

ICAHD The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions

is a grassroots Israeli organization dedicated to ending Israel's apartheid regime, restoring to the Palestinians their national rights and establishing a single democracy inclusive of both peoples in a shared civic state.

Israel's policy of demolishing Palestinian homes on both sides of the 1967 border epitomizes its intent to displace the Palestinian people while taking its land. ICAHD focuses on demolitions as a window into Israel's colonial intentions. Our activists

- Resist demolitions, placing themselves in front of Israeli bulldozers, chaining themselves inside the homes, alerting activists and journalists, risking arrest;
- Rebuild demolished homes as joint acts of resistance with the Palestinian families and their communities. Over the past quarter-century ICAHD has rebuilt 189 homes;
- Take our experiences and analyses to the international community. Resistance alone is not sufficient. To end Israeli apartheid we need to mobilize the international community. In Palestine/Israel, ICAHD takes diplomats, journalists and activists on tours of Israeli apartheid. Abroad, ICAHD is a major voice for a just peace, our speakers presenting our analysis throughout the world, our ICAHD branches launching mounting public campaigns around both the issue of demolitions and ending apartheid by way of a single democratic state.

In our view, resistance to apartheid is effective only if connected to a political end-game. That, we contend, is the establishment of an inclusive democracy, yet one that brings the refugees home and gives expression to both Palestinian and Israeli national identities. That political program, formulated together with Palestinians, is what gives our resistance to house demolitions a political meaning, feeding into our mobilization of the global grassroots around the one-state program.

Feff Halper, ICAHD Co-founder and Director

Apartheid: Zionism's Only Possible Outcome

The "Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" is a misnomer. It is not a "conflict" involving two disputing "sides." Zionism and its progeny, Israel, represents a unilateral intent on the part of nationalist Jews to take over Palestine. Zionism aims to transform an Arab country into a Jewish one.

No one denies the Jews' historical and religious ties to the Land of Israel. In fact, Jews were always welcome to immigrate to the country and be part of its society. But the Zionists chose instead to come as settlers intent on Judaizing Palestine. In this they were enabled by the international community.

- In 1922 League of Nations mandated the British to facilitate "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." The Palestinians, 90% of the country's population with national aspirations of their own, were dismissed, referred to in the Mandate as merely "existing non-Jewish communities" lacking all national rights of their own.
- In 1947, the United Nations, with no legal authority, endorsed the partition of Palestine, allocating a full 56% of Palestine to the Jewish settlers, then only 30% of the population, for a Jewish state. The Palestinian majority understandably rejected the Partition Plan.
- By the end of the 1948 war that ensued, Israel has enlarged the territory under its control to 78%, now accepted as Israeli territory. It then cleansed the territory it conquered, expelling some 750,000 Palestinians and taking their land.
- In 1967, Israel conquered the rest of Palestine. Since then, the international community has allowed Israel to complete its colonial take-over of the country. Our governments have done so even in the face of Israel's blatant violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other international laws. They are complicit in Israel's erasure of the Palestinian presence in their homeland, not to mention their national rights.
- Although Palestinians comprise the majority population between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River, Israel has confined them to tiny, disconnected and impoverished enclaves on only 15% of their historic homeland. The five million Palestinians of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) live under a brutal military regime with no civil or political rights. Israel's own Palestinian citizens, 21% of the population, possess only limited civil rights in a state that asserts its exclusively "Jewish" character and are themselves confined to 3.5% of their state's land.

This is apartheid, defined in the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid as "inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group and systematically oppressing them."



Israel's Apartheid Regime

Israelis have taken the apartheid system and perfected it, so to speak; sharpened it. For instance, we had the Bantustans and we had the Group Areas Act and we had the separate schools and all of that but I don't think it ever even entered the mind of any apartheid planner to design a town in such a way that there is a physical wall that separates people and that that wall denotes your freedom of movement, your freedom of economic gain, of employment, and at the same time is a tool of intimidation and dehumanisation.

Rev. Allan Boesak Prominent South African Anti-Apartheid Activist



Areas A & B of the West Bank (brown areas on map); Area C (in grey) and Gaza

- 97% of Palestinians in the OPT are confined to the 70 disconnected enclaves of Areas A, B and Gaza, comprising just 10% of their historical homeland. They form the Bantustans of Israel's apartheid system.
- Area C of the OPT, the 62% of the West Bank ruled exclusively by Israel, is governed by an Israeli military government under which Palestinians have no legal protections. Indeed, Area C has been virtually cleared of Palestinians. It is here and in occupied East Jerusalem where Israel has established its settlement-cities and where most demolitions occur.
- Gaza's 2 million inhabitants have been locked in an open-air prison since 1989, their farmlands destroyed, their fishermen severely restricted from accessing the sea, clean drinking water unavailable. Sealed off from the outside world, Gazans have not seen their families in the West Bank or Israel for a generation.

Israel's scorched earth policy

• Palestine's richest agricultural land has been expropriated by Israel or dried out from denial of water. More than a million olive and fruit trees have been uprooted by the Israeli army and settlers, croplands torched, the Palestinian economy devastated.

Discrete settlements (blue areas on map) consolidated into settlement blocs (pink areas)

- Almost 800,000 Israeli settlers live illegally in the OPT, half in East Jerusalem, half in the West Bank.
- For decades Israel built illegally but with no interference from the international community settlements in the OPT, today numbering about 200. It is now connecting the dots. By consolidating individual settlements into settlement blocs, Israel expands its territorial contiguity to the Jordan River, incorporating the settlements into Israel while locking the Palestinians into Bantustans.

Infrastructure

- A matrix of Israeli highways also incorporate the West Bank and East Jerusalem into Israel, while obstructing the movement of Palestinians and their goods.
- Israel controls the borders between the OPT and the outside world.

The Separation Barrier

- The 3 million Palestinians of the West Bank live behind a 680 km/422 mile Separation Barrier. Concrete walls twice as high as the Berlin Wall surround Palestinian towns and cities; electronic fences fortified by watchtowers, sniper posts, mine fields, ditches, barbed wire, patrol roads, surveillance cameras, electronic warning devices and patrols of attack dogs enclose rural areas.
- Israel officially calls the fortification the "Separation Barrier" to highlight its main purpose: separating Israelis from Palestinians, pure apartheid.

Economic Closure and House Demolitions

- Although Israel destroyed the Gazan economy, Gazan workers are locked out of the Israeli job market. About 100,000 West Bankers work daily in Israel as casual laborers, but work permits are scarce and expensive. According to the UN, the rate of unemployment in the OPT is one of the highest in the world, at 27% (more than 50% in Gaza). Most Palestinians live on less than \$2 a day.
- 60,000 Palestinian homes, schools, mosques, livestock facilities, businesses, community buildings have been demolished by Israel in the OPT since 1967. Demolitions go on daily, including the homes of Palestinian citizens of Israel within the "Green Line." Tens of thousands of demolition orders remain outstanding.

