

# *Palestine for Beginners:* A Classroom Screening Guide

## I. Introduction

*Palestine for Beginners* is designed for use in community living rooms and high school and college classrooms. The film's themes include: Middle East politics; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; American foreign policy; current affairs; Zionism; civil rights, human rights law and the laws of war and occupation; ethnic cleansing; apartheid; terrorism; grassroots peace and nonviolence activism; and peace and conflict.

## II. Pre-Viewing Suggestions

### **A. Media Watch**

If you have time, ask students to collect news articles from newspapers and the internet, and have them note TV bulletins and radio announcements involving Israel or Palestinians for a week before watching the film.

### **B. Know/Want to Know/Learned**

This film is designed to introduce beginners to the issue, as well as fine tune the knowledge of those with some familiarity.

**Know:** Begin by asking viewers to state or write some things they already know about Israel and Palestine. Accessing prior knowledge helps arouse interest in the issue. Doing this will also alert the discussion leader to people who might have strong emotions surrounding the issue. These people may need extra support during and after viewing the film.

**Want to Know:** Then ask viewers some questions they have about the conflict. Discussion leaders can write these where everyone can see them or each viewer can write what they know and what they want to know in columns on a piece of paper.

**Learned:** After the film, ask viewers what they learned.

### III. Viewing Suggestions

*Palestine for Beginners* is divided into three parts. You can watch them separately or continuously. Each part is less than 30 minutes long, so even the shortest classroom period will have time for some preview activity or discussion afterwards. Try to save the longest discussion period for after all three parts of the film have been viewed. Some aspects of the conflict cannot be fully understood until the roots of conflict, current occupation, and future possibilities have all been discussed.

#### A. Notes

During the film, ask each viewer to keep some notes on what they are learning and any questions they have. These can be springboards to discussion afterwards. Students who are learning how to take notes will find this a rewarding film because topics are introduced chronologically and sequentially. Because of the quick nature of the film, these students might watch the film once without taking notes, and then again in order to take notes. An outline of the film for teachers and for students is included below.

#### B. Connecting to Prior Learning

If your group has been studying anything relating to the themes in *Palestine for Beginners*, assign various students to watch the film paying attention to these themes and report to the class at the end.

- For instance, if you have been studying the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, ask one group to pay attention in the film to the right to have a home, another group to pay attention to the right to have adequate food and water, etc.
- If you have been studying the **Civil Rights Movement**, ask some students to watch for discussion of segregation, others to watch for nonviolent resistance, and others to watch for discussion of boycotts.
- Students of earlier **American history** will want to look for discussion of Manifest Destiny, ethnic cleansing, and rights guaranteed in the **U.S. Constitution**.
- Likewise, if you have previously studied the **Second World War**, assign groups to look for discussion of occupation, detention without charge, ethnic cleansing, and refugees.
- If your social justice group has just been discussing **Tibet** or **global warming**, ask viewers to look for connections to occupation, or the role of the international community.

Below is detailed outline of this film, followed by a student outline with much less detail. Have students fill in details as they watch this introductory film.

### **PALESTINE FOR BEGINNERS**

#### I. Roots of Conflict (25 minutes)

fears on both sides

solution: equal rights

#### A. Why take an Interest?

US government gives 1/3 of foreign aid, military, diplomatic support

#### B. Who was there first?

Both had ancient and continuous presence; nobody was there first: Hebrews and Canaanites probably there thousands of years ago

#### C. Zionism

developed in 1800s, began conflict

Jewish persecution in Europe for centuries

Zionists decided they needed own nation-state

national liberation movement for European Jews

chose Palestine

land without a people for a people without a land

but not true

Palestine -- had Moslems, Christians, Jews, agricultural

#### D. How did Zionism become focused on ethnic cleansing?

dilemma: how to establish democracy when jews were minority

became ethnic cleansing movement, allied w/ colonial European powers

Palestinian liberation movement to liberate from Ottoman Empire

Zionism worked w/ Britain & France to gain power in Palestine

ignored indigenous population -- racist, colonialist

used same arguments as used against Native Americans, like Manifest Destiny

drew on anti-Arab racism in Europe

Transfer = ethnic cleansing

had to disappear existing indigenous majority

no legal or moral right by persecuted Jews to displace Palestinians

Resistance

violent and nonviolent

Jews and Arabs targeted civilians

#### E. How did Palestine become Israel?

Britain took control from Ottomans

allowed immigration of Jews into Pal.

