

ISRAELI APARTHEID

A PROJECT BY

FOSNA

FRIENDS OF SABEEL NORTH AMERICA



A CHRISTIAN VOICE FOR PALESTINE

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Denial of Life and Liberty

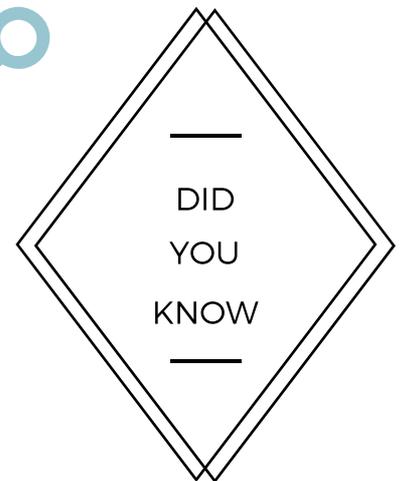
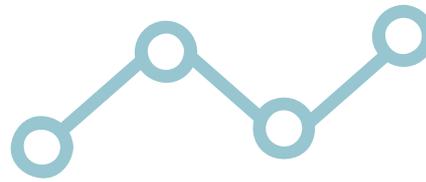


(a) denial to a member or members of a racial group or groups the right to life and liberty of person:

(i) by murder of members of a racial group or groups;

(ii) by the infliction upon the members of a racial group or groups of serious bodily or mental harm, by the infringement of their freedom or dignity, or by subjecting them to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(iii) by arbitrary arrest and illegal imprisonment of the members of a racial group or groups



Operation Protective Edge

In the summer of 2014, following the disappearance of 3 Israeli teenage settlers, Israel launched a devastating attack, known as Operation Protective Edge, on the densely-populated Gaza Strip. The vicious assault resulted in Israel's slaughter of the most civilians since its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967. A preliminary report published by the UN revealed that **7 in 10** Palestinians (**69%**) killed during the assault were civilians – an unprecedented massacre, with final reports claiming **551 child victims**. Following the onslaught, Amnesty International released a report which found Israel guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. This destruction is but a microcosm of a larger campaign which systematically denies Palestinians the right to life and liberty of person.

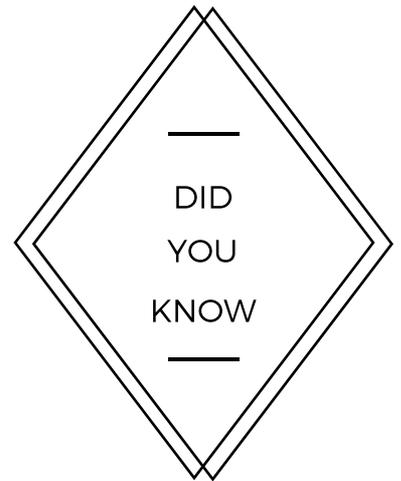
- Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP) reports that the majority of Palestinian child fatalities have been the result of "military incursions, demonstrations against Israeli settlements or the separation barrier, or as a result of settler attacks against Palestinian children."
- From September 2000 to October 2008, 79% of incidents characterized by a cycle of violence began with a Palestinian death inflicted by an Israeli.
- Numerous studies have shown that Palestinians hold Israeli authorities responsible for the majority of their direct exposure to trauma.



Impairment and Destruction of Living Conditions



(b) deliberate imposition on a racial group or groups of living conditions calculated to cause its or their physical destruction



Resource Allocation

Although the United Nations Security Council recently passed a resolution which affirmed the illegality of settlements, the Israeli government continues to approve their construction. In the West Bank, the effects of these settlements are tangible and felt by Palestinians on a daily basis, particularly in the case of resource allocation. Palestinian consumption of water in the Occupied Territories amounts to 70 liters a day per person (with 100 liters per capita daily recommended by the World Health Organization), while Israeli consumption is approximately 4 times the amount, at about 300 liters a day per person.

Even Area C, an area division in the West Bank defined by the Oslo Accords which Israel agreed to “gradually” transfer to the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, has seen a 94% denial rate of Palestinian construction permit requests as of 2009, as well as the subsequent demolition of Palestinian infrastructure. This has resulted in the “accelerated forcible displacement of people” with “over 60% of demolitions...carried out close to, or inside, areas allocated to settlement.” This campaign of demolitions has been described as being “inextricably linked with Israel’s long-standing policy of appropriating as much as possible of the land it occupies,” effectively displacing indigenous Palestinian peoples – a deliberate imposition of living conditions calculated to cause the physical destruction of Palestinians.

