

Palestine: Still standing firm



Over 5,000 marched in Liverpool during Israel's latest attack on Gaza. The bombing may have stopped for now, but Palestinians are still under attack.

For over 100 years the Palestinians have resisted plans made about them by the British, French, Americans, the EU and the United Nations.

Israel's present borders were set after their military campaign of 1948. But the ethnic cleansing of Palestine is unfinished business

The West Bank

The West Bank is the area of Eastern Palestine that the Israelis were unable to conquer in 1948. Since they invaded it in 1967 the Israelis have controlled the territory. They have built towns as 'settlements' (illegal in international law) and linked them with roads that Palestinians may not use. Checkpoints that restrict Palestinian movement are widespread and arbitrary.

All across the West Bank the process of ethnic cleansing continues today. Some of it is official: contractors and military destroy homes, schools, water wells, solar panels etc. Less officially, racist settlers and soldiers attack farmers and burn their olive trees to deprive them of their livelihoods.

East Jerusalem

East Jerusalem, including the Old City, is part of the West Bank, but Israel imposes different rules. 'Jerusalemites' can enter Israel, but their Jerusalem residence permits can be revoked by the Israeli authorities without warning. Israeli settlers systematically harass Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem to drive them out. At present residents of the Sheikh Jarrah area are in court

trying to keep their homes. Many other cases will follow if they are evicted.

Access to the Old City from East Jerusalem through the Damascus Gate is frequently restricted.

Palestinian Israelis

Around 20% of Israeli citizens are Palestinians. Do they have equality? Certainly not!

Palestinian communities do not have the chance to build more houses and 'admission committees' elsewhere prevent them from moving. Arabic is no longer an official language. Racial prejudice is rife at the highest level.

The Nation State basic law of 2018 cements long-standing discrimination and declares that Israel is no longer a state for all its citizens. The few 'Arab MPs' are constantly harassed.

Gaza

The 'Gaza strip' is the area of Western Palestine that the Israelis were unable to conquer in 1948. They invaded in 1967 but withdrew in 2005.

Since then Gaza remains under a tight siege and blockade. Two million Palestinians live in this open-air prison, with almost no drinking water and with electricity only a few hours a day.

Regular invasions have caused massive loss of life. Further bombings – never reported in our press – continue to destroy the basic social fabric.

What you can do

- Urge your MP to speak out in support of the Palestinians
- Ask your trade union or community organisation to join the campaign for boycott, disinvestment and sanctions
- Join the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Liverpool Friends of Palestine.
- Boycott Israeli goods and services. Look for the label on products.

Liverpool Friends of Palestine, c/o News from Nowhere, 96 Bold St, L1 4HY
facebook.com/liverpoolpalestine, twitter @Livfop, website fop.co.uk/



Israel – an apartheid state

In June 2020 the Israeli human rights organisation Yesh Din published an opinion that concluded that 'the crime against humanity of apartheid is being committed in the West Bank. The perpetrators are Israelis and the victims are Palestinians'.

In January 2021 the Israeli human rights organisation Btselem concluded that 'the Israeli regime's rationale and the measures used to implement it are reminiscent of the South African regime'.

In April 2021 the organisation Human Rights Watch concluded that 'the Israeli Government has pursued an intent to maintain the domination of Jewish-Israelis over Palestinians'.

Surely it is only a matter of time before the international community wakes up and demands an end to this system.