Palestinians protested

Brit. and US closed borders to WWII refugees

Britain gave up Mandate

1947 UN Partition Plan to divide into 2 states

Pal. objected, Zionists decided to accept 55% though owned only 6%  
violence in 1947, Z. trying to expand, escalated into war  
by 1948, several hundred thousand Pal. already driven out

F. 1948: Nakba

Israel 78% of Pal.

Jordan took W. Bank

Egypt took Gaza

500 Pal. villages destroyed

800,000 Pal. driven out

Nakba = Catastrophe

a kind of holocaust, destruction of culture

G. Controversy?

12,000 --> 4,000 Palestinians in Israel

Israel claimed Pal. had run away, but now Isr. historians agree that ethnic cleansing  
occurred: massacre, rape, terror, expulsion

Israel was founded on ethnic cleansing

but this is still denied

H. 1967

Israel conquered W. Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights,  
several hundred thousand Pal. became refugees

Isr. annexed Jerusalem -- illegally

did not annex WB and Gaza, but kept control = occupied  
occupation supposed to be temporary

I. Who lives there now?

5.6 mill Isr. Jews

1.2 mill Isr. Pal -- discriminated against, but citizens  
several million Pal. refugees -- assimilated or in camps

1.5 mill. Gaza Pal.

2.5 mill WB Pal

J. Occupation

no basic civil or political rights

assassination, suppressed economy, Wall annexing water and land, checkpoints

Settlements: 1/2 million Isr. settlers -- separate set of laws and superior rights

land confiscation for settlers

one ethnic group driven out for another = ethnic cleansing

Genocide

K. Ending Occupation

could annex or withdraw

crucial water -- why they won't withdraw  
total in area: 6 mill Jews, 8 mill Pal -- why they won't annex  
trying to push Pal. out  
Isr trying to justify apartheid and ethnic cleansing by self-defense

L. Apartheid and Ethnic Cleansing necessary to maintain Israel

II. Occupation, Human Rights and US Tax Dollars (28 minutes)

A. Why should we care?

US citizens and citizens of the world -- vetoes UN resolutions  
sells weapons  
finances Israel

B. Am. Foreign Assistance Act of 1962 says we should finance basic human rights  
1. Shelter?

House Demolition: Israel demolished 10,000+ Pal. homes  
collective punishment punishes whole families for an individual's acts  
Geneva Conventions = laws of war, humanitarian law  
violates Art. 33

Refugees: right of return for Palestinian refugees  
land confiscation

build Isr. settlements & settler-only roads  
settlers armed and protected by Israel subject to protective law  
Pal subject to Israeli martial law  
settler violence

150 settlements, 450,000 settlers  
violates Art. 49

no forcible annexation, lengthy occupation illegal

Wall -- mostly runs inside W Bank -- uprooted trees, divided Pal, de facto annexed 20%  
WBank land and water

S, S, roads, Wall = confiscated 40 % of land

ICJ called Wall & settlements illegal

US legally responsible to pressure Isr. to end settlements & Wall

Ethnic Cleansing -- crime against humanity

2. Democracy?

no right to vote til 1993, now can vote for Palestinian Authority

Israeli right to veto and enter with army

Isr. military orders control land, water, electricity, immigration, economy  
democratic society at grassroots

Oslo Accords give false sense of Palestinian power

destructive elite and police force, corrupt

Divide and rule policy

no real democracy

elected Hamas but Isr and US refuse to recognize and instead blockade and withhold aid

Military Dictatorship

### 3. Justice?

martial law, different from settlers

divided roads, IDs, license plates,

warrantless searches and arrests

detention without charge or trial

torture

violated convention against torture

torture = war crime

unfair trials

targeted assassination

expulsion

use of force: aggressor can't claim self-defense, Pal. have right to resist

Isr. should act like police force, not army -- should be humane and proportionate

invasions of Jenin and Gaza -- 2002, 2008 -- unnecessary, disproportionate force

Am. made weapons violates Arms Export Control Act when sold to Israel which uses --

“consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights”

illegal use of weapons on densely populated areas

failure to discriminate, human shields, obstructing medical care

Terrorism = violence against civilians for a political purpose

Israel has committed majority of terrorist acts in conflict

some Israeli soldiers refuse to serve -- yesh gvul

Apartheid: ethnically based set of laws and practices sustained by state system

creating preferences for one ethnicity

### 4. Economic Prosperity and Education?

derevelopment -- economy worse off now than when occupation started

creates cheap labor and promotes leaving

restricts economy & water, dumps cheap products

water shortage: Isr. consume 3 times as much as Pal.