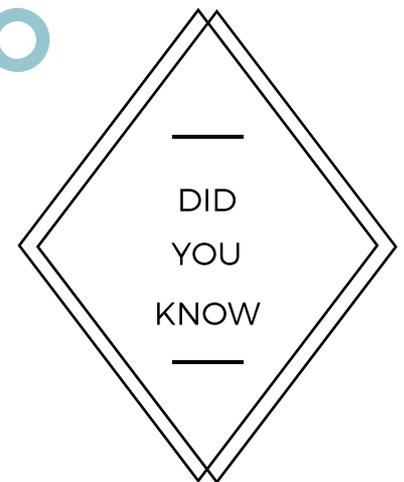
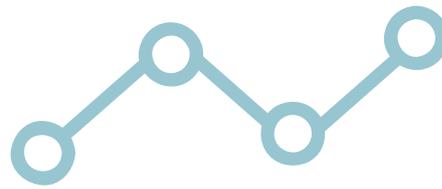


- Amnesty International has described Israel’s ongoing policy of home demolitions as “inextricably linked with Israel’s long-standing policy of appropriating as much as possible of the land it occupies.”
- The 1950 Absentees’ Property Law served as the main legal instrument for Israel’s expropriation of Palestinian land following the expulsion of Palestinian refugees by branding all who were absent from their usual place of residence after the adoption of the Partition Plan as “absentees.”
- According to a survey conducted by Pew Research Forum, nearly half of Israeli Jews believe that Arabs should be expelled, amounting to ethnic cleansing (the physical destruction of a community by various means).

Systematic Isolation



(c) any legislative measures and other measures calculated to prevent a racial group or groups from participation in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the country and the deliberate creation of conditions preventing the full development of such a group or groups, in particular by denying to members of a racial group or groups basic human rights and freedoms, including the right to work, the right to form recognized trade unions, the right to education, the right to leave and to return to their country, the right to a nationality, the right to freedom of movement and residence, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association



The Nakba and Right of Return

With the Nakba, which saw the destruction, repopulation, and/or massacre of 500+ Palestinian towns and villages, over 750,000 Palestinians became refugees. The Right of Return for these refugees is enshrined in UN Resolution 194, passed in 1949, although the Israeli government has yet to fulfill its demands to this day, going as far as establishing a “transfer committee” to prevent any future refugee return. With a nation-state having been established on their homeland, Palestinians either had no proof of citizenship prior to the Nakba or were forced to surrender their identity cards to the Israeli army after the war, later “denationalized” through the Israeli Nationality Law which declared Palestinian citizenship granted by Britain during the mandate “devoid of substance.”

Whether by cancelling the residency statuses of some 140,000 people after having traveled abroad from 1967-1994 or systematically destroying indigenous culture and collective memory by liquidating their books to “affirm” the “illegitimacy” of their right to return, Israel continues to strengthen a decades-long campaign of ethnic cleansing by denying Palestinians basic human rights and freedoms, including the right to leave and to return to their country.



- The Ban On Family Reunification Law, passed in 2003 as a “temporary order,” prevents Palestinians in the Occupied Territories from acquiring Israeli residencies if their spouses are Israeli citizens. The retroactive provisions of the law effectively nullified all instances of family reunification since 1997, rendering individuals stateless and at risk for deportation overnight.
- Because Israel restricts bandwidth in the Occupied Territories, phone networks are limited to 2G service, consequently preventing Palestinians from having access to world news, culture, politics, etc.
- The Governance Law of 2014 raised the qualifying threshold for political parties in the Knesset from 2% to 3.25%, effectively hindering participation of Palestinian political parties.

