

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

Bay Area Women in Black and allies stand in opposition to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. Here are some examples of the oppressive nature of the occupation:

- Israeli West Bank settlements populated by over 400,000 Jewish colonists and built on Palestinian land, in violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 465. Israel intends to expand the settlements in 2008.
- A 25-foot high separation wall reaching deep into Palestinian territory to incorporate the settlements into greater Israel, ruled a violation of international law by the International Court of Justice.
- A massive highway network, restricted to Jewish travelers, which connects the settlements to Israel proper. This network, along with the wall, separates Palestinian farmers from their land and fragments the West Bank into economically unsustainable areas.
- Israeli control of water resources meagerly distributed to Palestinians (e.g. in the city of Hebron, 400 Jewish settlers get 85% of the water and 15% goes to 120,000 Palestinians).
- Demolition of 12,000 Palestinian homes. Over 500,000 olive and fruit trees have been uprooted to make way for the separation wall.
- Imprisonment of 10,000 Palestinians, many indefinitely and without trial, in violation of the Geneva Convention.
- More than 100 check points restricting access to health care facilities and religious sites, causing long delays and serving to humiliate Palestinians and disrupt their lives.

These human rights abuses and violations of international law could not be sustained without U.S. financial and diplomatic support. Since 1982, the U.S. has given Israel \$75 billion in aid, much of which has been used to build the separation wall and the Jewish only settlements and highways. The U.S. has also promised Israel an additional \$30 billion over the next decade. In the United Nations, the U.S. has vetoed 32 Security Council resolutions which condemn Israel's violations of human rights. As U.S. taxpayers we have a responsibility to let our congressional representatives know that we want the U.S. to end its unconditional support of Israel's oppressive occupation of the Palestinian territories. We urge you to call or write them today.