OMNI
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Compiled by Dick Bennett FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE.


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ISRAEL’S NUCLEAR ARSENAL: VANUNU JAILED AGAIN

Call on Israeli Government to Free Mordechai Vanunu and End Thirty-Year Persecution: Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate

The Peace People – TRANSCEND Media Service

No voices are raised in defence of his freedom and it is to all our shame that the international political/spiritual leadership continue to abide by the rule: ‘WHATEVER YOU SAY – SAY NOTHING’ when it comes to the Israeli government’s persecution of a man of conscience, a good man.”

Read more...

Occupation Conflict Today

Democratic Party Platform Fight on Israel and Palestine


At the Democratic Party platform drafting meeting in late June, I introduced Bernie Sanders’ amendment to the Israel/Palestine section calling for an end to the occupation and settlements….
Documentary Reveals How Israel Convinces Americans Palestine Occupies Israel

In this episode of ‘Behind the Headline,’ host Mnar Muhawesh meets Sut Jhally, an expert on media manipulation and propaganda. In the film ‘The Occupation of the American Mind,’ Jhally and others examine how high-paid spin doctors control the media message on Israel.

By Mnar Muhawesh @mnarmuh | July 22, 2016

MINNEAPOLIS — Following the Holocaust, the world community — led by the United States and Britain — sought to create a European Jewish-only state.

This humanitarian move, though, utterly failed in respecting the humanity of the land’s indigenous inhabitants — Christian and Muslim Palestinians.

Starting in December of 1947, their land and property was seized and destroyed to make way for the state of Israel, where white only European Jews would live. Over 750,000 Palestinians were expelled and over 10,000 were killed by the British and US armed Zionist militias, and later Israeli forces, during the Nakba, an Arabic word meaning “catastrophe.”

Those expelled by the Nakba and their Palestinian descendants who make up the world’s largest refugee population in the world are not allowed to return to their land.

Yet a recent poll found that nearly half of Americans believe Palestine occupies Israel — not the other way around. That’s because the mainstream, corporate-owned media continues to spin a propaganda wheel that dehumanizes Palestinians and paints Israel as a beacon of democracy.

Meanwhile, special interest groups like the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, buy their way into the hearts and minds of our elected officials. Ever wonder why Israel gets $3 billion in annual military funding from Uncle Sam? Connect the dots from the campaign contributions to the spending bills.

There’s a lot riding on our relationship with Israel: Apart from serving as a proxy for U.S. relations in the Middle East and Africa, Israel is America’s second-top destination for arms exports. Yep — the country’s that’s no bigger than the state of New Jersey is basically a black check for the military-industrial complex.
But not all Americans are on board with the notion of Israel as the victim of Palestinian oppression.

Another study showed that 62 percent of the population now believes Israel gets too much foreign aid, and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement has made waves across the world, imposing a kind of sanction against Israel’s economy by targeting Israeli products.

A new documentary, “The Occupation of the American Mind,” brings attention to how Israel’s public relations campaign has successfully manipulated the narrative of the Israel-Palestine conflict — in that, it’s not a conflict at all but a matter of modern-day colonialism, ethnic cleansing and apartheid.

Today I’m joined by Sut Jhally, executive producer of “The Occupation of the American Mind” and a professor of communication at the University of Massachusetts. The film was produced, written and directed by Loretta Alper and Jeremy Earp.

I asked Jhally to explain how Americans are being kept in the dark about Palestine, and how that prevents a mass movement against Israeli apartheid from forming in the U.S.


BOOK: Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict over Israel
Dov Waxman

http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10672.html

Trouble in the Tribe explores the increasingly contentious place of Israel in the American Jewish community. In a fundamental shift, growing numbers of American Jews have become less willing to unquestioningly support Israel and more willing to publicly criticize its government. More than ever before, American Jews are arguing about Israeli policies, and many, especially younger ones, are becoming uncomfortable with Israel's treatment of Palestinians. Dov Waxman argues that Israel is fast becoming a source of disunity for American Jewry, and that a new era of American Jewish conflict over Israel is replacing the old era of solidarity.