settlements consume disproportionate amount

Gaza water quality poor

International law calls for nonrestricted water

restricts trade, travel, fuel,

Israel still controls Gaza = still occupied

W Bank settler roads and checkpoints and road blocks closed military zones -- stops

economy

town closures

denying family reunification

curfews

education denied

no economically viable

30-80 % unemployment

undernourishment

violates Geneva Conventions & Hague Regulations to govern for benefit of population  
unemployment, poverty, and hunger

## 5. Conclusion

strong army

nuclear power

destabilizing Mid East

equal right for all

## III Issues, Obstacles, Futures (13 minutes)

### A. Is there a Palestinian government now?

Oslo Accords, Pal. Authority, manages occupation, corrupt, incompetent, limited semi-autonomy like reservations/bantustans,  
settlements doubled after 1993

massacre of Pal by an Israeli --> followed by first suicide bomber

### B. Have Palestinians ever been offered a state?

Camp David Accords: Israel offered Pal. more reservations, surrounded by settlements, roads

Violence began when Israeli soldiers fired into crowds (second Intifada)

### C. Gaza

Israel still controls, even after settlers withdrawn

borders

seacoast

airspace

water

electrical grid

imports/exports

veto power

20,000 settlers moved into W Bank while 8000 left Gaza

= occupation by Israel

world's largest prison camp, siege, blockade

continued Palestinian resistance

Gaza assault by Israel, 1400 killed, mostly civilians, without military necessity

### D. Hamas

Islamic party

democratically elected on anti-corruption, resistance platform

problems: conflict over PA, language in charter

moderating their views

### E. Nonviolent Resistance

always a Pal. tradition: tax resistance, strikes, ISM,

Bilin village

Israel meets with escalating violence and expelling leaders  
Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement  
supported by some Isr. Jews

Isr. escalates preconditions  
Jewish state is not same as Israeli state -- defined by ethnic group  
what moral or legal reason do Pal have to accept  
apartheid and ethnic cleansing are crimes v. humanity

#### F. Solutions

- i. Problems w/ 2 state solution: refugee return? 2 ethnically defined states?  
settlements make unviable? will it be a fake state w/o power
- ii. 1 state solution: problems: Jews as minority, equal rights may not be guaranteed,

#### G. What now?

stop denying ethnic cleansing past and present  
stop criminalizing resistance  
individual racism is not the main problem, but systemic racism is a problem and must  
be changed  
once shared interests begin, peace will begin, can live together as equals

**PALESTINE FOR BEGINNERS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Add your own details to this outline as you watch the film.

I. Roots of Conflict (25 minutes)

A. Why take an interest?

B. Who was there first?

C. Zionism

Palestine

D. How did Zionism become focused on ethnic cleansing?

Resistance

E. How did Palestine become Israel?

Britain

1947 UN Partition Plan to divide into 2 states

by 1948, several hundred thousand Pal. already driven out

F. 1948: Nakba

Israel 78% of Pal.

Jordan took W. Bank

Egypt took Gaza

500 Pal. villages destroyed

800,000 Pal. driven out

Nakba means Catastrophe

### G. Controversy?

12,000 --> 4,000 Palestinians in Israel

### H. 1967

Israel conquered W. Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights

Isr. annexed Jerusalem

### I. Who lives there now?

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several million Pal. refugees

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2.5 mill WB Pal

### J. Occupation

no basic civil or political rights

Settlements: 1/2 million Isr. settlers -- separate set of laws and superior rights

### K. Ending Occupation

could annex or withdraw

total in area: 6 mill Jews, 8 mill Pal

### L. Apartheid and Ethnic Cleansing necessary to maintain Israel

## II. Occupation, Human Rights and US Tax Dollars (28 minutes)

A. Why should we care?

B. Am. Foreign Assistance Act of 1962 says we should finance basic human rights

1. Shelter?

House Demolition:

collective punishment

Geneva Conventions = laws of war, humanitarian law  
violates Art. 33

Refugees

land confiscation

settlements

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violates Art. 49

Wall

US legally responsible to pressure Isr. to end settlements & Wall

Ethnic Cleansing -- crime against humanity

2. Democracy?

Military Dictatorship

### 3. Justice?

martial law

divided roads, IDs, license plates,

warrantless searches and arrests

detention without charge or trial

torture

unfair trials

targeted assassination

expulsion

use of force

Arms Export Control Act: no sale to countries with “consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights”

illegal use of weapons on densely populated areas

failure to discriminate, human shields, obstructing medical care

Terrorism = violence against civilians for a political purpose

Refusers:

Apartheid: ethnically based set of laws and practices sustained by state system creating preferences for one ethnicity

### 4. Economic Prosperity and Education?

ddevelopment -- economy worse off now than when occupation started

water

W Bank settler roads, checkpoints, road blocks, closed military zones

town closures

denying family reunification

curfews

education

unemployment, poverty, and hunger

5. Conclusion

III Issues, Obstacles, Futures (13 minutes)

A. Is there a Palestinian government now?

B. Have Palestinians ever been offered a state?

C. Gaza

D. Hamas

E. Nonviolent Resistance

F. Solutions

i. 2 state solution:

ii. 1 state solution:

G. What now?

## **IV. Post Viewing Suggestions**

### ***A. Discussion Questions***

What were some facts you learned?

