

BAY AREA WOMEN IN BLACK

Bay Area Women in Black

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.

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LIST OF BOOKS ABOUT PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT

<i>Israel/Palestine: How to End the War of 1948</i>	By Tanya Reinhart
<i>The Road Map to Nowhere</i>	By Tanya Reinhart
<i>The Iron Wall Israel and the Arab World</i>	By Avi Shlaim
<i>Jewish Schizophrenia in the Land of Israel</i>	By Rabbi David. J. Forman
<i>The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine</i>	By Illan Pappé
<i>Palestine Peace Not Apartheid</i>	By President Jimmy Carter
<i>Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict</i>	By Phyllis Bennis
<i>The Other Side of Israel</i>	By Susan Nathan
<i>The Lemon Tree</i>	By Sandy Tolan
<i>The Israeli Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy</i>	By John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt

PARTIAL LIST OF WEBSITES

Haaretz Israeli Newspaper	http://www.haaretz.org
Christian Peacemakers	http://www.cpt.org
If Americans Knew	http://www.ifamericansknew.org
B'Tselem, Israeli Peace Group	http://www.btselem.org
Rabbis for Human Rights	http://www.rhr-na.org
Aljazeera English	http://www.english.aljazeera.net
Electronic Intifada (Palestinian site)	http://electronicintifada.net
Maan News (Palestinian)	http://www.maannews.net/en
Jewish Voice for Peace	http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org
Sabeel	http://www.sabeel.org
Brit Tzedek v'Shalom	http://www.btvshalom.org

Bay Area Women in Black are Jews and allies who stand against militaristic and fundamentalist leadership in all countries, including our own. We wear black as a sign of our mourning for all the lives that have been lost as a result of war, militarization and violence, and particularly those in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and Palestine. As part of the international movement of Women in Black, we seek to transform women's mourning for the dead into a powerful refusal of the inevitability of war.

Join us at the Grand Lake Theater every Saturday at noon to register your protest and your presence as we continue to urge the end of the US military and financial support for Israel's disastrous occupation.

The group with flags and signs supporting Israel is the San Francisco Voice for Israel, a local group who oppose Bay Area Women in Black 's criticism of the policies of the Israeli government and military. BAWIB is not anti-Israel. BAWIB believes Israel's occupation is wrong and deprives Palestinians of basic human rights. BAWIB calls for the end of the occupation and its violent effects on Israelis and Palestinians. The flyers distributed by Voice for Israel do not accurately reflect BAWIB.