Drawing on a wealth of in-depth interviews with American Jewish leaders and activists, Waxman shows why Israel has become such a divisive issue among American Jews. He
delves into the American Jewish debate about Israel, examining the impact that the conflict over Israel is having on Jewish communities, national Jewish organizations, and on the pro-Israel lobby. Waxman sets this conflict in the context of broader cultural, political, institutional, and demographic changes happening in the American Jewish community. He offers a nuanced and balanced account of how this conflict over Israel has developed and what it means for the future of American Jewish politics.

Israel used to bring American Jews together. Now it is driving them apart. Trouble in the Tribe explains why.

Dov Waxman is professor of political science, international affairs, and Israel studies at Northeastern University. He is the author of The Pursuit of Peace and the Crisis of Israeli Identity and the coauthor of Israel's Palestinians: The Conflict Within. He lives in Boston.

Reviews:

"A meticulous, precise, well-organized survey that takes into account the many different views and will certainly facilitate the heated conversation."--Kirkus (Starred Review)

Endorsements:

"Dov Waxman could hardly have picked a more contentious topic for investigation than the troubled relationship between (and among) American Jews and Israel. But with Trouble in the Tribe, he brings to bear a rare combination of calm, reasoned analysis with scrupulous scholarly research. American Jewish arguments about Israel will certainly continue, but if Waxman's contribution to it gets the attention it deserves, they should be based far more on complex reality than simplistic fantasy. And we will all be better for it."--Eric Alterman, columnist for the Nation

"Good books, Orwell once wrote, set your scattered thoughts in order--in a way, tell you what you already know. Dov Waxman’s Trouble in the Tribe lays it out: the attitudes, the clashes, the numbers, the future. For a generation, American Jewish solidarity regarding Israel was indistinguishable from the élan of community life. Waxman shows how, and why, this can change, even how Israel has become polarizing for congregational life. A grim, real, necessary book."--Bernard Avishai, Dartmouth College and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"This is an extremely important book that will have profound consequences. When puzzled friends ask me why the American Jewish community is now so divided over Israel, this is the book I will recommend."--Kenneth D. Wald, coauthor of Religion and Politics in the United States

"Trouble in the Tribe is an outstanding book. Waxman's judgments are fair, judicious, and balanced."--Theodore Sasson, author of The New American Zionism

Sanders speech on Israel. Rare sanity on one of the biggest issues of peace in our world, and compare to Hillary's hard right AIPAC speech, which in some respects is farther right than Trump even:
9th Christian Denomination to Take Economic Action for Justice in Palestine

Dear Dick,

Huge news! Moments ago, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) voted overwhelmingly (by an estimated 90%) to create an investment screen that would identify and remove the Church's investments in corporations profiting from Israel's violations of Palestinian rights, and other human rights abuses around the world. The new screen has a broad reach, ensuring that the Church would avoid investments in corporations currently complicit in human rights violations as part of the Israeli occupation, as well as any future corporations that become complicit.

Just yesterday, the ELCA voted by a margin of 82% -- 751 to 162 -- calling for an end to unconditional U.S. aid to Israel.

ELCA marks the ninth denomination to engage in economic acts of conscience to support justice for Palestinians, following the Quakers, Mennonite Central Committee, United Methodists, Presbyterians, United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalists, and others.

Dick, take these actions:

1. Share this exciting news on Facebook and Twitter.

2. "Like" Isaiah 58 on Facebook.

3. Register for our 2016 National Conference October 14-17 in Arlington, VA!

Support Palestinian farming families.
Shop our fair-trade store:

Follow Us:

Facebook
Catholic Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and the Alliance of Baptists -- many of those in 2016 alone!

Congratulations to our friends and member groups at the ELCA, and particularly members of Isaiah 58, who led this extraordinary campaign.