What didn't you understand? What was confusing?

What are some questions you still have?

What statements did you agree with? What statements did you disagree with?

What questions that you had before viewing this film have been answered? What questions remain?

What would peace with justice look like for Israelis and Palestinians? What would be fair for all? Why?

### ***B. Written Reactions***

#### **Research & Report:**

##### **Ideas & Feelings:**

- What did you learn?
- How did you feel while watching this film and why?
- What would peace with justice look like for Israelis and Palestinians? What would be fair for all? Why?
- Research one question that you still have and answer it.
- What is your definition of: justice, violence, nonviolence, or peace? Use examples from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to illustrate your ideas.

##### **Countries/Foreign Policies:**

- What's the role of the United States in this conflict? What should the future role be? If you were president of the United States, what would you do to bring this conflict to an end? Why?
- Research another Middle Eastern or Arab country. (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey) What are its interests in the conflict? How has it been involved historically? What is its position towards the conflict now?

##### **Movements:**

- Research an Israeli, Palestinian or international group that is working to end the conflict nonviolently. (See Israeli, Palestinian, and International groups in the Resources section below.) Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the group's approach. OR, Compare and contrast the group to another group working for justice in another part of the world (African National Congress; Gandhi's Satyagraha movement; Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement)

### **Biographies:**

- Research a famous person's role in the conflict. (Theodor Herschl, David Ben-Gurion, Yasser Arafat, Hanan Ashrawi, Golda Meir, Ariel Sharon, Yitzhak Rabin, Mubarak Awad, Mahmoud Abbas, Rachel Corrie, Edward Said, Mahmoud Darwish, Richard Goldstone, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton.) Analyze whether the role has been positive or negative towards ending the conflict. Why do you say so?

### **Perspectives/Events:**

- Research one historical event mentioned in the film. Write about it from two different points of view. (1948 War (Israeli; Palestinian); 1967 War (Israel, Egypt); Oslo Accords (Israeli; Palestinian); Barack's Offer (Israeli; Palestinian); Israel's removal of settlers from Gaza or the Sinai (Israeli settler; Israeli citizen inside Israel); Hamas governing Gaza (Hamas, Fatah))

### **Media and Cultural Literacy:**

- Analyze news articles about the conflict. How are Palestinians and Israelis portrayed? Are they treated equally and fairly in the news? Why do you say so? Is more attention paid to violence or nonviolence? How might this affect American perceptions of the conflict? Why?
- Compare and contrast British, Canadian, and American mainstream reporting of the same event in Israel or the Occupied Territories. (BBC, CBC, ABC) How are Palestinians and Israelis portrayed? Are they treated equally and fairly in the news? Why do you say so? Is more attention paid to violence or nonviolence? How might this affect American perceptions of the conflict? Why?
- Compare and contrast this film to others that attempt to explain the conflict. (*Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land*; *Occupation 101*; John Pilger's *Palestine is Still the Issue*) What are the strengths and weaknesses of each film in terms of explaining the conflict, fairness to all parties, images, and organization?
- Over the years, both Arabs and Jews have been negatively portrayed in our Western media. Research these stereotypes and how they have been used to negatively impact Jews and Arabs in the United States (or who wanted to come to the U.S. to escape persecution) during World War II, the 1970s Oil Crisis, and after 9/11.

## **V. Extending the Lesson**

Find out if any of the American groups listed below in the Resources section have chapters in your area. Invite speakers to speak to your group.

Discuss American involvement in the issue. Is there some action your group wants to take to help promote peace with justice? For instance, groups could write letters to government representatives.

## **VI. Bibliography**

A LITTLE PIECE OF GROUND by Elizabeth Laird, a Palestinian teen comes of age in the occupied West Bank

AFTER THE LAST SKY Edward Said, with photographs by Jean Mohr

ALL THAT REMAINS: The Palestinian Villages Occupied and Depopulated by Israel in 1948 Walid Khalidi (ed.)

