

Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Territories (the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem) and the Campaign for Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions

1a. **The Green Line** refers to the demarcation lines set out in the 1949 Armistice Agreements between Israel and its neighbours (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria) after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The Green Line is also used to mark the line between Israel and the territories captured in the Six-Day War, including the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula (the last has since been returned to Egypt as part of the 1979 peace treaty).

1b. From 1948 to 1967 the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, was governed by Jordan; it was formally annexed to Jordan in April 1950. Jordan's claim to sovereignty was not generally recognised by the international community, with the exception of the United Kingdom, which formally recognized it on the 27th April 1950. During the period from 1948 to 1967 the Gaza Strip was under Egyptian military administration. Jordan relinquished its claim to sovereignty over the West Bank in 1988 when it recognized the PLO as the official representative of the Palestinian people.

1c. Israel's area is approximately 20,770 sq km. In the Six-Day War of June 1967 Israel gained control of territory more than three times its size, capturing the West Bank (5,860 sq km), the Gaza Strip (360 sq km), the Golan Heights (1,150 sq km) and the Sinai Peninsula up to the Suez Canal (61,100 sq km).

1d. On November 22nd 1967 the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 242, which emphasized 'the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war' and called for the 'withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict.'

2a. A '**settlement**' is any residential area built beyond the Green Line. An '**outpost**' is, essentially, an 'unofficial' settlement established after the 1990s.

2b. There are currently 144 illegal Israeli settlements and approximately 102 illegal Israeli outposts. By the end of 2012, there were estimated to be 563,546 settlers in the West Bank (360,370) and East Jerusalem (203,176). There are 26 official settlements in East Jerusalem, followed by the central West Bank district of Ramallah and Al-Bireh with 24 settlements (107,586 settlers). There are 66,392 settlers in Bethlehem and 35,138 in Salfit.

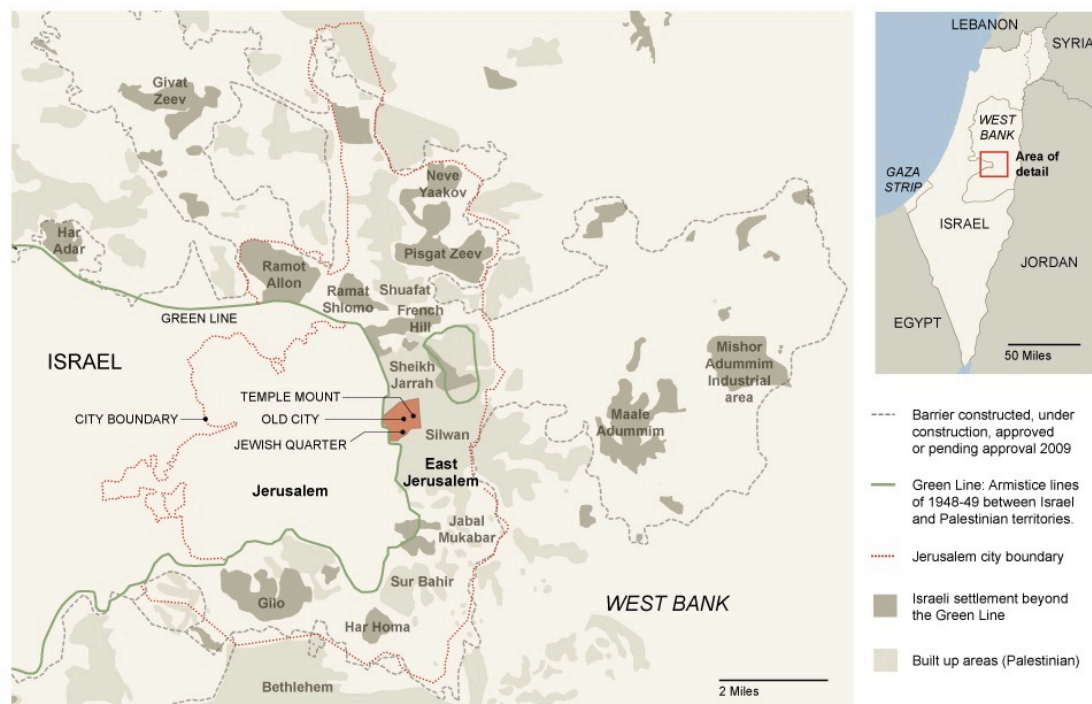
2c. The largest of the illegal settlements is Modi'in Ilit, with a population of 52,100 as of 2011 (as against 5,500 in 1995). Others include Ma'ale Adumim (39,000), Beitar Illit (35,000), Ariel (25,000) and Har Homa (13,000). Beitar Illit is a predominantly ultra-orthodox community where buses have separate seating for men and women and claims have been made that a 'modesty squad' harasses female residents for 'immodest behaviour'.