ELCA voting member Darla Thiele, Dakota name Shining Star Woman, had this to say before the vote:

“As a Native woman, the situation in Palestine reminds me of what my people have gone through here in America. I have seen my people lose our land, our lives, our culture -- our songs, dances, spiritual ways. Like the Palestinians, we have no justice. Treaties have been broken… We talk about loving our neighbor. We talk about justice. But where is the justice?... Now is the time for the church to stop profiting from these injustices. Now is the time to bring healing, to bring peace, to bring justice.”

The US Campaign was proud to work alongside Isaiah 58 and allies from member groups Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA), American Friends Service Committee, Friends of Sabeel - North America, New Orleans Palestinian Solidarity Committee, and Jewish Voice for Peace on the ground in support of this crucial effort.

As you know, we can only support this faith-based advocacy with support from people like you. Please be a part of these extraordinary breakthroughs with a donation to the US Campaign today.

Onward,

Anna Baltzer
Director of Organizing & Advocacy

P.S. Don't miss the US Campaign's 15th National Conference Oct 14-17, where faith leaders and other organizers from around country will gather to network and share what we've learned and
where we're heading. **We hope to see you there!**

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**Hands Off BLM: WRL supports Black & Palestinian solidarity**

War Resisters League `<wrl@warresisters.org>`

12:00 PM (40 minutes ago) 8-10-16

Trouble seeing this email? [Read in your browser](#).

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**WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE**

Resisting War at Home & War Abroad since 1923

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As an organization dedicated to peace, justice and nonviolent liberation, the War Resisters League stands firmly in solidarity with the Movement For Black Lives'
newly released Vision for Black Lives Platform. The Vision for Black Lives is an important, comprehensive analysis and policy platform rooted in dozens of organizations’ work across the country...

The platform includes a call for the U.S. government to divest U.S. aid to the state of Israel and instead, invest this money towards building infrastructure to support Black and Brown communities in the U.S. As a result, many organized Jewish groups have announced that they will cut all ties with the Movement for Black Lives, and even have gone so far as to label the BLM movement anti-semitic...

We at WRL have been organizing for years to end the weapons fairs and tactics exchange summits in the U.S. where local and global police and military forces convene to increase their levels of militarization and repression. Like the Movement for Black Lives, WRL seeks to divest from policing and incarceration and invest in long-term safety strategies. Our campaign to end police militarism seeks to end these hypermilitarization summits, to end collaboration with repressive forces including Israel, and instead reinvest all those resources into programs that will actually generate community health and safety.

In this work, we are deeply aligned with every area of the Movement For Black Lives' platform. From community control, economic justice and redirection of funds, to divesting from militarism at home and abroad, we will continue to do this work alongside the organizations in the Movement for Black Lives. We applaud the Movement for Black Lives for publicly naming the importance of BDS and the central importance of ending U.S. aid to Israel. We also appreciate the many Jewish activists and groups who are publicly supporting the platform, and encourage other organizations to get off the sidelines and match the courage being shown by people under fire.

We endorse the M4BL platform and recommit to the urgent work of dismantling the systems that dehumanize Black and Palestinian lives, and allow for the state to kill Black and Palestinian men, women, and children with complete impunity.

For full statement, read here.

Connect with Us

DONATE NOW »

United States

wrl@warresisters.org
212-228-0450

Unsubscribe
Report.

With elections approaching, the Washington Report is pleased to again present its scorecard for the current members of Congress. [See how your member of Congress rates.]

Americans for Peace Now (APN): “Do This Not That”

http://peacenow.org/page.php?name=do-this-not-that-2016#.V3vbDPkrK1s

BERNIE SANDERS ON ISRAEL

A Changing Discourse: Why Bernie Sanders' Critique of Israel Matters
By Michael Corcoran. Tuesday, 26 April 2016. Truthout | News Analysis.