ARABS & ISRAEL FOR BEGINNERS Ron David

BEFORE THEIR DIASPORA: A Photographic History of the displacement of Palestinians

BEHIND THE INTIFADA Joost Hillerman

BEYOND CHUTZPAH Norman Finkelstein

THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL Simha Flapan

THE BIRTH OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM Benny Morris

BLAMING THE VICTIMS Edward Said and Christopher Hitchens

THE CASE AGAINST ISRAEL Michael Neumann

DANGEROUS LIAISONS: The Inside Story of the US-Israel Covert Relationship  
Andrew and Leslie Cockburn

THE DISINHERITED: JOURNAL OF A PALESTINIAN EXILE Fawaz Turki

THE FATEFUL TRIANGLE Noam Chomsky

HOW ISRAEL WAS WON Baylis Thomas

HOW ISRAEL LOST Richard Ben Kramer

IMAGE AND REALITY OF THE PALESTINE/ISRAEL CONFLICT Norman Finkelstein

INTIFADA Zachary Lockman & Joel Beinin (eds.)

INTRODUCING THE HOLOCAUST Haim Bresheeth, Stuart Hood and Litza Jansz

ISRAEL/PALESTINE: How to End the War of 1948 Tanya Reinhart

LIVE FROM PALESTINE Nancy Stohlman and Laurieann Aladin  
(eds.)

THE NEW INTIFADA: Resisting Israel's Apartheid Roane Carey (ed.)

THE OBSTRUCTION OF PEACE Naseer Aruri

THE ONE-STATE SOLUTION Virginia Tilley

OUTSIDE THE ARK: An Artist's Journey in Occupied Palestine  
Ellen O'Grady

PALESTINE AND ISRAEL: A Challenge to Justice John Quigley

PALESTINE Joe Sacco

PALESTINIANS 1876-1948 Walid Khalidi

PALESTINE: PEACE NOT APARTHEID Jimmy Carter

PEACE AND ITS DISCONTENTS Edward Said

PEACE UNDER FIRE Sandercock et al (eds.)

PITY THE NATION: THE ABDUCTION OF LEBANON Robert Fisk

THE POLITICS OF DISPOSSESSION Edward Said

THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE Edward Said

SAHMATAH Hanna Eady and Edward Mast

SEARCHING JENIN Ramzy Baroud (ed.)

SLEEPING ON A WIRE David Grossman

A STUDY OF HISTORY (Vol. 8, 1954 edition) Arnold Toynbee

THE YELLOW WIND David Grossman

THIS SIDE OF PEACE: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT Hanan Ashrawi

VOICES FROM A PROMISED LAND: Palestinian and Israeli Peace  
Activists Speak Their Hearts  
by Penny Rosenwasser

WRESTLING WITH ZION Tony Kushner and Alisa Solomon  
(eds.)

For more and up to date list, go to [www.palestineinformation.org](http://www.palestineinformation.org)

## VII. Resources

### PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS

**Al-Haq** <http://www.alhaq.org/>

Palestinian human rights organization founded by Palestinian lawyers to defend Palestinian human rights.  
Press releases, updates on the Intifada, reports on human rights violations, and a database of relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions

**Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem** <http://www.arij.org/>

Promotes sustainable development in the occupied Palestinian territories.  
Site includes useful maps.

**From Occupied Palestine** <http://www.fromoccupiedpalestine.org/>

Front line information on the occupation: many up to date articles.

**Gaza Community Mental Health Program** <http://www.gcmhp.net/>

Provides mental health support to the community.  
Site provides abstracts of research on psycho-social problems; descriptions of training courses; description of a women's empowerment project; and press releases.

**Ibdaa Community Development Project** <http://www.ibdaa194.org/>  
(registration required)

Located in the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, West Bank.  
Contains a history of the camp, description of the Ibdaa children's cultural center and development project, news from Dheisheh, oral histories of camp residents, and a list of 30 villages from which residents were expelled.

**International Middle East Media Center** [www.imemc.org](http://www.imemc.org)

Up-to-date news briefs, commentary, editorials, op-eds, and interviews, by Ghassan Andoni and associated journalists.

## **International Solidarity Movement to End the Occupation (ISM)**

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

"A Palestinian-led movement of Palestinian and International activists working to raise awareness of the struggle for Palestinian freedom and an end to Israeli occupation. We utilize nonviolent, direct-action methods of resistance to confront and challenge illegal Israeli occupation forces and policies."

