

### ***Why do Palestinians need help? What about the “peace process”?***

Contrary to optimistic media portrayals of the “peace process” and the evacuation of the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians’ situation remains grim. As Israeli scholar and journalist, Tanya Reinhart noted: *“Genocide is associated in our minds with mass graves or convoys of population transfer. The slow death inflicted on the Palestinian people has, perhaps, no name yet.”* Palestinians are continually subjected to gross violations of humanitarian law. They are:

- *at risk from lack of access to adequate food, water and medical care*
- *subject to humiliation and impoverishment from innumerable checkpoints that block access to employment, education and medical care*
- *vulnerable from Israeli lack of accountability for their deaths, mass imprisonment, torture, collective punishment and the continued destruction and confiscation of their property*

Israel continues to build the *apartheid wall*, condemned as illegal by the International Court of Justice and the United Nations. The wall results in confiscation of much of the remaining Palestinian agricultural land and water, thus eliminating the possibility of a viable Palestinian state.

Israel has never accepted the right of the Palestinians to their own sovereign state with territorial contiguity and control over their own water resources, airspace and borders. Israel still controls access to and from Gaza, effectively continuing the occupation and making it the largest open air prison in the world.

*Since the start of the AlAqsa Intifada in September 2000, statistics from Palestinian Red Crescent, B’tselem and the IDF indicate that about 80% of deaths and injuries have been Palestinian.*

### ***Why is this a Canadian problem?***

While Canada’s foreign policy officially condemns colonization of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, many Canadians invest in businesses that profit from the Occupation. In addition, tax deductible donations to charities that support Israel are subsidized by about 40% by Canadian taxpayers. Thus, Canadians are complicit in the violations of Palestinian human rights.

#### **Israeli Products Produced in the Occupied Territories**

*Ahava Beauty Products      Israeli Produce  
Wine from the Golan Heights*

#### **Corporations Providing Military Support to the Oppression of Palestinians**

*Caterpillar      General Electric      Boeing  
Lockheed Martin Corp.      CAE (Canada) Inc.*

#### **Financial Support of the Occupation**

*Jewish National Fund      Israeli Bonds*

### ***Doesn’t Israel need security?***

Yes. Every country needs security. However, over the past thirty years, Israel has used security as a pretext to imprison, torture and murder thousands of Palestinians. While Israel has the right to protect its borders, it has no right to carry out crimes against the Palestinian people on their own land and call that “security”. The truth, according to many different Israeli sources, is to make life intolerable for the Palestinians, thus forcing them to flee to other countries and, in effect, commit ethnic cleansing.

***The first step in gaining true security for Israelis is to withdraw from occupied Palestinian territory and make a just peace with the Palestinian people.***

### ***Aren’t people who are critical of Israel anti-Semitic?***

The use of “anti-Semitic” is increasingly being used as a way to censor and punish critics of the Government of Israel. Critics of Israel’s policies must not be confused with anti-Jewish racism.

***“Israeli prosecution of the Palestinian People is not a war against terror. The Palestinian suicidal terror has a simple solution - get out of the territories and give the Palestinians reasons to live.”***

***Tanya Reinhart  
Israeli Journalist***