Bernie Sanders' calculated decision to criticize Israeli abuses was timid yet unprecedented, reflecting evolving views in the US. (Image: Jared Rodriguez / Truthout)

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Bernie Sanders' criticism of Israel at the Democratic debate in Brooklyn, New York, on April 15 was not especially harsh. The presidential candidate said "we are going to have to treat the Palestinian people with respect and dignity" and that Israel used "a disproportionate attack" during the 50-day war in Gaza in 2014. These comments, as Ali Abunimah said on the Real News Network, are "really the minimum we should hear from any honest person." Still, the fact that Sanders willingly said these things -- in a presidential debate in the state with the highest Jewish population in the country -- is both unprecedented and historic. "In the context of US politics, this exchange was extraordinary," Abunimah said. MORE


Absent from AIPAC, Sanders slams Israeli occupation, disproportionate’ use of force

Democratic underdog offers scathing criticism of settlements, Netanyahu government, insists one can be 'pro-Israel' while supporting Iran deal. Peace 'will require that organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah renounce their efforts to undermine the security of Israel'
WASHINGTON — While declaring his commitment to Israel’s security, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) accused Israel of using disproportionate force in its military operations and pilloried the settlement policies of the Netanyahu government, in a speech released Monday while the candidate campaigned in Salt Lake City, Utah.

After raising eyebrows by choosing to campaign in the mountain West rather than attend AIPAC’s annual Policy Conference in Washington — the four other candidates for president all visited the pro-Israel confab — Sanders’s undelivered address, which he had previously offered to deliver before AIPAC via video link, discussed the topics he would likely have raised there.

“I have a deep personal connection to Israel,” Sanders said in the text, quipping that he was “fairly certain I am the only US presidential candidate to have ever lived on a kibbutz.”

Sanders is America’s first Jewish candidate for the presidency from a major political party. Although he lost to frontrunner Hillary Clinton in five of the six most recent primary contests, Sanders resoundingly defeated the former secretary of state in the primary held among Democrats abroad. The results of that poll were revealed on Monday, hours before his campaign posted the foreign policy speech on its official website.

Sanders emphasized that Israel “is one of America’s closest allies” and that Americans “as a nation – are committed not just to guaranteeing Israel’s survival, but also to its people’s right to live in peace and security.”

Echoing arguments made by the current administration, Sanders said that the very closeness of the friendship between the two states obligated the parties “to speak the truth as we see it.”

“Our disagreements will come and go, and we must weather them constructively,” he asserted.

The progressive sweetheart’s speech paired criticism of Israel with criticism of Palestinian actions, but while he mentioned terrorism in the framework of ISIS and Hezbollah, Sanders’s address referred to the ongoing wave of violence against Israeli civilian and military targets alike only as
attacks.”

Sanders pledged to “work tirelessly to advance the cause of peace as a partner and as a friend to Israel” but argued that “to be successful, we have to be a friend not only to Israel, but to the Palestinian people.”

“There is too much suffering in Gaza to be ignored,” Sanders declared, but stopped short of ascribing blame for the cause of the suffering.

Sanders, like his Democratic opponent former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, expressed his support for the two-state solution, describing it as “the only prospect for peace.”

The Vermont senator outlined his plan to reach such a solution.

“The first step in the road ahead is to set the stage for resuming the peace process through direct negotiations,” he began. “It means building confidence on both sides, offering some signs of good faith, and then proceeding to talks when conditions permit them to be constructive.”

In order to do so, he said, there must be “unconditional recognition by all of Israel’s right to exist” and “an end to attacks of all kinds against Israel.”

Peace, he said, “will require that organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah renounce their efforts to undermine the security of Israel” – an unlikely precondition for Hamas, which has steadfastedly refused to remove calls for Israel’s destruction from its official charter.

Sanders said that in order to achieve peace, Israel would have to “end what amounts to the occupation of Palestinian territory, establishing mutually agreed upon borders and pulling back settlements in the West Bank, just as Israel did in Gaza.”

