

CanPalNet

Canada-Palestine Support Network
www.canpalnet.ca



**Palestine & Israel:
Where does Canada stand?**

Is it difficult to figure out the Palestine-Israel conflict?

Before 1947 Palestine was a single country. Then the United Nations, dominated by the U.S., divided it into two countries (Resolution 181). The Jewish population (35%), who owned about 8% of the land, got 55%. The Palestinians (65%) were left 45% of the country.

What happened next?

There was a war. At the end the Jewish population had taken another 23%, making Israel now 78% of the total land. Israel "cleansed" 750,000 Palestinians out of this area. They destroyed and erased from the maps 385 Palestinian villages. The United Nations declared all Palestinian refugees have the right to return (Resolution 194).



Where does the expression "occupation" come from?

In 1967 the Israeli military invaded and "occupied" the remaining 22% of this once unified country. This 22% consists of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Since 1967 Israel has occupied 100% of the land of Palestine.

The U.N. Security Council unanimously resolved Israel had to withdraw unconditionally from this "occupied" territory (Resolution 242).

What has Israel done with the "occupied territories"?

Israel defied U.N. Resolution 242, just as they defied 181 and 194. Violating international law (Fourth Geneva



Convention) they built settlements in the "occupied territories" for 400,000 Jewish-Israelis. They seized control of 80% of the water resources. They build massive roadways for settlers only. They divided Palestinian villages and towns from each other. South African Bishop Desmond Tutu called it "apartheid".



Remember Enron?

They stole all the pension funds of their employees. If the employees ask for 22 cents on the dollar, would you say they are being extreme? The end of the Israeli military occupation and their settlements would give the Palestinians only 22% of their original homeland. Is that extreme ... or is it minimal?

How did you respond to Campbell's referendum on treaty rights?

Native people in B.C. as elsewhere were colonized: their lands seized, forced into pockets of reserves, families broken, children abused, cultures ridiculed.

Did Campbell's referendum aim to remedy these injustices? Or was it designed to whip up racism and continue injustice?

Do Israeli government proposals, that never have offered to give back the "occupied territories" aim to remedy the parallel injustices inflicted on the Palestinian people? Or are they too designed to continue injustice by force and by whipping up racist prejudices against Palestinians?

The answers are the same in B.C. and in Palestine.

What are we to do?

CANPALNET (Canada Palestine Support Network) has organized a Canada-wide "Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories".

Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories

It is the responsibility of all people in Canada to insist on the inviolability and universality of human rights. As such, and compelled by our government's failure to meet its obligations to the Palestinian people, we call for an immediate change in Canada's Middle East policy.

While proclaiming that all peoples in the region 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.

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 urgently 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 dismantlement of illegal settlements.

We demand the Canadian government uphold the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding civilian populations under military occupation (enacted following the atrocities of World War II). 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.

WE CALL ON PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS TO JOIN US IN THIS CAMPAIGN.



The goal is to change Canadian government policy on this issue. All of us, with all our different backgrounds, have the same responsibility to make this policy a just one.

The campaign statement (on the left) is also on our website: www.canpalnet.ca (go to campaigns and you will find a link to the statement and the list of signatories).

**CHECK IT OUT. ADD YOUR NAME.
HELP BUILD THE CAMPAIGN.**

Contact us by email: support@canpalnet.ca
Phone: 604-534-8275 / 604-298-9638
Mail: 123 North Sea Avenue, Burnaby V5B 1K4
to add your name or that of your organization to the statement.

What are unions doing?

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) passed an emergency resolution at their recent national convention, calling for an unconditional end to the occupation. The Vancouver and District Labour Council, the B.C. Government and Service Employees Union (BCGEU), and



the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), B.C. region also call for the occupation to be ended.

Why not, when Israel shells the headquarters of the Palestinian trade union federation? Why not, when working people going the distance from Surrey to Vancouver have to pass numerous military "check-points". Humiliated always, delayed at the minimum, frequently denied passage to work, their children to school, the sick and pregnant to medical care ... for 35 years, and in the "best of times". Long before Israeli tanks and F-16's began bombarding the poverty stricken refugee camps where grandparents, their children and grandchildren, have lived dispossessed from homes and land since 1948.



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