Fragmentation of Society

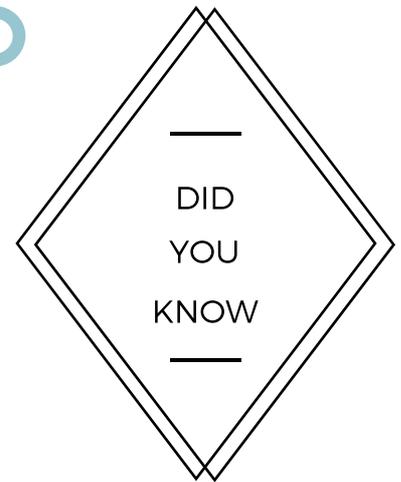
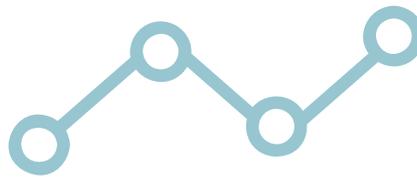


(d) any measures, including legislative measures, designed to divide the population along racial lines by the creation of separate reserves and ghettos for the members of a racial group or groups, the prohibition of mixed marriages among members of various racial groups, the expropriation of landed property belong to a racial group or groups or to members thereof

Praver Plan

Israeli policies designed to systematically appropriate Palestinian land, and thus displace Palestinians, are often shrouded in language meant to sustain a facade of equity and positivity. The Praver Plan, framed as a bill meant to “resolve claims” and provide for “economic development,” was introduced in 2011 as a means of demolishing unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Naqab, and subsequently expelling their 40,000+ inhabitants. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) released a report in 2012 recommending the withdrawal of the Praver Plan, stating that it would “legalize the ongoing policy of home demolitions and forced displacement of the indigenous Bedouin communities.”

Similarly, a 2008 Human Rights Watch report states that Israel’s current national master plan, TAMA 35, entirely ignores Bedouin villages which remain “unrecognized” by the Israeli government. In addition to this status which results in denial of Bedouin requests for building permits and access to basic government services, including water and electricity, TAMA 35 has been described as an effort to secure “state control over as much Bedouin land as possible while confining Bedouin in the smallest areas possible and breaking up [their]...contiguity.” The precarious situation of the Bedouin population in the Naqab is but an example of Israel’s legislative measures designed to divide the population along racial lines by the creation of separate reserves and ghettos.



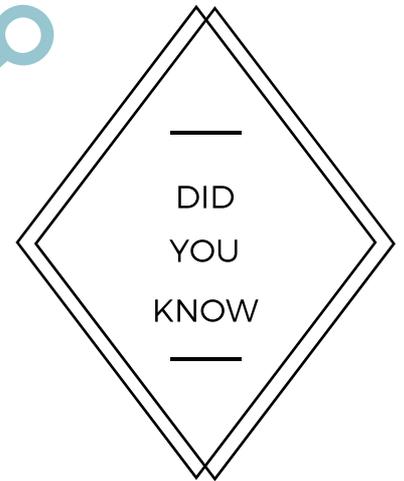
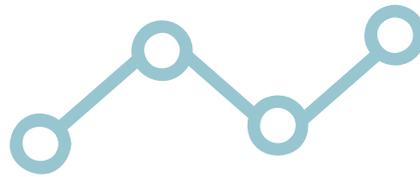
- The Jewish National Fund (JNF), which makes up 50% of the seats on the Israeli Land Authority (the government agency responsible for maintaining Israel’s land), prohibits land from being leased to “non-Jews,” hindering Israel’s culpability by acting as an independent entity.
- Of the 182 villages situated on nature sites following Israel’s demolition, depopulation, or expropriation of approximately 4,244,776 acres of Palestinian land in 1948, the JNF planted forests over 86 of them, stifling the memories of their very existence.
- Wadi Qana, a fertile valley renowned for its natural beauty, has been poisoned since 1982 by the settlement of Imanu’el, which directs its sewage to the valley’s entrance. More recently in February of 2016, the Israeli government uprooted 100+ olive trees, claiming that they had been planted illegally and without permits, to make way for settlers.



Exploitation of Labor



(e) exploitation of the labour of the members of a racial group or groups, in particular by submitting them to forced labour



Settlements and Exploitation

Since Israel's occupation of Arab lands in 1967, settlement construction has continued at an alarming pace in defiance of international law, as Israeli industries continue to expand within Palestinian borders. Israel “grapples” with deciding whether Palestinians employed by these companies in the West Bank should be held to the standards of Israeli labor laws. This “debate” arises from the fact that the territory on which these industrial workspaces are established is within Area C, although the employers themselves are Israelis. Palestinians continue to strive for equal working conditions as Israeli workers, who enjoy social benefits and collective work agreements from which Palestinians are excluded.