“Peace also means security for every Palestinian. It means achieving self-determination, civil rights, and economic wellbeing for the Palestinian people,” Sanders said.

He spoke out against what he described as “Israel’s recent expropriation of an additional 579 acres of land in the West Bank,” which he said “undermines the peace process and, ultimately, Israeli security as well.”

The senator accused Israel of “disproportionate responses to being attacked,” while adding that “any attack on Israel is unacceptable.”

“Peace will also mean ending the economic blockade of Gaza. It will mean a sustainable and equitable distribution of precious water resources so that Israel and Palestine can both thrive as neighbors,” he added.
“Inadequate water supply has contributed to the degradation and desertification of Palestinian land,” he argued. “A lasting peace will have to recognize Palestinians are entitled to control their own lives, and there is nothing human life needs more than water.”

He lashed out against the current Israeli government, saying that it was “absurd for elements within the Netanyahu government to suggest that building more settlements in the West Bank is the appropriate response to the most recent violence,” and that it was “also not acceptable that the Netanyahu government decided to withhold hundreds of millions of shekels in tax revenue from the Palestinians, which it is supposed to collect on their behalf.”

His critique of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas was more limited, saying that it was “unacceptable” for Abbas “to call for the abrogation of the Oslo Agreement when the goal should be ending the violence.”

Sanders was more critical of the Hamas government in Gaza, saying that he “strongly object[s]” to Hamas’s “long held position that Israel does not have the right to exist.”

After critiquing Hamas’s behavior, Sanders once again balanced his critique with a reminder that he, “along with many supporters of Israel – spoke out strongly against the Israeli counter attacks that killed nearly 1,500 civilians, and wounded far more,” including “the bombing of hospitals, schools and refugee camps.”

Sanders called on the international community to “come together to help Gaza recover.”

He also discussed regional challenges throughout the Middle East.

Sanders, who has prided himself on opposing the Bush administration’s 2003 invasion of Iraq, said that the US should continue to fight Islamic State. “There is no doubt in my mind that the United States must continue to participate in an international coalition to destroy this barbaric organization,” he argued.

“The US must also play a greater role disrupting the financing of ISIS and efforts on the Internet to turn disaffected youth into the next generation of terrorists,” he continued.

At the same time, he noted that “while the US has an important role to play in defeating ISIS, it must be led by the countries in the region, some of whom have for too long not only turned a blind eye to violent extremism, but have encouraged and funded it.”

“The major powers in the region – especially the Gulf States – have to take greater responsibility for the future of the Middle East,” he continued. “Wealthy and powerful nations in the region can no longer expect the United States to do their work for them. We are not the policeman of the world.”
Stronger US military involvement in Syria, he warned, “would simply prolong the war, and increase the chaos in Syria, not end it.” Instead, Sanders insisted, “the only solution in Syria is a negotiated political settlement.”

Sanders emphasized his opposition to the Iraq War as reflecting his opposition to unbridled military interventionism. “It is my firm belief that the test of a great nation, with the most powerful military on earth, is not how many wars we can engage in, but how we can use our strength to resolve international conflicts in a peaceful way,” he said. “Yes, the military option should always be on the table, but it should be the last resort.”

[IRAN] The Democratic candidate, who enjoys strong support from a younger demographic in his party, reiterated his support for the Iranian nuclear deal signed last July, which was implemented in January.

“The bottom line is this: if successfully implemented – and I think it can be – the nuclear deal will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon,” he stressed. While acknowledging that the agreement does not achieve everything he would like it to, he insisted that “it is far better than the path we were on with Iran developing nuclear weapons and the potential for military intervention by the US and Israel growing greater by the day.”

“I do not accept the idea that the ‘pro-Israel’ position was to oppose the deal,” Sanders argued.

“If Iran does not live up to the agreement, we should re-impose sanctions and all options are back on the table,” he continued, while calling on the world to “stand united in condemning Iran’s recent ballistic missile tests as well as its continued support for terrorism through groups like Hezbollah.”

