

Israel's illegal settlements: A form of ethnic cleansing

Ever since the 1967 war, Israel has been building Israeli civilian settlements on lands which the United Nations recognise as Palestinian lands. This is a direct contravention of the Geneva Convention, i.e. of international law.

By the end of 2013, 547,000 Israelis were living in 225 illegal settlements in the West Bank. Thousands more Israeli settlers now live in Palestinian East Jerusalem, while 14,000 Palestinians have had their residence rights in East Jerusalem revoked.

Under Israel's prime minister Netanyahu, settlement building has accelerated. This means that more Palestinian homes are bulldozed and more Palestinian farmers have their land taken away to make way for Israeli settlements.



Palestinian home in East Jerusalem destroyed on Israeli government orders



Palestinian loss of land 1946 to 2000



Many Israeli settlers carry firearms. Settlers who attack, injure and even kill Palestinians enjoy virtual impunity.

Israel controls 90% of all water in the occupied Palestinian territories. Palestinian access to water is severely restricted and they have to buy it from Israel. More than half of all Palestinians in occupied territories do not consider their water to be safe to drink. Illegal settlements on the other hand enjoy plentiful access to water.



Armed settlers with Israeli soldiers



Remains of a demolished Palestinian home in the West Bank

What is the UK Government doing?

David Cameron has said that he does not support Israel's illegal settlements. Yet his government continues to licence massive arms sales to Israel and to class itself as a 'friend of Israel'.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

- 1) **Write to your MP.** Demand that immediate meaningful action be taken against the Israeli Government until it complies with international law. Or sign a prepared letter at our stall. See writetothem.com to find out how to contact your MP.
- 2) **Boycott Israeli goods:** Support the Palestinian civil society call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel, which is a peaceful means of trying to force the Israeli government to comply with international law.
- 3) **Get active:** Email edinburghaction4palestine@gmail.com to find out how you can get involved.

