

QUICK FACTS:

Settlements & the Israeli Occupation

What are the settlements?

They are segregated colonies for Jewish Israelis only, built illegally in occupied Palestinian territory. They are often cited as the chief obstacle to peace in the Holy Land. Some have a few thousand people, others are cities with industrial parks (see back page). **The settlements are the centerpiece of Israel's 50-year-old military occupation and the root cause for all the human rights abuses of a brutal occupation regime.** See many of those below; see our Quick Facts series for more details.

*Wee to those who plan iniquity...
They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud people of their homes, they rob them of their inheritance. Micah 2:1-2*

Settlements' Impact ► Misery and Despair for Millions of Palestinians

- ▶ Illegal colonization and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people's only remaining land
- ▶ Demolitions of thousands of homes; confiscation of Palestinian ancestral lands
- ▶ Destruction of over one million olive trees, essential to the Palestinian economy & culture
- ▶ Hundreds of military checkpoints that block access to essential needs and family members
- ▶ The Separation Wall that traps Palestinian towns and annexes Palestinian land to Israel
- ▶ Frequent incidents of beatings and shootings by Israeli military, most never prosecuted
- ▶ Daily incidents of abuse, detention, and imprisonment of Palestinian children
- ▶ Mass incarceration for control: 20% of the total population; 40% of males.
- ▶ Impunity for vigilante settlers: weekly incidents of vandalism, arson, beatings, shootings
- ▶ Harsh military law and courts (99% conviction rate); brutal prisons conditions & torture
- ▶ Severe water deprivation for Palestinians; unlimited water use for Israelis
- ▶ Intentional, wanton pollution of Palestinian villages and farms with settlements' sewage



Israel's brutal occupation and illegal colonization of Palestinian land includes massive home demolitions (over 26,000 structures) leaving hundreds of thousand homeless.



The Kairos Palestine Document is Christian Palestinians' profound statement of faith and urgent call to action, signed by thousands of indigenous Palestinian Christians & endorsed by all the Patriarchs of Churches in Jerusalem.

"Israeli settlements ravage our land in the name of God and in the name of force, controlling our natural resources, including water and agricultural land, thus depriving hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, and constituting an obstacle to any political reality."

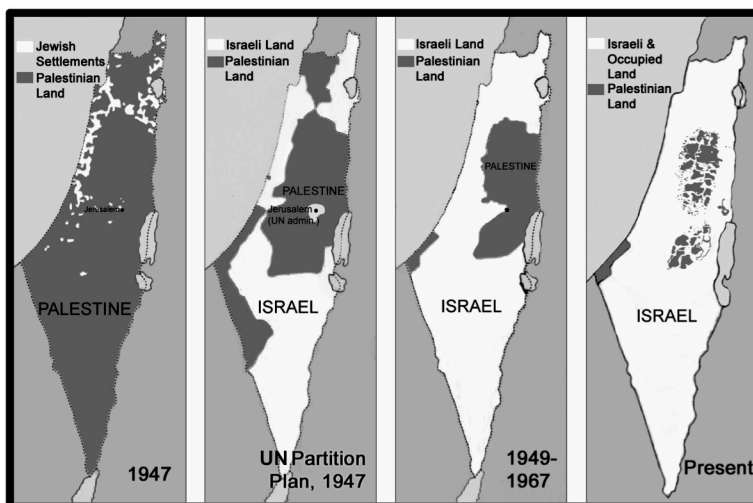
*"Our question to our brothers and sisters in the Churches today is: **Are you able to help us get our freedom back?** For this is the only way you can help the two peoples attain justice, peace, security and love."*

The UMC Position

The UMC has opposed the Israeli occupation since the 1980's. "The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a "Greater Israel" that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings." (UMC 2016 Book of Resolutions, #6111) In 2012, the UMC called for a global ban (boycott) on products from Israeli settlements (photo, right). In 2016, the church pension board eliminated and barred investments in five Israeli banks and another Israeli business that support the Israeli settlements.



Palestinian Loss of Land, 1947 to Present



Why are the settlements and the Wall illegal?

The Fourth Geneva Convention and subsequent laws strictly forbid an occupying power from moving its own citizens into occupied territory. *Occupations are meant to be temporary, not an opportunity for colonization.* After two World Wars, the world has said with a united voice that aggression may no longer be used to grow a country's territory. The Separation Wall (85% of which is in occupied territory) is another way of expanding Israel's borders; in 2004 the International Court of Justice found it to be illegal.

The U.S. position

In December 2016, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry stated: "It's important to note that every United States administration, Republican and Democratic, has opposed settlements as contrary to the prospects for peace."

Despite U.S. and worldwide opposition, Israel has been intensively colonizing for decades, during all the years of the so-called peace process. In creating these "facts on the ground" in the West Bank, which Israel took in 1967 (left; see 4th map: Present), Israel is making the goal of Palestinian self-determination in a viable independent state impossible.

Facts On The Ground = APARTHEID

A large segregated highway system that serves the settlements throughout the West Bank, for use by Israelis only; a racially based permit system that controls Palestinian access to their own territory; hundreds of military checkpoints and the Separation Wall that trap towns and villages and restrict only Palestinians' access to essentials such as hospitals, schools, jobs, family members, and their own homes and farmland; the inhumane and racist allocation of water; Palestinians confined to isolated and often impoverished bantustans, military law and courts for only the Palestinian residents of the West Bank: all facets of the occupation are determined according to race. The Israeli occupation unquestionably fulfills the legal criteria of an apartheid regime, as laid out in the UN's 1973 International Convention on Apartheid. This has been well documented in the 2017 report by a United Nations commission (see it on our website).

3 Things You Can Do

Go to our website: KairosResponse.org and:

- 1 **SUBSCRIBE** to UMKR news and alerts to hear about advocacy for human rights in Israel/Palestine.
- 2 **LEARN & TEACH:** Find our Quick Facts series & other study materials to share in your church & community.
- 3 **TAKE ACTION:** Support UMKR's boycott, divestment, and other campaigns for a just peace in the Holy Land.

United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) is an international grassroots peace movement responding to Palestinian Christians' urgent call, in

Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth, for effective action to achieve a just peace in the Holy Land. UMKR seeks – through nonviolent action and in partnership with our Palestinian sisters and brothers in Christ – freedom, justice and equality for all Palestinians and Israelis.



1. Subscribe 2. Learn & Teach 3. Take Action ➤ www.KairosResponse.org