

# Jewish National Fund UK complicit in ethnic cleansing

Kholoud al Ajarma is a Palestinian refugee who lives in Aida Camp, Bethlehem. Her home village, ethnically cleansed in 1948, is Ajjur, just 25 miles away. It now lies under British Park, funded by the JNF UK, a Charity.

Kholoud's family still have the title deeds to their land in Ajjur, now "owned" by the JNF UK. She will challenge its charitable status with a hearing in Manchester on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and a speaking tour.

The giant key at the entrance to Aida Camp symbolises the house keys Palestinians took with them when fleeing ethnic cleansing in 1948. Palestinians demand the Right of Return to the areas from which they were forced out, or compensation if they choose, as enshrined in UN Resolution 194.

The JNF continues to support ethnic cleansing, constructing housing reserved for Jewish settlers on lands from which Palestinians have been evicted.



**7pm Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> April**  
**Quaker Meeting House Liverpool**  
**22 School Lane L1 3BT**  
**Liverpool Friends of Palestine**  
**all welcome**

# Jewish National Fund - a Charity?

The JNF-KKL (Keren Kayemet LeIsrael) was created in 1901 to acquire land for the Zionist project – a Jewish State in Palestine. Lands were, and still are, obtained from their Palestinian inhabitants through exploitative land sales, forced removal or other apartheid policies. The JNF is raising funds in the UK for further expansion in the Negev and the West Bank, displacing Palestinians. JNF UK Executive Board member Gideon Falter also chairs the Campaign Against Antisemitism.

## Racial Discrimination

The JNF-KKL's constitution explicitly states that JNF-KKL land and property is not to be rented, leased, sold, or worked by non-Jews.

*"The JNF is not the trustee of the general public in Israel. Its loyalty is given to the Jewish people in the Diaspora and in the state of Israel... The JNF, in relation to being an owner of land, is not a public body that works for the benefit of all citizens of the state. The loyalty of the JNF is given to the Jewish people and only to them is the JNF obligated. The JNF, as the owner of the JNF land, does not have a duty to practice equality towards all citizens of the state."* – Response by the JNF to a petition filed with the Supreme Court of Israel (December 2004)

## History

By 1948, approximately two-thirds of the Palestinian population had been forcibly removed from their homeland. In addition to funding colonies, the JNF- KKL planted and built forests,



parks and recreational facilities on the ruins of hundreds destroyed and depopulated Palestinian villages. These projects helped to hide the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians and to prevent refugees from returning to their homes. By erasing the traces of homes and villages, the JNF-KKL green-washes the history of the colonial settlement of Palestine and covers up its on-going displacement of Palestinians from their land and property.

## Owning / Controlling Land

The JNF-KKL owns 13% of the land in Israel. It appoints nearly half of the board of the Israel Land Authority (ILA). The ILA then manages both the JNF-KKL's 13% and an additional 80% of all land. The JNF- KKL and the State of Israel therefore control 93% of total land in the State.

## Charity Commission

In a Tribunal in Manchester on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, Kholoud al Ajarma will contest the Charity Commission decision that the JNF UK is a legitimate charity.

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