

# 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 one of the chief obstacles 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 military occupation and colonization of the West Bank and a prime example of the apartheid regime Israel has created.**

*Woe 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

### Occupations' 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
- Daily attacks by Israeli settlers with impunity: vandalism, arson, beatings, and shootings
- Hundreds of Palestinian children each year arrested, abused, and imprisoned through a notorious military court system
- Mass incarceration: 40% of males at some time in their lives, 20% of the total population.
- 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 demolitions that have robbed hundreds of thousands of their homes.



The **Kairos Palestine Document: "A Moment of Truth"** is a profound statement of faith and urgent call to action from the indigenous Christians of Palestine, endorsed by all the Patriarchs of Palestinian Churches.

*"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."*

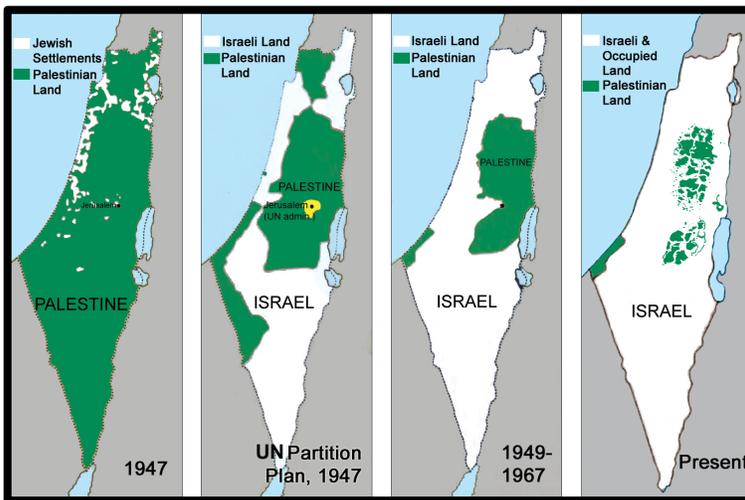
*"Our question to our brothers and sisters in the Churches today is: **Are you able to help us get our freedom back?** For this is the only way you can help the two peoples attain justice, peace, security and love."*

(Find the Kairos Palestine Document on our website.)

## Position of the UMC

The United Methodist Church 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 2016, 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 other instruments of international law forbid an occupying power from moving its citizens into the occupied territory. *Occupations are meant to be temporary. They are 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, and in 2004 the International Court of Justice found it to be illegal.

Israel has more than 250 settlements today. Over 750,000 settlers live illegally in occupied Palestinian territory. The settlements also include industrial parks for hundreds of companies that manufacture goods they export to the world, supporting the settlements' economy and receiving financial incentives from Israel. They exploit Palestinian workers, who are not protected by any labor laws.



The huge illegal settlement of Ma'ale Adumim dominates this West Bank landscape.

## The Facts On The Ground: THIS IS 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 imprison 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; military law and courts for **only the Palestinian residents** of the West Bank: **all facets of the occupation are determined according to race.**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

United  
Nations

and  
others

The world's leading human rights organizations have published in-depth reports showing the world that Israel has unquestionably established an **apartheid regime**, as defined in the UN's International Convention on Apartheid. (See *all the reports on Israeli apartheid on our website with easy resources to learn more*).

## 3 Things You Can Do

at our website: [KairosResponse.org](http://KairosResponse.org)

- SUBSCRIBE** to UMKR's monthly news to hear about United Methodist advocacy for Palestinian human rights.
- LEARN & TEACH:** Use our resources to learn more and share them in your church and community.
- TAKE ACTION:** Support UMKR's boycott, divestment, and other campaigns for a just peace in the Holy Land.

In UMKR, United Methodists are responding to **Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth**, a profound statement of faith and urgent call to action from Christians in the Holy Land. *UMKR seeks – through nonviolent action and in partnership with Christian Palestinians – freedom, justice, and equality for all Palestinians and Israelis.*



1. Subscribe 2. Learn & Teach 3. Take Action ► [www.KairosResponse.org](http://www.KairosResponse.org)