

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

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Stands In Silence Against The Israeli Occupation

For now there is a cease-fire between Hamas in Gaza and Israel. This is critical to any prospect for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

There is NO cease-fire in the West Bank. Israel continues destroying Palestinian homes and seizing their land to expand illegal settlements. Israel is intensifying its removal of Palestinians from Jerusalem, and continues its expansion of the Wall to divide and steal land from the Palestinians.

A network of seventeen Palestinian NGO's launched a campaign last week to mobilize the international community to end the expulsion of Palestinians from Jerusalem by the Israeli occupation. According to a recently released report by the Civic Coalition for Jerusalem, seven Palestinian homes were bulldozed in May, part of a sustained campaign for demolition. This is only one example. The Israeli master plan for Jerusalem explicitly aims to limit the number of Palestinians, being achieved through rapid illegal settlement expansions, punitive restrictions on Palestinian communities, demolition of Palestinian homes, and withdrawal of ID cards.

Earlier this year, the Israeli Occupation destroyed homes in villages northwest of Jerusalem, driving out 30 people from the Jahalin Bedouin community, to make way for the expanding construction of the Wall. The Wall destroys communities, separating people from their land, workers from their jobs, children from their schools, and families from each other.



Regardless of the ceasefire in Gaza, Israel moves forward with its settlement policy. The effect is clear on two peoples. One group has rights and privileges, plentiful water and free and easy access on maintained roadways. The other group has few rights, inadequate water, controlled movement through military checkpoints with grotesque ID requirements, and no ability to stop the first group from confiscating its land and forcing people from their homes. Lasting peace requires equal rights for these people.