2d. The built-up areas of the settlements constitute less than 2 percent of the land in the West Bank (1.7 percent). However, the non built-up areas within the municipal boundaries of the settlements are three times as large (5.1 percent) most of which is already planned for construction. In addition, the settlements control another 35 percent of the land in the West Bank, which is under the jurisdiction of six Jewish regional councils (i.e., local government entities that provide services for their member settlements). This 35 percent is not yet planned for construction, but constitutes land reserves for the future expansion of the settlements.

2e. Altogether, since Israel's occupation of the West Bank in 1967, successive Israeli governments have expropriated over 40 percent of the land and transferred it to the control of the settlements. A third of all settlements are built on privately owned Palestinian land and are, therefore, illegal even under Israeli law. Furthermore, Israel has taken hundreds of kilometres of the West Bank to build roads that serve the settlements, connecting them to each other and to Israel. They crisscross the entire West Bank, dividing Palestinian cities and towns from one another, and imposing various restrictions on Palestinian movement and access.

2f. East Jerusalem and the adjacent West Bank 'settlement blocs' of Givat Zeev (extending to the edges of the Palestinian city of Ramallah) and Maale Adumim (extending almost halfway to Jericho) are all on the west side of Israel's 'separation barrier' in what is sometimes referred to as the 'Jerusalem envelope'. This means that Palestinian East Jerusalem is separated and to an increasing degree sealed off from the rest of the West Bank.

Map of Settlements Around Jerusalem



2g. There are approximately 20,000 Palestinians employed in Israeli settlements. In 2012, Israel's State Comptroller reported on industrial zones in West Bank settlements, and noted, among other things, 'serious environmental hazards' and neglects 'in the field of safety and hygiene' that point to 'disregard for human life' and that place 'in real danger the well-being, health and lives of the workers'. In addition, 93 percent of Palestinian workers in settlements 'have no union or committee to represent them' and most 'earn less than the Israeli minimum wage'. Work permits require 'the approval of the Israeli internal security service', and an estimated 1 in 10 Palestinian workers in settlements actually 'work on confiscated lands originally owned by their families or one of their relatives'.

2h. Since the resumption, under John Kerry's auspices, of the so-called 'peace talks' Israel has announced plans for the construction of a further 1,200-2,000 settlement homes. On August 13th 2013 Israeli Housing Minister, Uri Ariel, stated that his ministry would be announcing bids for the construction of a further thousand units in the West Bank. He said that Israel intends to build 400 units in Gilo settlement, 138 units in Zeev settlement, and 793 additional units in Jerusalem. Ariel added that 117 units would be built in Ariel settlement, in the northern part of the West Bank, 149 in Efrat settlement near Bethlehem, 92 in Ma'ale Adumim settlement bloc, and 36 in Beitar Illit in the Gush Etzion settlement bloc.

3a. Israel's settlements in the Occupied Territories are illegal under Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (The Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War), which states, 'The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.'

3b. The United Nations Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Court of Justice and the High Contracting Parties to the Convention have all affirmed that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to the territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

3c. The EU has recently confirmed that it does not recognise Israel's sovereignty over 'the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967' (the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem).

