

UNDER AN OLIVE TREE IN PALESTINE

“Here We Stand...
Here We Remain...
With One Purpose...
With One Goal... TO BE”

Mahmoud Darwish (1941-2008)

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

- The Israeli occupation of Palestine has been one of the longest in modern history and is one of the very few remaining military occupations in the world today.
- Israel, through its occupation and practices, has violated more United Nations resolutions than any other country in the world.
- At least one in four refugees in the world is Palestinian.
- Palestinian displacement is one of the longest in modern history, extending to three generations.
- More than half of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation are refugees who were displaced from their homes and lands since 1948.



Resilience and Determination

In spite of all obstacles and hardships inflicted by the occupation....

- In 2010, the adult literacy rate for persons 15 years and above was 95% in Palestinian territory.
- In July 2011, children from the Gaza Strip flew 10,465 kites simultaneously breaking a record previously registered by China in April of the same year.
- University students from the Palestine Polytechnic University (Hebron) created Palestine's first solar electric car.
- Three 14-year old Palestinian girls from the Askar Refugee Camp (Nablus) received awards for developing the first infrared walking cane able to detect holes in the ground and alert blind people of obstacles and drop-offs, using 200\$ worth of material.

“No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited”. Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 33

Occupation Regime: Settlements and Settler Violence

- The settlements in the West Bank are illegal and constitute an obstacle to peace according to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 446 (1979), and some are even illegal by Israeli law.
- Some roads and areas in the occupied West Bank are marked for Israeli access only.
- The number of Israelis living in illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory has more than doubled since the beginning of the peace process in 1992: more than half a million Israeli settlers are estimated to be living in 144 settlements and tens of settler outposts built on occupied Palestinian land.
- In 2011, the rate of construction in Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land was double that of construction within the Green Line.
- 304 incidents perpetrated by settlers against Palestinians and their properties were recorded between February 2010 and February 2011.
- No indictment was filed following 97 investigations launched by Israeli security forces into the destruction of Palestinian trees by Israeli settlers between 2005 and 2010.

Price Tag Policy

Israeli settlers opposing all efforts to curb settlement expansion have openly adopted what they called the “Price Tag Policy”, whereby settlers respond to any Israeli authorities’ action limiting settlement expansion by attacking Palestinians and their property.

- In September 2011, settlers set a mosque on fire in the West Bank village of Qusra after the Israeli police demolished three illegal structures in the settlement outpost of Migron.
- In July 2010, settlers set fire to an entire olive grove in the village of Burin after the Israeli army removed an illegal outpost adjoining the Bracha settlement.

Occupation Regime: Disproportionate Use of Force and Arbitrary Detention

- 1,335 Palestinian children were killed by Israeli soldiers and settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory between 2000 and 2010.
- 63 Palestinians, including 9 children, were killed by Israeli forces and settlers in 2011 alone (up to 13 September).
- Israeli law allows Administrative Detention, whereby the military can detain an individual without any charge or trial for up to six months – a period which can then be extended for an unlimited number of times.
- More than 760,000 Palestinians including 13,000 women and 15,000 children have been detained by Israeli forces for various periods of time between 1967 and 2010.
- 201 Palestinian children were in Israeli prisons by July 2011.
- Around 700 Palestinian children are prosecuted in Israeli military courts each year after being arrested, interrogated and detained by the Israeli army.

Occupation Regime: Natural Resources and the Environment

- On average, an Israeli settler consumes 7 times more water than a Palestinian, while Palestinians pay 5 times more than the settlers for water.
- Palestinian access to domestic fresh water averages 73 litres per person per day in the West Bank and 52 litres in the Gaza Strip (WHO recommends a minimum of 100 litres per person per day).
- Israel consumes 90 per cent of the freshwater in the Palestinian territory.
- Around 1.34 million trees in the occupied Palestinian territory were uprooted by Israeli forces since 2000.
- Israeli settlements dump around 40 million m3 of waste water and solid waste annually on Palestinian land.

Occupation Regime: Blockade, Closures and the Wall

- The blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip since June 2007 is considered an act of collective punishment harming civilians disproportionately, thus violating the international humanitarian law.
- Among other restrictions, Israel imposes a ‘buffer zone’ within the Gaza Strip ranging between 1 and 1.5 km, thereby denying Palestinians access to 35 per cent of the Strip’s agricultural land.
- More than 500 Israeli checkpoints, roadblocks and other obstacles in the West Bank obstruct and sometimes prohibit the movement of Palestinians within their own land.
- Israel has been building a 709 km long – 3-storey high – wall that isolates 33,000 Palestinians, annexes 13 per cent of the West Bank, affects more than 850,000 Palestinians and completely severs East Jerusalem from the rest of the Palestinian territory.
- The Palestinian Red Crescent Society reported 159 cases where its medical teams were blocked or delayed access during 2010 alone.

Occupation Regime: Home Demolition, Land Confiscation and Displacement

- Demolition of Palestinian homes has been a systematic practice within the Israeli occupation regime, as means for punishment and land confiscation.
- At least 20,200 Palestinians have been left homeless as a result of home demolitions since 2004.
- Israeli authorities have expropriated 23,378,000 m2 of Palestinian land in occupied East Jerusalem since 1968, while currently Palestinian Jerusalemites are allowed to build on approximately 13 per cent only of the land in the city.
- 13,161 residency permits for Palestinian Jerusalemites were revoked by the Israeli authorities between 1967 and 2010.

Occupation Regime: Social and Economic Impact

- In 2009, around 22 per cent of the Palestinians lived in poverty. In the second quarter of 2011, unemployment in the occupied Palestinian territory as a whole amounted to 24 per cent (relaxed definition of unemployment).
- 1.43 million Palestinians suffer from food insecurity.
- 56.6 per cent of children in the Gaza Strip report moderate reaction to trauma and 10.6 per cent report severe reactions. Post-traumatic stress among families is estimated at 45 per cent.
- The blockade on the Gaza Strip has led to severe shortages in essential drugs and medicines, as well as in medical equipment.
- 80 per cent of schools in the Gaza Strip operate on double shifts to accommodate the number of students, due to the insufficient number of school buildings.
- The blockade on the Gaza Strip has forced people to make unacceptable tradeoffs, often having to choose between food or medicine or water for their families.
- Israeli restrictions on importing building material to the Gaza Strip has impeded the reconstruction of homes destroyed or damaged by Israeli military operations, leaving 3,500 families homeless.

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United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
United Nations House, Riad Solh Square
P.O. Box 11-8575, Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961 1981501; Fax: +961 1981510
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