

- home demolition;
- uprooting of tens of thousands of olive trees and the livelihood of many farmers;
- assassinations;
- prisoners (at least 5000, many of them children, many imprisoned without charge or trial);
- wholesale ruin of the economy and infrastructure.

What is Canada Doing?

As the US and its partners reshape the Middle East, three countries are now under occupation—Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan. Canada is involved in the operation in Afghanistan. The strategic economic and political interests of the US, Britain, Israel and others are guiding the direction of these occupations. The Road Map is geared to assist with the US project in Iraq by quieting down the Palestinian resistance so Western interests in the Middle East are protected.



www.electronicintifada.net/v2/article/1717_2.html

An 6 foot tall international stands next to the 25 foot Apartheid Wall. Arrows added to show perspective.

Canadian politicians were instrumental in the original UN decisions to partition Palestine and to create Israel. Since 1967, Canada's written policy towards Israel/Palestine has been guided by UN Security Council Resolution 242, calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Territories. Yet deeds don't match the words. When resolutions from human rights organizations come before the UN condemning Israeli actions in the Occupied Territories, Canada has a history of either abstaining or running interference for the US and Israel. It has remained shamefully silent on illegal settlements, the Apartheid Wall, human rights abuses against Palestinians, and other consistent violations of international law.

Canada is not even helping Canadian citizens who are arrested or deported for upholding Canadian policy by doing human rights work in the Occupied Territories.

While governments have remained silent, international peace activists, human rights observers, aid workers, and independent journalists have spoken out. In recent months, Israeli Forces have killed a US citizen working with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a UN aid worker, and a British journalist. Israeli authorities are now refusing entry to international visitors who they believe to be sympathetic to Palestinians.

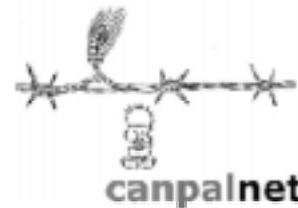
What can we do?

Hope remains, however, in the unprecedented opposition by so many who compelled governments around the world to distance themselves from the US invasion of Iraq. This global mobilization indicates a growing consciousness and rejection of the politics of occupation and dispossession.

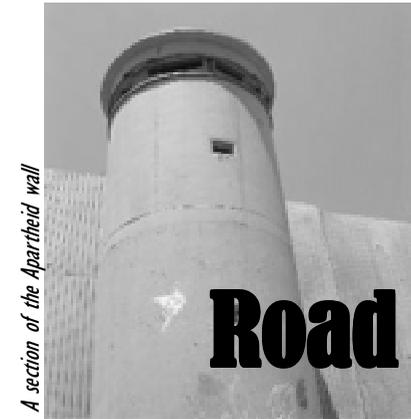
The Canada Palestine Support Network (CanPalNet) works to build a cross-country solidarity movement with the Palestinian people to join in this international movement, just as Canadians organized to end South African apartheid. A key goal is to create a cry for the Canadian government to demand the implementation of international laws and United Nations resolutions regarding Israel and Palestine, and that the US and Israel end their occupations and leave the Iraqis and Palestinians to govern themselves.

Specific actions to take

- Sign the End the Occupation statement at www.canpalnet.ca/stmt;
- Educate yourself and others about the Middle East;
- Provide personal or financial support to groups supporting Palestinian human rights;
- Participate in non-violent direct action in Palestine;
- Lobby elected representatives to speak out.



For more information and sources:
www.canpalnet.ca
support@canpalnet.ca



A section of the Apartheid wall

The Road Map hits

THE WALL

"This is Israel's means to effect ethnic cleansing and steal more Palestinian land and prevent the creation of a genuine and viable Palestinian state. This criminal wall will bisect the West Bank into closed ghettos and townships that are cut off from each other. There is absolutely no way a Palestinian state can be established with this wall in place."

Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, head of the Palestinian National Initiative

"Do you realize that you are guarding a ghetto—yes, a ghetto? Do you realize that you are holding tens of thousands of people prisoner, preventing farmers from cultivating their land, preventing merchants from having customers, driving a whole population down to poverty and misery? Can you look yourselves in the mirror?"

Itay Rotstein, Tel Aviv resident, Palestinian and Israeli demonstration against the Wall, July 31, 2003

Israel is building a “security fence” around the West Bank. “Fence” (think “Great Fence of China” or the “Berlin Fence”), is a misnomer to the point of absurdity. This 8 metre high apartheid wall is made from concrete 2 metres thick, and when completed, will stretch hundreds of kilometres. Surrounded in places by a trench and rolls of razor wire, it is interspersed with watchtowers.

Israeli authorities claim they are building the Wall for security purposes, but it snakes well inside the West Bank, sometimes by several kilometres and in many cases to encompass Israeli settlements. B’Tselem, an Israeli human rights organization, says this “... is in order to increase the likelihood of their annexation into Israel.”

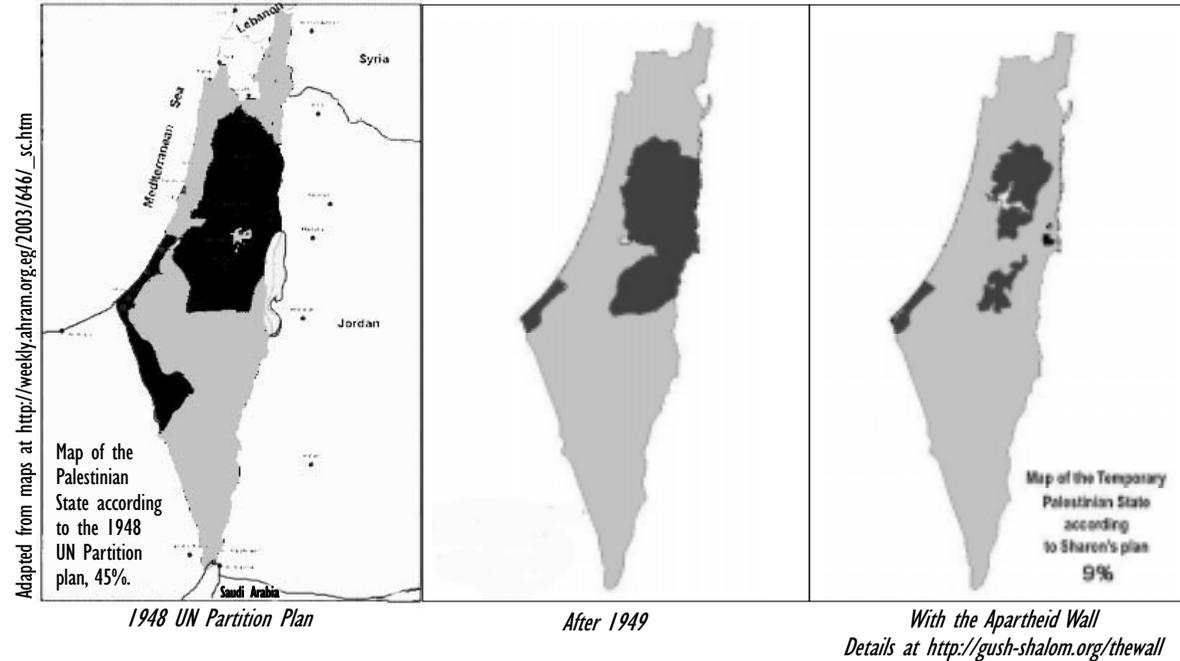
The wall separates Palestinian homes from farmlands, jobs, and markets. The town of Qalqilya, now fenced on three sides by this wall as it goes deep into the West Bank to envelop larger Israeli settlements, is effectively gobbled up.