CODE PINK
RE/MAX stop selling properties in Israeli settlements built on occupied Palestinian land
RE/MAX to stop selling properties in Israeli settlements built on occupied Palestinian land

CODE PINK
When We Fight, We Win – and Then We Keep on Fighting!

CODEPINK June 29, 2016
via uark.onmicrosoft.com
We are thrilled to report that last week the Presbyterian General Assembly passed a resolution (without opposition!) calling on RE/MAX to stop selling properties in Israeli settlements built on occupied Palestinian land – sales that violate international law and official US policy. In addition to this huge boost for our campaign, RE/MAX CEO Dave Liniger released a statement acknowledging that RE/MAX’s operations in the occupied territories are both legally and morally questionable. Liniger’s statement that RE/MAX will “no longer receive any income from the sale of Jewish-settlement properties in the West Bank” is a sign that our campaign is having an impact. The statement gives us fuel for the fight ahead to pressure RE/MAX to take meaningful action against brokers and realtors in their network who are dealing in settlement properties.

Read CODEPINK’s press release!

This past year CODEPINK held protests outside numerous RE/MAX offices across the US. We disrupted the RE/MAX R4 conference in Las Vegas and attended RE/MAX’s annual shareholder meeting in Denver, protesting both outside and inside the meeting. We have not for a moment given up our demand that RE/MAX end their complicity in Israel’s illegal settlement enterprise.

Now that we have gotten RE/MAX LLC to take this important step, it is important that we keep up the pressure until they fully extricate themselves from Israel’s illegal settlement enterprise. RE/MAX must immediately establish and disseminate clear policies and guidelines for all RE/MAX brokers and agents around the globe that prohibit selling, renting, or publicizing properties that are built on illegally seized land in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem. RE/MAX must also establish that members of the RE/MAX network should not refer clients to brokers and agents who are involved in such illegal properties.

From sending letters to protesting at local RE/MAX offices, conventions, and shareholder meetings, to speaking out on social media (and more!), it has been all of
our hard work that has brought RE/MAX to take this tremendous first step. **With continued hard work, we can now get RE/MAX to fully end its complicity in Israel's violations of international law and Palestinian human rights.**

Towards peace, justice, and full equality for all people.

**Alli, Ariel, Nancy K., and the entire CODEPINK team**

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**CODEPINK: PROTECT PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

To: Secretary of State John Kerry

[http://www.codepink.org/protect_pal_human_rights_defenders](http://www.codepink.org/protect_pal_human_rights_defenders)

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We call on the US State Department to make a public statement upholding the rights of peaceful Palestinian and Israeli human rights defenders in accordance with the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights Defenders.

Recent threats against Palestinian and Israeli human rights defenders have included such things as:

- Israeli Transportation and Intelligence Minister Yisrael Katz’s calling for "targeted civil eliminations" of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) leaders, specifically mentioning by name Boycott National Committee member Omar Barghouti.
- Death threats against the Palestinian activist Emad abu-Shamsiyah, who filmed the March 2016 extrajudicial killing of a wounded Palestinian suspect Abed al-Fattah Yusri al-Sharif.
- Ongoing attempts to shut down Breaking the Silence, an organization for Israeli veterans that publishes testimonies of Israeli soldiers who have witnessed war crimes.
- Ongoing death threats, unwarranted arrests, and attempts to shut down the work of Hebron-based Palestinian nonviolent activist Issa Amro.
- These are not empty threats: there was an arson attack on the home of a key Palestinian witness in last year's Duma arson attack case, which killed a Palestinian mother and father and their 18-month old son.

The safety of witnesses, whistleblowers, and nonviolent activists must be protected, as well as the right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest. Because Israel is the top recipient
of US military assistance—$3.1 billion dollars annually approved by the State Department—it is incumbent upon the State Department to closely monitor and respond to the human rights situation in Israel/Palestine.

