

# BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

## THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN LAND

Jewish settlements have been an essential and emblematic part of the State of Israel since before its foundation in 1948. The European Zionists had been promised “a land without people for a people without land,” but when they arrived in Palestine after the Holocaust, they were faced with the fact of an existing and flourishing civilization, and then launched a campaign which is referred to in Arabic as “al-Nakba,” the disaster. In the words of David Ben-Gurion: “We must use terror, assassination, intimidation, land confiscation, and the cutting of all social services to rid the Galilee of its Arab Population.” More than 400 Palestinian villages were destroyed and their peoples murdered or exiled. Many of these villages were then occupied by Jewish settlers.

After the 1967 war, the UN passed Resolution 242, which called for “withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict” as well as “respect...for every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries...” Despite this resolution, and in violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which states “The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies,” Israel began to build and populate Jewish-only settlements on captured territories. Some of these settlements begin as simple encampments on Palestinian land, eventually receiving government sanction as settlements or even “neighborhoods.”

There are currently around a half million Jewish Israelis living in Jewish-only settlements on Palestinian lands. Settlers receive monetary subsidies for migrating to Palestinian land. Settlements are often located on hilltops overlooking remaining Palestinian villages, usurping or polluting their aquifers. Settlers have become increasingly aggressive toward Palestinians, throwing their garbage down onto the villages, burning their crops and killing their animals.

These illegal settlements are the biggest obstacle to ending the illegal occupation. Since the 1993 Oslo Accords, the total number of settlers in the occupied territories has nearly doubled. And the U.S. has consistently vetoed U.N. resolutions calling on Israel to cease settlement activities.

Recent U.S. administrations, up to that of President Obama, have not characterized the settlements as illegal. But President Obama’s June address in Cairo to the Muslim world gingerly stated that “the U.S. does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements,” although he did not mention the fact that no Israeli settlements on occupied land are legitimate. The freeze in settlement expansion proposed by President Obama can only be implemented by the withholding of U.S. military aid to the Israeli government. Please join Bay Area Women in Black in urging Congresswoman Lee to advocate for congressional withholding of Foreign Military Financing until the Administration assures Congress that Israel has complied with its previous pledges to halt settlement activities.

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## LEARN MORE

### LIST OF BOOKS ABOUT PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

<i>Israel/Palestine: How to End the War of 1948</i>	By Tanya Reinhart
<i>The Road Map to Nowhere</i>	By Tanya Reinhart
<i>The Iron Wall Israel and the Arab World</i>	By Avi Shlaim
<i>Jewish Schizophrenia in the Land of Israel</i>	By Rabbi David. J. Forman
<i>The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine</i>	By Illan Pappé
<i>Palestine Peace Not Apartheid</i>	By President Jimmy Carter
<i>Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict</i>	By Phyllis Bennis
<i>The Other Side of Israel</i>	By Susan Nathan
<i>The Lemon Tree</i>	By Sandy Tolan
<i>The Israeli Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy</i>	By John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt

### PARTIAL LIST OF WEBSITES

Haaretz Israeli Newspaper	<a href="http://www.haaretz.org">http://www.haaretz.org</a>
Christian Peacemakers	<a href="http://www.cpt.org">http://www.cpt.org</a>
If Americans Knew	<a href="http://www.ifamericansknew.org">http://www.ifamericansknew.org</a>
B'Tselem, Israeli Peace Group	<a href="http://www.btselem.org">http://www.btselem.org</a>
Rabbis for Human Rights	<a href="http://www.rhr-na.org">http://www.rhr-na.org</a>
Aljazeera English	<a href="http://www.english.aljazeera.net">http://www.english.aljazeera.net</a>
Electronic Intifada (Palestinian site)	<a href="http://electronicintifada.net">http://electronicintifada.net</a>
Maan News (Palestinian)	<a href="http://www.maannews.net/en">http://www.maannews.net/en</a>
Jewish Voice for Peace	<a href="http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org">http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org</a>
Sabeel	<a href="http://www.sabeel.org">http://www.sabeel.org</a>
Brit Tzedek v'Shalom	<a href="http://www.btvshalom.org">http://www.btvshalom.org</a>

Bay Area Women in Black are Jews and allies who stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own. We wear black as a sign of our mourning for all the Iraqi, Israeli and Palestinian lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarization and violence. As part of the international movement of Women in Black, we seek to transform women's mourning for the dead into a powerful refusal of the inevitability of war.

Join us at the Grand Lake Theater every Saturday at noon to register your protest and your presence as we continue to urge the end of the US military and financial support for Israel's disastrous occupation.

*The group with flags and signs supporting Israel is the San Francisco Voice for Israel, a local group who oppose Bay Area Women in Black's criticism of the policies of the Israeli government and military. BAWIB is not anti-Israel. BAWIB believes Israel's occupation is wrong and deprives Palestinians of basic human rights. BAWIB calls for the end of the occupation and its violent effects on Israelis and Palestinians. The flyers distributed by Voice for Israel do not accurately reflect BAWIB.*