It is estimated that the Wall will separate almost 300,000 Palestinians and their homes from their farm land. Some have already chosen to live on their land in tents, as they cannot go back and forth from their homes without Israeli permission (unlikely to be given).

This Apartheid Wall in all of its aspects represents the Occupation in its ugliest face. It is built for hatred and separating between peoples and cultures. It is a stealing of land and water, and a changing of the historical and demographic status of these areas. It is the uprooting of trees and the destruction of nature. It is in opposition to all that is human and civilized.

“The People Who Have Been Affected by the Apartheid Wall, Qalqilya district”, December 29, 2002

The Wall carries forward the illegal settlement policy of Israel in the Occupied Territories. As of February 2002, there were over 400,000 Israelis living in illegal settlements. This number keeps growing. In July 2003, Israel announced an increase of West Bank settlers of nearly 5,000 since the beginning of the year.



At his meeting with Bush, July 27 2003, Sharon publicly announced that Israel will not stop building the Wall. What kind of a peace process is this?

The Road Map to Disaster

“Occupation is not something to negotiate. It either is or it isn’t.”

Rima Tarazi, President of the General Union of Palestinian Women

“... anyone who believes that the roadmap actually offers anything resembling a settlement or that it tackles the basic issues is wrong.”

Edward Said

The US and other members of the “Quartet” (the UN, the European Union and Russia) promise to “resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, end the occupation” and build “an independent, democratic, and viable Palestinian state”, but this is contradicted by the actual text of the Road Map. Based on the idea that the fundamental problem is Palestinian violence rather than the Israeli military occupation, the Map omits essential issues.

The Road Map:

- Does not call for an independent, sovereign Palestinian state, only “the option” of a “state with provisional borders and attributes of sovereignty”.
- Does not require Israel to dismantle its illegal settlements, only the most recently built small “outposts”.
- Does not require a withdrawal from all territories occupied since 1967. Instead, Israel must only withdraw “progressively from areas occupied since September 28th, 2000”.
- Violates international laws, including the Geneva Conventions and UN Security Council Resolutions including 242, 338 and 1397.
- Sets out a decision making process which guarantees the US—and, by proxy, its strategic regional ally, Israel—effective veto power at every step.
- Does not mention the Apartheid Wall nor suggest any solution for key issues such as Jerusalem, the settlements, ending the occupation, or the right of return for refugees.

While Palestinian negotiators accepted the Road Map when it was first released, Israel issued 15 conditions in its acceptance. Israel refused to talk about the right of return, an issue considered sacrosanct by Palestinians.

An agreement that ignores human rights and international law, and that is negotiated at a lopsided bargaining table, can only be disastrous. In negotiations with the Israelis, the fourth strongest military power in the world, Palestinians, who have had no security for 55 years, cannot speak about security for themselves.

“But that is what is expected in negotiations between a jailer and prisoners,” says Mazin Qumsiyeh, Palestine Right to Return Coalition.

The Road Map is a land grab. Palestinians will be restricted to small ‘reserves’ or “bantustans” in the West Bank, entirely surrounded by annexed (stolen) territory. The Quartet may present that as a “viable” state, but it isn’t. It is a puppet state with Palestinian leaders signing away long fought for rights. It attempts to push Palestinians into a civil war.

Meanwhile, the Occupation continues and according to the annual report of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, “egregious violations of human rights are taking place, as well as unprecedented injury of innocent civilians... Most of the abuses occur not as a result of operational necessity on the part of the IDF, but from vindictiveness on the part of the soldiers, who receive implicit approval to denigrate the dignity, life and liberty of innocent Palestinian civilians.”

This includes:

- deaths and maiming, often of unarmed demonstrators and children;
- closures of towns, villages and cities preventing normal movement;
- harassment and humiliation at over 300 checkpoints and roadblocks within the West Bank and Gaza. People have died when refused access through to hospitals;
- curfews confining entire populations to their homes for weeks. Violators have been shot;
- annexation of Palestinian-owned land and water wells;