To this aim we call on the US State Department to make clear to its counterparts in Israel, in a written public statement, that the Obama Administration expects the Israeli government to preserve the safety and uphold the rights of Palestinian and Israeli human rights defenders. Incitement to violence against human rights defenders must not be countenanced, whether coming from Israeli government officials or lawless right-wing settlers.

APN Weekly Update - Product labeling, illegal settlements acquired illegally, and Ban Ki-Moon

Americans for Peace Now: February 2, 2016

"Nothing excuses terrorism. I condemn it categorically. It is inconceivable, though, that security measures alone will stop the violence...No one can deny that the everyday reality of occupation"

US Customs issues reminder: West Bank products cannot be marked "Made in Israel"

Although barely enforced, the regulation to label goods from the West Bank and Gaza - both Palestinian and Israeli Settlements - was established in 1995.

RELATED ARTICLES:

Ha'aretz: "U.S. Customs Issues 'Reminder,' Says West Bank Products Cannot Be Marked as 'Made in Israel'"

Forward: "U.S. Labeling"
provokes anger and despair, which are major drivers of violence and extremism and undermine any hope of a negotiated two-state solution."

**UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon**, in his NY Times oped "Don't Shoot the Messenger, Israel.

Almost all West Bank land deals for illegal settlements were forged

The land for the Amona outpost in the West Bank was acquired through forgery, a claim that Peace Now had previously brought to the Israeli High Court (photo: Olivier Fitoussi)

Israeli Channel 10 aired an investigative report on the West Bank forgery industry that Peace Now has been disclosing and fighting against.

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**Yossi Alpher is an independent Israeli security analyst. Views and positions expressed here are those of the writer, and do not necessarily represent APN's views and policy positions.**

LobeLog: "Obama Admin is Right to Reject "Settlements=Israel" Conflation"

By APN's Lara Friedman

Attention is finally focusing on a bill pending in Congress that would make it U.S. policy to defend and support Israeli settlements...

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**February 3, 2016 - Regional initiatives, regional**

**RELATED ITEMS:**

"The Campaign to Legislate Support for Settlements: Taking the Battle to the States"
Q. Last week you discussed the difficulties in Israeli-Turkish talks. We then witnessed a flurry of high level discussions and agreements between Israel, Greece and Cyprus, with Egypt also mentioned as an economic and military partner. These talks were seemingly directed at isolating Turkey regionally. Can you put this in perspective?

A. Following surprise summit meetings in Jerusalem and Nicosia, the leaders of Israel, Greece and

Huffington Post: "Tom Cotton's New Law Would Allow A Product Made In Gaza To Be Labeled 'Made in Israel'" Lara Friedman: "The groundwork has been laid for this; it was just a matter of time"

YNET: "Israel's McCarthy's" by Nahum Barnea...the fervent quest to implicate others as traitors can quickly go too far. Israel's witch hunters need to stop now, before it's too late.

PICTURE: Amos Oz, Renowned Israeli writer and a Peace Now Founder, was among the Israeli artists labeled as traitors in a flyer by the organization Im Tirtzu.

Ha'aretz: "Rabbi Melchior Receives Prestigious International Peace Prize" Friend of Peace Now and former Israeli politician and longtime activist is honored by The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East.

Washington, DC Area Reminder: Tonight, Wednesday, February 3 - APN Board Member Michael Walzer at Kol Shalom in Rockville, MD Go for more information and
Cyprus last week announced agreements. ..

Q. At a very different level of regional activity, more revelations by Moscow-based Edward Snowden now indicate far-reaching electronic monitoring by the US and UK, mainly from a sovereign British base in Cyprus, of Israel Air Force operational flights, particularly in the Gaza arena. Is Israel alarmed at its friends' spying?

A. Israel is long accustomed to its friends' spying...

Q. Apropos Syria, this...
weekend witnessed the convening of yet another high-level meeting in Geneva to try to end the slaughter there. Any chance of success?