**Al Mezan**      [http://www.mezan.org/site\\_en/index.php](http://www.mezan.org/site_en/index.php)

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights is a Palestinian non-governmental non-partisan organization based in the refugee camp of Jabalia in the Gaza Strip. Al Mezan's mandate is "to promote, protect and prevent violations of human rights in general and economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights in particular, to provide effective aid to those victims of such violations, and to enhance the quality of life of the community in marginalized sectors of the Gaza Strip.

News releases, publications, and an international campaign: "Gaza is Still Occupied."

**Miftah**      <http://www.miftah.org/>

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy, MIFTAH, is a non-governmental non-partisan Jerusalem-based institution dedicated to fostering democracy and good governance within Palestinian society through promoting public accountability, transparency, the free flow of information and ideas, and the challenging of stereotyping at home and abroad. Established in December 1998, with Hanan Ashrawi as its Secretary-General.

Maps, statistics, news, many articles.

**Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network (PENGON)**      <http://www.pengon.org/>

"A non-profit, non-governmental organization whose role is to serve the Palestinian environment by acting as a coordinating body for the Palestinian environmental organizations located in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip)."

**Palestinian Centre For Human Rights**      <http://www.pchrgaza.org/>

An independent Palestinian human rights organization based in Gaza City. Provides a weekly report on Israeli human rights violations in the Occupied Territories, news updates, internship opportunities, and in-depth studies and reports.

**Palestinian Red Crescent Society**      <http://www.palestinercs.org/>

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is a national humanitarian society that provides a wide range of health, social and other humanitarian services for the Palestinian People throughout the Middle East.

Entries on current events, the Intifada, documentation of human rights violations. Updates on construction of the Separation Wall, closures, settlement activities, and destruction of Palestinian land. Reference map and interactive charts-- enter specific dates to get the exact number of deaths for a given time period.

**Sabeel**      <http://www.sabeel.org/>

Sabeel is an ecumenical grassroots liberation movement among Palestinian Christians. It's an ecumenical center for Palestinian Liberation Theology which seeks to make the Gospel contextually relevant. In Arabic Sabeel means 'The Way' and also a 'Spring of Water'. Sabeel strives to develop a spirituality based on justice. See also <http://www.fosna.org/> -- Friends of Sabeel North America

**Stop the Wall**      <http://www.stophewall.org/>

Regularly updated site with maps and news postings on the latest developments with the Wall. Fact sheets, activist resources, and photos.

**Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees**      <http://www.pMrs.ps/content/about/main.html>

A grassroots Palestinian health organization seeking to supplement the decayed and inadequate health infrastructure caused by years of Israeli military occupation. Site documents Israeli army and settler attacks on Palestinian civilians, issues press releases and emergency appeals.

## ISRAELI ORGANIZATIONS

**Alternative Information Center**      <http://www.alternativenews.org/>

Based in Jerusalem, the Alternative Information Center is a Palestinian-Israeli organization that disseminates information, research and political analysis. Includes reports on settler violence, and articles from back issues of the AIC's monthly publication "News from Within."

**Anarchists Against the Wall**      <http://www.awalls.org/>

This is one of the most sincere and effective organizations composed of Israelis working in solidarity with the Palestinians. They have clear, uncompromised politics of solidarity, and implement creative actions in Israel, as well as being on the scene in

the Occupied Territories in solidarity with Palestinian anti-Wall and anti-Occupation activities. Please consider donating to AAW to help support their legal struggles against repression.

This site contains up-to-date news about the ongoing struggle and about activities of Israelis in its support.

**Bat Shalom** <http://www.batshalom.org/>

A feminist peace organization of Israeli women, advocates a Jerusalem shared by Palestinians and Israelis, and opposes demolitions of Palestinian houses and revocation of Palestinians' residency rights in Jerusalem.

Ongoing activities, upcoming events, introduces **The Jerusalem Link**: the coordinating body of two independent women's centers: Bat Shalom - The Jerusalem Women's Action Center, located in West Jerusalem, and Marcaz al-Quds la l-Nissah - the Jerusalem Center for Women, located in East Jerusalem.

**Breaking the Silence** [http://www.shovrimstika.org/index\\_e.asp](http://www.shovrimstika.org/index_e.asp)

Testimony from Israeli soldiers who have participated in the occupation, become disillusioned (or outraged) with the IDF's mistreatment of the Palestinians, and made it their mission to share information about the real practices of the occupiers: "Since our discharge from the army, we all feel that we have become different. We feel that service in the occupied territories and the incidents we faced have distorted and harmed the moral values on which we grew up."

**B'tselem** <http://www.btselem.org/>

For regular updates on human rights violations under the occupation, see The Israeli Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories documents and educates the Israeli public and policymakers about human rights violations in the Occupied Territories.

