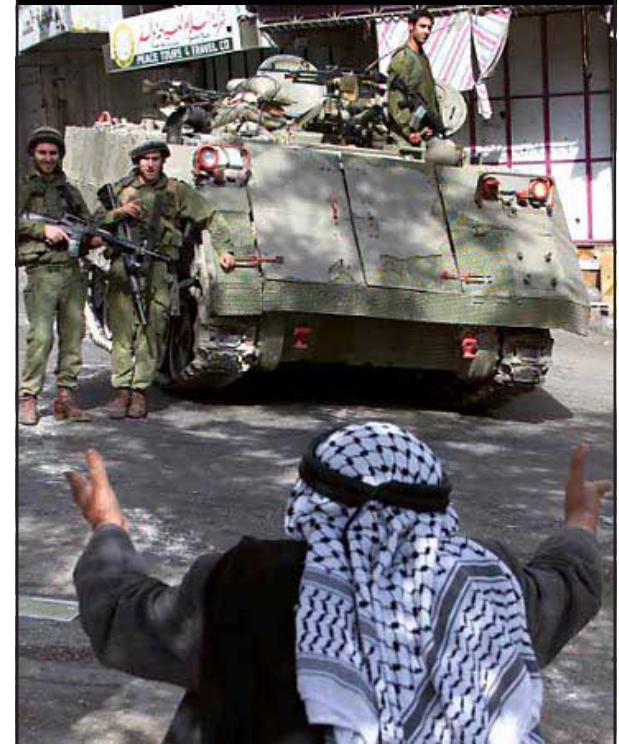
Deliberate Deceptions: Facing Facts about the U.S. - Israeli Relationship
by Paul Findley

Israel/Palestine: How to End the 1948 War
by Tanya Reinhart

Palestine, Palestinians and International Law
by Francis Boyle

This Heated Place
by Deborah Campbell

Palestine and Israel: Where does Canada Stand?



Reuters: Loay Abu Haykel

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www.canpalnet-ottawa.org

*Canpalnet-Ottawa is an independent member
of the Canada-Palestine Support Network
www.canpalnet.ca*

It seems so difficult to understand the Palestine-Israel conflict.

It appears this way because traditionally the media in Canada and the U.S. have favoured the Israeli side and have not explained background events or reported the human rights abuses that make daily life so difficult for the Palestinian people.



Reuters: Gil Cohen Magen

Background

In 1917 the British government made a promise to European Jews to help them realize their Zionist dream of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. During that period the Jews comprised only 8% of the total population of Palestine. Under British rule, Palestine experienced large scale Jewish immigration from Europe. In the late 1930s both the Palestinian population and the Jewish immigrants sought independence from Britain.

After WWII Britain wanted to withdraw from Palestine and referred the issue to the United Nations. In 1947 the UN proposed dividing Palestine into two states, giving the new European Jewish population who owned only 8% of the land an incredible 55% of the territory. The native Palestinians who represented 65% of the population received only 45% of their country. This was not good enough for certain Jewish extremists who wanted a racially pure Jewish state. They began to expel the Palestinian population into the surrounding Arab countries causing a war at the end of which Israel had

taken another 23% of the land, making Israel 78% of the original territory of Palestine.

In the final outcome Israel had cleansed 750,000 Palestinians from this area and completely destroyed 385 Palestinian villages. Although the United Nations passed a Resolution declaring that all Palestinian refugees have the right to return to their homes, Israel ignored this resolution.

What does “occupation” mean?

In 1967 the Israelis claiming self-defense seized the last of the Palestinian territories of East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank. UN Resolution 242 calls for the “Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict.” Israel defied U.N. Resolution 242, just as they defied 181 and 194.

In violation of international law (Fourth Geneva Convention), they built settlements in the occupied territories. They seized control of 80% of the water resources and built massive roadways for settlers only.

Occupation is Violence

House searches without warrants are a daily occurrence. Palestinians must carry special ID cards to cross the checkpoints that have been set up in the West Bank and Gaza. Twenty four hour curfews have been imposed for months with only a few hours allowed each week to get food. Homes and orchards are levelled without compensation to build Israel’s security wall and special highways for the Jewish settlers. Ambulances are prevented from getting to the sick. Babies have been born and died at checkpoints because ambulances were not allowed through. Schools, hospitals and churches have been shelled by Israeli tanks and helicopter gunships.

What about the Road Map to Peace?

The Road Map to Peace has collapsed because, even as Israel paid lip service to the Road Map, it continued to confiscate Palestinian land and use



Reuters: Ammar Awad

collective punishment such as home demolitions and extra-judicial assassinations in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Israel is currently building a wall around the West Bank claiming it is necessary for its self-defence. This wall is not being built on the border between Israel and the West Bank but on Palestinian land. At some points it intrudes 10 kilometres into Palestinian territory and separates farmers from their fields.

Ariel Sharon’s coalition government includes a party which advocates a form of “ethnic cleansing” by openly calling for the forced expulsion of all Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Canada’s Position

While proclaiming that all peoples in the regions have a right to security, successive Canadian governments have condoned Israel’s systematic violation of the Palestinian population’s basic human right to live free of military coercion and violence by refusing to openly condemn the occupation and even abstaining from some U.N. Resolutions condemning Israeli policies.

Canpalnet Campaign to End the Occupation

It is the responsibility of all people in Canada to insist on the inviolability and universality of human rights. Compelled by our government’s failure to