A. Very little...

Q. Indeed, in recent weeks we have confronted more and more instances of regime-led siege warfare against Syrian civilian villages, leading to starvation. The photos of starving Syrians are reminiscent of Bergen Belsen. How do Israelis react?

A. Israelis see the photos and
make the Holocaust connection...

Q. Finally, back to the Palestinian issue: French FM Fabius is calling for an international peace conference. He is threatening that if it fails, France will recognize a Palestinian state. Netanyahu is unmoved. Your reaction?

A. I doubt this French initiative will have much effect...

_Na’aseh V’nishma: “We will do, and we will hear.” by Rabbinic Student Lex Rofes_
to both doing and understanding will we reach an enduring solution for Israelis and Palestinians.

“Despair Is Not an Option”: Muste grantees speak out on Palestine/Israel

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute <info@ajmuste.org>

11:21 AM (40 minutes ago) 2-5-16

*** spread the word--share this message with others ***

ajmuste.org - supporting nonviolent action since 1974

How can we end occupation and violence in Palestine/Israel? We asked our grantees, and they responded.

*How do you hold on to hope? What motivates you to keep resisting?*

We do not always hold on to hope. But, even if sometimes without hope, we can and will express that we don’t agree. As Palestinians cannot stop being occupied, we owe them at least this solidarity.

-Gush Shalom team

We hold onto hope when Palestinians approach us and let us know that our presence in the military courts, or in the checkpoints, makes a difference. We also feel hope when we take Israelis of all ages to see the checkpoints and to meet Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, and they tell us afterwards how we have challenged their views and
perspectives. We say that we will not finish our work until the Occupation is over, and the military administration is dismantled.

-Ela Greenberg, MachsomWatch

My hope springs from the many people I meet who desire the same changes I do, people from both sides of the conflict. Despair is both the easiest and most impossible choice for us. I can speak for the people who work with me when I say that we feel personal responsibility to find a way forward. I wake up every morning with an understanding that there is no other choice than a shared society between Israeli Jews and Arabs.

-Jamal Alkirmawi, A New Dawn in the Negev

When we think of those who are living the struggle every moment--the family whose home Rachel stood before in Gaza, our many friends there and throughout a very turbulent Middle East, our Palestinian friends in the U.S. and throughout the world steadfastly challenging displacement, and our colleagues inside Israel who work endlessly for change despite great threat and many obstacles--we know we must resist with them. It is energizing, because it is right.

-Cindy and Craig Corrie, Rachel Corrie Foundation

Despair is not an option. We believe that we have no alternative but to continue the struggle for a just resolution of the conflict. And as neighbors whose fates are intertwined--someone once called us Siamese twins--we are committed to continuing to work together, for the sake of future generations of both peoples.

-Ziad AbuZayyad and Hillel Schenker, Palestine-Israel Journal

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THE OLIVE GROVE by Gerald Sloan January 2016
(for Zohreh)

If you're on the wrong side of the Great Divide you are quickly pronounced a 'militant', where boys over twelve can be classified as enemy combatants, though the killing machine does not concern itself with age or gender. A woman guarding the entrance to a thousand-year-old olive grove sends roots down deeper than these trees fertilized by the blood of her relatives. You could say she has nothing, or nothing to lose.

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[Some of the following items are dated but their relevance is not. –D]

http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/2016/06/israeli-palestinian-newsletter-12.html

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Israel's cost to U.S. taxpayers:


Origins of Conflict
**PBS Frontline, “Netanyahu at War” (1-5-16)**

“Netanyahu at War” Google Search (1-6-16)
Lisa Goldman, “A Deeply Flawed Documentary”
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Beinart, *Crisis of Zionism*
Why Do They Stab US?
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**Resistance to Occupation**
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END ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN NEWSLETTER #13
Dick Bennett


Blog: http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

For research purposes, specific subjects can be located in the following alphabetized index, and searched on the blog using the search box. The search box is located in the upper left corner of the webpage.


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