



END THE Talking Points for the 7th Annual Week **OCCUPATION** Against the **Apartheid** Wall

- **Israel must end its apartheid practices against Palestinians.**

The United Nations declared apartheid a crime against humanity in 1976 in the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Myriad aspects of Israel's practices and policies toward Palestinians can be described as apartheid according to this Convention. The word "apartheid" literally translates into English as "separate-ness." The name of the Israeli strategy of which the wall is a part is "hafradah," which literally translates into English as "separation"

- **The wall is one of the most heinous symbols of Israeli apartheid**

Apartheid is characterized by forcible transfer of populations, land control, labor exploitation, humiliation and murder. The wall makes all of these aspects of apartheid possible in Israel/Palestine. The wall confiscates Palestinian land on which Israel's illegal settlements are then built. In confiscating this land, and physically restricting Palestinian movement, the wall severely restricts Palestinians ability to work. Activists working nonviolently to bring the wall down are routinely arrested or killed by the Israeli military.

- **Palestinians in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip all suffer from Israel's walls.**

The Gaza strip is literally surrounded – on three sides by Israel's wall and on the fourth by Israel's navy patrolling the Gazan shore. This blockade prevents Palestinians most basic human rights, like food and shelter, from being fulfilled. Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem are being dissected and in some cases demolished to make way for Israel's wall. The West Bank is being fragmented and encircled by Israeli settlements and the wall that surrounds them.

- **Israel's wall separates Palestinians from other Palestinians, as well as segregating Palestinians and Israelis.**

In most areas the wall divides Palestinian neighborhoods and villages. This is the case in both East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Families are divided. Work, education, and healthcare are all greatly impacted by walls that delay and checkpoints that often prevent any passage for Palestinians. Even if Israel's wall only segregated Israelis from Palestinians, it would still be a potent symbol of racism and apartheid.

- **The wall has been ruled illegal by both Israeli and international courts.**

In 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled Israel's wall illegal. The Israeli high court has also ruled the route of the wall to be illegal in several places. Even with both legal systems calling for the wall to be dismantled or, minimally, rerouted expansion continues unabated.

- **Israel is intransigent, using the wall to create "facts on the ground" to make real peace negotiations impossible.**

Israel's wall is intended to create a new boarder, which cuts into Palestinian territory far East of the 1976 "Green Line." 400 miles long, Israel's wall is three times longer than the Berlin wall. Israel's wall is 25 feet tall and flanked by a 230-330 foot wide "buffer zone," which annexes Palestinians territory. The defacto boarder wall will annex approximately 50% of the West Bank when it is completed. All of this is done in contravention of international peace processes and makes real negotiations impossible.

- **Your money is paying for all of it.**

U.S. Tax dollars are supporting Israel's apartheid wall. U.S. military aid to Israel subsidizes the construction and security along the wall. Caterpillar bulldozers and specialized equipment are used to build Israel's apartheid wall. Motorola surveillance systems allow the wall to continue encroaching on Palestinian land. American tax dollars should not be used to build Israel's apartheid wall; Congress should end military aid to Israel.