The dismal working conditions “afforded” to Palestinians in settlements even extend to children. A study conducted by Human Rights Watch on the abuse of Palestinian children in agricultural settlements reports that, although both Israeli and Palestinian Authority law stipulate a minimum working age of 15, many are employed at younger ages. Despite severe temperatures and exposure to harmful pesticides, all children interviewed lacked either medical insurance or social insurance benefits. As Israel continues to disregard international law, expropriating land and draining Palestinian businesses of money and resources, loopholes and so-called “technicalities” enable the exploitation of indigenous labor.



- According to a 2016 World Bank report, only 3.5% of Palestinian construction permits in Area C of the West Bank have been granted by the Israeli Civil Administration, citing “Israeli restrictions” as the “main binding constraint to [economic] growth” in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- The International Labour Organization has said that Palestinian employment in illegal settlements has produced a “middle tier” labor market, effectively cultivating an environment in which “it is impossible to speak of real freedom of choice” due to the economic realities of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
- The World Bank has attributed the lack of a sustainable future in the West Bank to “political uncertainty...and more importantly restrictions on movement and access” imposed by Israel.

Silencing Dissent

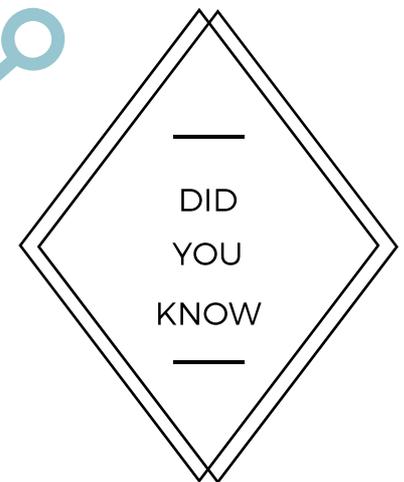
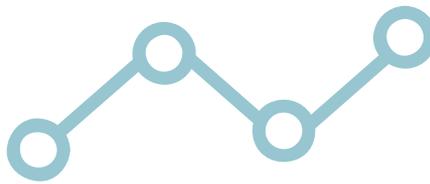


(f) persecution of organizations and persons, by depriving them of fundamental rights and freedoms, because they oppose apartheid

Canary Mission

In April 2015, a shadowy website known as Canary Mission (CM) emerged. Said to be run by “students and concerned citizens”, the organization's proprietors remain anonymous. They describe their work as a “database” which documents groups and individuals it accuses of “promoting hatred of the USA, Israel and the Jewish people” by operating as a blacklist, slandering Palestine solidarity activists as anti-Semites and terrorists. As of January 2017, CM has profiled 850+ students, activists, and faculty members, publicizing names, social media accounts, employers, and personal images. The organization has likewise taken to harassing its victims on Twitter, inciting an onslaught of threats and verbal abuse, and contacting prospective employers and graduate schools, with a number of applicants having been questioned about the validity of CM's claims. Tragically, CM also serves as a risk for future denial of entry of Palestinians into their homeland.

This is but a microcosm of the larger campaign, initiated by Zionists and Pro-Israel advocates, designed to intimidate and silence those who oppose Israeli apartheid. Although the organization's creators remain anonymous, individuals such as Daniel Pipes and David Horowitz, peddlers of hate speech according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, are known supporters of the organization and its tactics. Opponents of the McCarthyist initiative have published a letter of condemnation on againstcanarymission.org, with 1000+ university faculty members from around the world refusing to give the organization's claims any credence.



- Mohammed Abu Sakha, a Palestinian circus performer who teaches children with learning difficulties, has been held in administrative detention since December 2015, accused of “illegal activities” with the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine (“evidence” of which remains withheld). Abu Sakha is one of 700+ Palestinians held under administrative detention without charge or trial.
- The “Loyalty in Culture” bill grants the Israeli government the power to defund cultural activities (such as the commemoration of the Nakba) said to “contravene the principles of the state.”
- In response to the success of the BDS movement, the Israeli government has allocated some \$25 million to combating it, by gathering both covert and overt information on organizations in support of BDS and subsequently derailing their attempts by pursuing legal action.



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