Press releases, statistics, studies of Israeli human rights violations in Palestine, information sheets, and case studies.

**Gush Shalom** <http://www.gush-shalom.org/english/>

An Israeli grassroots movement composed of Jews and Arabs. It calls for: Israeli willingness to withdraw from all territories occupied since 1967; recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people; and recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to establish a state of its own, with East Jerusalem as its capital, alongside the state of Israel.

Archives of articles including many written by Uri Avnery, and a chronicle of direct actions against the occupation.

**Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions**      <http://www.icahd.org/>

ICAHD is a non-violent, direct-action group originally established to oppose and resist Israeli demolition of Palestinian houses in the Occupied Territories.

**The Other Israel**      [http://members.tripod.com/~other\\_Israel/](http://members.tripod.com/~other_Israel/)

*The Other Israel*, an English-language newsletter published by the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Bimonthly reports on a great variety of peace activities, commentaries on events in Israel and the Middle East. Contains back issues of the newsletter and a collection of articles against occupation.

**Rabbis for Human Rights**      <http://rhr.israel.net/>

"The rabbinic voice of conscience in Israel, giving voice to the Jewish tradition of human rights. We promote justice and freedom, while campaigning against discrimination and inhumane conduct."  
Updates and statements on human rights issues in Israel and the Occupied Territories. Photos, press coverage.

**Refuser Solidarity Network**      <http://refusersolidarity.org/>

Provides support for the growing Refuser Movement in Israel. RSN's objective is to support all Israelis who refuse to serve Occupation. News of refusenik activities. Events, photos, resources.

**Yesh Gvul**      [http://www.yeshgvul.org/index\\_e.asp](http://www.yeshgvul.org/index_e.asp)

An Israeli peace group campaigning against the occupation by backing soldiers who refuse duties of a repressive or aggressive nature. Writings about refusal, action announcements, and news about refuseniks.

**Ta'ayush**      [www.taayush.org](http://www.taayush.org)

(Arabic for "life in common"), a grassroots movement of Arabs and Jews working to break down the walls of racism and segregation by constructing a true Arab-Jewish partnership. Past and present activities, upcoming events, news updates.

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)**      <http://www.cpt.org/hebron/hebron.php>

A religious-based pacifist organization. Since 1995 CPT has supported a team of

violence reduction workers in Hebron, West Bank.

A description of the project in Hebron, urgent action bulletins, information about delegations to Palestine, case studies, and an excellent Middle East bibliography.

**Electronic Intifada**      <http://electronicIntifada.net/>

A network of pro-Palestinian activists with a history of Internet and media activism. Focuses on the struggle in the media for representation of the Palestinian point of view.

A daily press digest on events in Palestine and Israel from the media. Action alerts, Intifada fact sheets (updated daily).

**Grassroots International Protection for the Palestinian People, GIPP**

<http://www.pngo.net/GIPP/index.htm>

A grassroots initiative providing international protection for the Palestinian people.

**International Women's' Peace Service**      [www.womenspeacepalestine.org](http://www.womenspeacepalestine.org)

An international team of women based in Hares, a village in the Salfit region of the West Bank. Documents human rights abuses, works with the media, and intervenes non-violently in abuses.

Photos, reports on IWPS activities, delegation reports, updates on the Wall

**United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL)** <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/qpal/>

Provides full-text U.N. documents relevant to Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict since 1946. Also includes links to all aspects of UN concern with Palestine.

## U.S. ORGANIZATIONS

**AAPER - American Association for Palestinian Equal Rights** <http://www.aaper.org/site/c.quiXL8MPJpE/b.3794785/>

The American Association for Palestinian Equal Rights (AAPER) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to inform the American public about the human and national rights of the Palestinian people and the role of the United States in the Middle East.

AAPER was formed to provide an institution for those millions of Americans who believe in equality in Israel and Palestine, peace in the Middle East and an equitable U.S. policy toward Palestine that upholds the interests and ideals of the American

people.

**Al Aqsa Intifada**      <http://www.alaqsaintifada.org/>

"Your Complete Intifada Resource" Press Releases, recent articles regarding the Intifada, News, links, a Palestine on-line store, and action opportunities via Palestine Media Watch.

**Al-Awda**      <http://www.al-awda.org>

A global association of grassroots activists who advocate the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland and to full restitution of all their confiscated and destroyed property.  
Urgent action alerts, event announcements, book list, and fact sheet.

**Cactus48**      <http://www.cactus48.com/>

A personal activist web site: Palestine is a matter of freedom lost and justice denied. We are American Christians who grew up believing that all Americans care about such things. The objectives of our web site are to share information, lead you to organizations you can join or support, and give you opportunities to get acquainted with ordinary Palestinian people. We have no connection to any organizations. Site contains articles, history, photos, impressions.

