

# SUPPORT THE EARTH! SUPPORT PALESTINE!

Jewish Voice for Peace is an organization committed to justice for the Palestinian people. So why are we here as a contingent at this march against fossil fuels?

Of course, environmental catastrophe threatens the very existence of life on Earth, and thus everyone needs to be deeply concerned about addressing climate change.

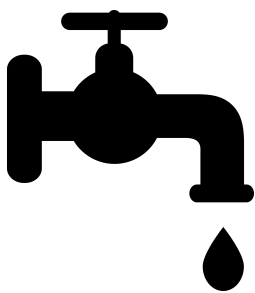
Beyond this general commitment that we all ought to have to combating fossil fuels, supporters of Palestinian rights have further reasons for being here, relating to the geopolitical role of oil and environmental oppression by Israel.



Much of U.S. foreign policy since the end of World War II has been driven by the overriding goal of securing and controlling Middle East oil—what U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson deemed “a stupendous source of strategic power, and one of the greatest material prizes in world history”. This was one reason for the U.S. allying itself with Israel – to help put down radical forces in the Arab world that threatened the pro-U.S. oil kingdoms. For example, Israel joined with Saudi Arabia in the 1960s to support the royalists in Yemen. As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu put it in 2017, Israel was “a mighty aircraft carrier” for the United States.

However, it’s not just been about oil. Israel has played a direct role in destroying the environment of the Palestinian people. It has stolen their land and their resources. It drove hundreds of thousands from their homes in 1948 and continues to dispossess Palestinians today. Under the guise of “making the desert bloom”, it gave diaspora Jews a stake in the land by planting a tree in their name and creating national forests. In doing so, Israel has destroyed Palestinian villages and has covered up their previous existence.

The Israeli government has been identified as an “apartheid” regime by leading human rights organizations (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights, and B’Tselem, among others). Numerous discriminatory government policies promote and perpetuate Jewish supremacy throughout Palestine. Case in point: Israeli control



and management of water resources that enable Israelis to consume, per capita, 3 times as much water as Palestinians in the West Bank. This disparity permits Israelis to enjoy a luxurious lifestyle even as Palestinians suffer chronic water shortages. These policies will only continue to get worse with climate warming.

For years, Israel has imposed an unrelenting blockade of Gaza that has increasingly rendered the territory uninhabitable. As Friends of the Earth International recently warned, half of Gaza’s two million people now live in poverty, 80% depend on some form of humanitarian aid, and 69% of its youth are unemployed. Only 4% of water in Gaza is fit for human use, and up to 35% of its agricultural land and as much as 85% of its fishing waters have been restricted by Israel at various points.

Israel must be held accountable for its contribution to human suffering. And its “greening” policies must be revealed for what they truly are: implementation of their repressive and discriminatory policies targeted at expelling Palestinians from their homeland.

**Jewish Voice for Peace of Northern NJ**

<https://www.jvpnorthjersey.org/>



# SUPPORT THE EARTH! SUPPORT PALESTINE!

| Israel: “a mighty aircraft carrier” for the United States.

—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, 2017

| 50% of Gaza’s two million people now live in poverty

| 80% depend on some form of humanitarian aid.

| 69% of its youth are unemployed.

| Only 4% of water in Gaza is fit for human use.

| Up to 35% of its agricultural land and as much as 85% of its fishing waters have been restricted by Israel at various points.

---

## OLIVE TREES & THE OCCUPATION

- † Olives and olive oil have historically formed the main basis for Palestinian livelihoods. Today 48% of agricultural land (mostly in the West Bank) is planted with olive trees.
- † To build the Separation Wall and infrastructure for Israeli-only settlements, bulldozers have plowed down more than 800,000 olive trees. —the equivalent of bulldozing all of Central Park 33 times.
- † The Wall routinely separates farmers from their olive trees. Farmers must seek permits from Israeli Authorities to work their own land and harvest their olives, but 42% of land-access applications are denied, and accepted permits are often delayed until the season is over, or granted for very short periods, making cultivation and harvest exhausting or impossible.

## HOW ISRAEL USES WATER TO CONTROL THE WEST BANK

- † Israel controls about 80% of water reserves in the West Bank, but both the West Bank and Gaza Strip face severe water stress and drought.
- † Israelis, including those living in settlements, use 3 times as much water a day as West Bank Palestinians do, according to a report from the Israeli human rights NGO B’Tselem.
- † Palestinians living in Area C use about 20 litres of water a day, as little as one-fifth of the daily 50- to 100-litre minimum set by the World Health Organization.
- † The UN says that more than 270 water and sewage facilities used by Palestinians in Area C have been demolished in the past five years on the grounds that the infrastructure is illegal—while Israeli wineries and sheep farms, considered illegal, have all the water they need.
- † Only 20% of the water flowing out of taps in the Gaza Strip is potable, and only 1 in 4 households have access to water fit for human use, and there is limited capacity operations at desalination plants and aquifer water purification facilities.

## GAZA’S CESSPOOLS

- † As Israel destroys Gaza’s infrastructure, prevents the entry of equipment needed to maintain facilities and imposes restrictions on the construction of new infrastructure, the efficient treatment of sewage becomes a near impossibility.
- † The existing sewage networks service only 60 percent of homes in the Gaza Strip, and the remaining 40 percent depend on septic tanks that often leak and seep into the aquifer.

- 
- † Sources: Olive Trees: <https://grassrootsonline.org/what-we-do/publications-and-resources/fact-sheets-reports/s-tolen-harvest-occupation-and-palestinian-olive-trees/>  
| Water: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/17/how-israel-uses-water-to-control-west-bank-palestine>  
| Cesspools: <https://electronicintifada.net/content/gazas-cesspools/36641>