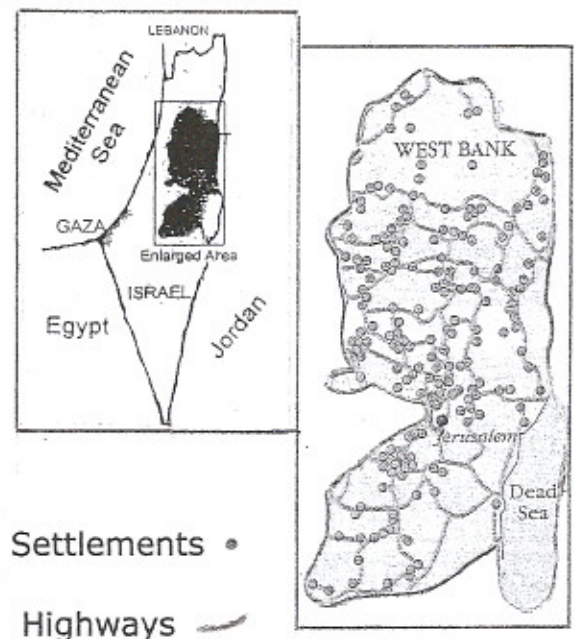


# BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

## PRESIDENT OBAMA AND ISRAEL/PALESTINE

In his June 4th speech in Cairo, President Obama called for an immediate freeze on expansion of Jewish-only settlements on Palestinian land under Israel occupation. These colonies, built and sustained by the Israeli government in violation of U.N. S.C. Resolution 465, now number 127 (see map) and house a population of 468,000 Jewish Israelis. Consequences of the settlement project have been disastrous for the indigenous Palestinian population. These include dispossession of farmland and water resources, demolition of houses and fragmentation of the entire West Bank by a super highway network which connects the settlements and is restricted to Jewish settlers (see map).



The Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* cited a March '09 report stating that the Israeli government was planning to build 73,000 new housing units in the West Bank, thereby doubling the number of Israeli settlers. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has stated that his government would not build new settlements but would allow "natural growth" in the existing ones. In response, the Obama administration emphasized its opposition to any expansion of the settlements as inconsistent with the road map for a two-state solution which was agreed to by Israel and which calls for a freeze on "all settlement activity (including natural growth)."

Netanyahu refused to reconsider his position, and the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) stepped up pressure on Congress to support a policy of U.S. non-involvement in Israeli affairs, including plans for the settlements.

President Obama's eloquently stated position on the settlements may gain a measure of congressional support for a new departure from United States' unconditional support of Israeli colonialism. To insure congressional support, President Obama **NEEDS OUR HELP NOW!** We urge you to encourage the California members of congress to support the president's vision for peace in Israel/Palestine.

[www.bayareawomeninblack.org](http://www.bayareawomeninblack.org)

6-6-09