3d. The relevant documents are:

- * International Committee of the Red Cross: Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Geneva, 12 August 1949
- * UN Security Council resolutions 446, 452 and 465 (1979-1980)
- * Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the application of international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territories (December 5th, 2001)
- * Ruling by the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (9 July 2004)
- * UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/78 (12 January 2012)
- * (EU Directive 2013/C 205/05)

4a. **The EU and illegal Israeli settlements.** On the 19th July the EU issued new guidelines aimed at preventing EU funds being used to support 'Israeli entities or ... their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967' (EU Directive 2013/C 205/05). From January 2014 Israeli bodies applying for EU funding will have to demonstrate that they are based 'within Israel's pre-1967 borders' and that their activities do not extend into the 'occupied territories' (the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem). The guidelines apply to all grants, prizes and financial instruments (e.g. investment vehicles) managed by the Commission or its agencies.

4b. On the 8th July Cathy Ashton wrote to Jose Manuel Barroso and other EU Commissioners calling for 'the effective implementation of existing EU legislation relevant for the correct labelling of settlement products'. The settlements' main exports to the EU are agricultural produce, cosmetics from the Dead Sea and wine. According to Haaretz (23.07.2013): 'Foreign Ministry officials said that because European public opinion is so negative toward the settlements, publication of such guidelines might well lead European retailers to boycott settlement products entirely, and perhaps even to boycott Israeli products altogether.' When the Netherlands recently published guidelines on labeling settlement products two local retail chains, Aldi and Hoogvliet, began to boycott settlement products.

4c. **The Co-op and illegal Israeli settlements.** The position adopted by the Co-operative group on 25th April 2012 is in line with this latest EU policy. The Co-op has refused to stock products from the settlements since 2009 and last year it decided to end entirely its dealings with companies that source produce from Israeli settlements. The Co-op identified four companies that it would no longer deal with: Arava Export Growers, Agrexco, Adafresh and Mehadrin.

The screenshot shows the website of The Co-operative. The header includes the logo 'The co-operative' and the tagline 'JOIN THE REVOLUTION'. A search bar is present. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Our Plan', 'Get Involved', 'Story of the Revolution', 'Community Map', and 'Our Blog'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'You are here: Home > Our Plan > Tackling Global Poverty > Ethical trading and human rights > The Co-operative and the illegal Israeli settlements'. The main heading is 'The Co-operative and the illegal Israeli settlements'. The text on the page explains the Co-op's policy on sourcing from illegal settlements, stating that since 2009, the Co-operative Group has operated a Human Rights and Trade Policy. It mentions that the Board has decided to withdraw all trade from a particular state, area or settlement. It also states that the Co-op has audited its supply chain and identified a small number of businesses that it can no longer source from, as there is evidence that they source from the settlements. The page concludes with a statement that the Co-op will continue to actively work to increase trade links with Palestinian businesses in the Occupied Territories. On the right side, there is a sidebar with a 'Hear the latest news' section and a 'Get our email updates with the latest ways to get involved' section with a 'sign-up now' button.

5. Three **Local Councils in Scotland** (West Dunbartonshire, Stirling and Clackmannanshire) have passed motions to refuse provision of services and goods by companies linked to illegal operations in Israel. In March of this year Clackmannanshire Council passed the following motion in support of Palestine: Clackmannanshire Council condemns the Government of Israel for its continuing illegal occupation of Palestine's East Jerusalem and the West Bank and for its continuing illegal blockade of Gaza.

Clackmannanshire Council welcomes the decision of the United Nations on 29 November 2012 to grant 'non member observer Status' to Palestine.

However, for the people of Palestine, the suffering of the last 64 years continues as the Government of Israel continues to ignore and breach international law.

Just as individual sanctions against apartheid in South Africa led ultimately to its demise there, so individual and collective sanctions against the State of Israel will end apartheid and suffering in Palestine.

Clackmannanshire Council therefore resolves to resist, insofar as legislative considerations permit, any action that gives political or economic support to the State of Israel.