

The World Says NO to Israeli Occupation!

Mai 1948: Beginning of Israeli expulsion and disfranchisement of Palestinians
June 1967: Occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem,
the Gaza Strip and Golan Heights

The first Israeli-Arab war and the proclamation of the state of Israel, in Mai 1948, marks the beginning of the „Nakba“, the Palestinian catastrophe: their mass expulsion, flight, dispossession and disfranchisement. Today there are more than 5 Million Palestinian refugees worldwide, one third of whom are still living in refugee camps.

June 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Syria's Golan Heights. Israel has ignored numerous UN resolutions calling for an end to this illegal occupation while pursuing methods, for the past 40 years, qualified as war crimes. Israel, the fourth-ranking military power in the world and the most powerful – also nuclear – military power in the Middle East, is threatening the Palestinian people in its existence, systematically robbing it of all survival possibilities.

June 9 -10, 2007, the people of Palestine and peoples around the world will join together to say NO! to Israeli occupation, disfranchisement, expropriation of territory and ethnic cleansing.

Also here in Berlin, we are calling for a:

Rally June 9, 2007 at 2 PM

On the Breitscheidplatz at the Gedächtniskirche (Memorial Church)

**Addressing the rally: a representative of the Palestinian Community in Berlin,
Felicia Langer, Israeli Human Rights lawyer, Author and
Laureate of the Alternative Nobel Prize,
and Rev. Dr. Dieter Frielinghaus, ret. Pastor**

In 40 years of occupation, Israel has constructed illegally settled over 450.000 Israelis on stolen Palestinian lands, squeezing Palestinians into truncated Bantustans on only half of the territory of the West Bank. For 40 years the Israeli occupation power has been terrorizing and humiliating the Palestinians, denying them their internationally guaranteed fundamental human rights to food, water, education, earning a living, and health care.

In the 40 years of occupation, Israel has:

- * Expelled tens of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland (In addition to the 750,000 expelled in 1948)
- * Killed thousands, wounding tens of thousands (the Israeli army has killed 934 Palestinian children since 2000!)
- * Arrested and incarcerated 650 000 Palestinians, including democratically elected parliamentarians and government ministers
- * Demolished 12,000 Palestinian homes
- * Destroyed more than one million olive trees.



- * Since July 2002, an Apartheid Wall is being erected on occupied Palestinian territory, annexing the large settlements and the Jordan Valley, and drawing new borders for Israel.
- * A system of checkpoints, enclosures, military fences, sieges and curfews deny Palestinians the freedom of movement within and between their own communities.
- * Even after the withdrawal of settlers and soldiers, the Gaza Strip is completely controlled by Israel and repeatedly isolated from the outside world, for weeks and months at a time, depriving the 1,6 Million inhabitants of a means of subsistence.
- * Palestinian resistance to Israeli state terror is being met, in violation of the Geneva Conventions, with collective punishment against the entire population. Large segments of Palestinian infrastructure on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip have been destroyed through numerous incursions of the Israeli occupation army's tanks, bulldozers and F-16 bombers.
- * Following the electoral victory of Hamas in 2006, Israel intensified its oppression by withholding Palestinian tax and customs funds – consisting of 700 Million dollars, by March 2007. Likewise the USA and the EU have halted their payments. The aim is obviously to starve the Palestinians, so that they will overthrow their democratically elected government. This boycott has continued in spite of the creation of a government of national unity.

Throughout its 59 years of existence, Israel has continued to violate dozens of international laws and scores of UN resolutions. International law provides no state special rights to aggression and occupation!

The much acclaimed so-called “international community” bares a major share of the responsibility for Israel's violations of international law and human rights. Following the US leadership, numerous governments around the world, including Germany, have actively collaborated, providing support for Israel's occupation and boycott policies.

We demand of the German government:

- An immediate end of its military, economic and political support of Israeli occupation!
- An immediate end to its boycott of the democratically elected Palestinian government!
- A foreign policy, that is actively seeking an end to the injustice committed by the Israeli government against the Palestinians, and the right of existence of a Palestinian state in the borders of June 4, 1967 with Jerusalem as its capital, the right of return and reparations in accordance with UN Resolution 194, for the suffering the Palestinian people have incurred.
- A lasting and just peace in the region can ultimately only be achieved in a common, democratic state, in which all live together with equal rights, regardless of religion or social status. The creation of two equal, sovereign states seems to be – at least for the moment - the only route in this direction.

Initial signers: Palestinian Community of Berlin, Groups of the Berlin Peace Coordination [FRIKO], AK-Nahost [Middle East Working Group], Jüdische Stimme für einen gerechten Frieden in Nahost [Jews for a Just Peace in the Middle East - Germany], DIDEF [Association for the Solidarity of Workers and Youth], German Section of the European Peace Forum, ISM-Germany [International Solidarity Movement].