**Jews Against the Occupation**      <http://www.jatonyc.org/>

An organization of progressive, secular and religious Jews of all ages throughout the New York City area advocating peace through justice for Palestine and Israel. Bibliography, news articles, photos of anti-Occupation activities, maps, fact sheets, timelines, key documents.

**Jewish Voice for Peace**      <http://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>

A Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) is a San Francisco Bay Area grassroots organization dedicated to the human, civil and economic rights of all peoples in the Middle East. Criticizes U.S. policy in the Middle East and calls for removal of Israeli settlements and other occupation installations in the Palestinian territories.  
Describes projects and provides action alerts, an events calendar, a petition, and a link list of Jewish peace groups.

**Middle East Children's Alliance**      <http://www.mecaforpeace.org/>

Works for peace and justice in the Middle East; focusing on Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and Iraq, especially focusing on the rights of children.

Site contains photographs, internship information, information about delegations to Israel/Palestine, and reports from delegations.

**Mazin Qumsiyeh**      <http://www.qumsiyeh.org/home/>

Many articles by Palestinian-American author, commentator, and activist Mazen Qumsiyeh

**Middle East Report**      <http://www.merip.org/>

“Middle East Report” (MER) provides information and analysis on the Middle East. One of the most important scholarly publications on general Middle East issues. Contains back issues of MER, news updates, and a primer on the Palestinian uprising.

**Not In My Name**      <http://www.nimn.org/>

A U.S.-based Jewish organization formed to provide an alternative voice for Jews who criticize the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. News from Palestine and Israel; maps and facts about Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories; information on U.S. aid to Israel; historical background; calendar of events.

**The Palestine Freedom Project**      <http://www.palestinefreedom.org/>

The Palestine Freedom Project is dedicated to providing resources and logistical support to grassroots Palestine solidarity activists everywhere. We work to enhance communication and coordination across the movement, strengthening the connections between solidarity activists and the Palestinian people. Through the innovative application of models and methodologies more commonly used in the private sector, we're making Palestine activism easier, more efficient, and more potent than ever before.

**U. S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation**      <http://www.endtheoccupation.org/>

Informs, educates, and mobilizes the public regarding the U.S. Government's current as well as potential role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Provides groups working against the occupation with a common platform to challenge U.S. policies supporting the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST ORGANIZATIONS

**American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)**      <http://www.adcseattle.org/>

A civil rights organization committed to defending the rights of people of Arab descent and promoting their rich cultural heritage.

Tips on political action, media work, FAQs about Arab-Americans

**Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project (ORSCP)**      <http://www.orscp.org/weblog.php>

A continuance of Rachel Corrie's desire to establish deep ties between Olympia WA and Rafah, in the Gaza Strip. ORSCP consists of participants in Rafah, Palestine and Olympia, WA, dedicated to building connections between communities to promote better cultural understanding.

Site includes Gaza news, as well as information about fair trade with Rafah; Delegation Reports; Oly-Rafah TV; and ways to get involved.

For more info: <http://www.orscp.org/>

Call (360) 867-0290

E-mail: [tomwright59@comcast.net](mailto:tomwright59@comcast.net)Seattle

**Women in Black**      <http://www.scn.org/womeninblack/>

Part of an international network of women who stand in silent vigil, calling for peace, justice and non-violent solutions to conflict. Any woman who strives for peace and justice is welcome to join us any Thursday, 5-6 pm, wearing black/dark clothes. Site contains flyers, photos, and news of local events.

**Palestine Solidarity Committee -- Seattle**      [www.palestineinformation.org](http://www.palestineinformation.org)

PSC is a long-standing activist organization based in Seattle, Washington. Site includes history of Palestine, information on PSC's divestment campaign, calendar of upcoming events, local ISM activities, and a photo archives including many theater activities and demonstrations.

**Palestine Health Journal**      <http://palestinejournal.blogspot.com>

Regularly-updated, beautifully constructed site of the organization Friends of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS). This is a place where the PMRS members, volunteers and friends from around the globe share their experiences, thoughts, and reflections on issues related to health and human rights in Palestine.

## MAPS

**Gush Shalom's map of the route of the Wall**

<http://www.gush-shalom.org/thewall/index.html>

**Regularly updated map of the Wall**

[http://www.seamzone.mod.gov.il/Pages/ENG/map\\_eng.htm](http://www.seamzone.mod.gov.il/Pages/ENG/map_eng.htm)