

# NPK-info

Nederlands Palestina Komitee [www.palestina-komitee.nl](http://www.palestina-komitee.nl)

## Inhoud

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Ontleend aan <http://www.gamla.org.il/english/article/2002/july/b1.htm>

Quote: "An Israeli organization has published detailed plans for the "complete elimination of the Arab demographic threat to Israel" by forcibly expelling all Palestinians, including Palestinians in the occupied territories and Palestinian citizens of Israel from the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea within a 3-5 year period."

Een na te volgen actie

- British Jews <http://www.badil.org/Press/2002/press265-02.html>

### Attentie waard:

- <http://www.poica.org/glossary/index.html>

Glossary for "Monitoring Israeli Colonizing Activities" Project

NPK/WL, 31-8-2002 ■

P.S. Israel valt overigens ook koelkasten aan [Ha'aretz 8/29/02]

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=202688&contrassID=2&subContrassID=1&sbSubContrassID=0&listSrc=Y>

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*BADIL Resource Center. For immediate release, 29 August 2002 (E/52/02)*

## **BOYCOTT ISRAEL**

***to ENFORCE RESPECT and IMPLEMENTATION of INTERNATIONAL LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, and UN RESOLUTIONS!***

*A Call Issued by Palestinian Civil Society Organizations, August 2002*

In September 2001, one year after all international efforts at halting Israel's violent military repression of the second Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had failed, some 3,000 civil society organizations from around the world met at the third World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa and approved their NGO Declaration and Program of Action. These NGO documents address racism and racial discrimination related to the root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including military occupation and the denial of the right of return of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes and properties.

Already in Durban, representatives of 3000 civil society organizations from around the world were united in

their call for global boycott and sanctions against Israel. Among others, the NGO Program of Action:

- \* Calls for the launch of an international anti Israeli Apartheid movement as implemented against the South African Apartheid through a global solidarity network of international civil society, UN bodies and agencies, business and communities to end the conspiracy of silence among states, particularly the European Union and the United States (Article 424).
- \* Calls upon the international community to impose a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state as in the case of South Africa which means the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, the full cessation of all

*In de Palestijnse steden, dorpen en vluchtelingenkampen op de Westbank en Gaza geschiedt een ramp.  
Zie onderstaande recente noodoproep!*

***Een vraag om hulp.***

## **Appeal from Nablus Under Siege**

***Dear Friends***

Greetings from Nablus which has been languishing under a continuous curfew imposed by the Israeli military since June 20th with only sporadic lifting for a few hours every two weeks or so. Every single dimension of social, economic, cultural, and human life has been disrupted. And now, we have been struck by the latest Israeli aggression against the old city of Nablus, more specifically the Kasabah neighborhood, in which at least 3 Palestinians were killed, scores injured, homes demolished and the history of our ancient and beloved town erased from existence. This attack against our past, present and future can only be withstood with the support of freedom, peace, and justice loving people around the world.

It is from our specific location under siege--with food and medicine running out, water cut off and electric generators destroyed, children terrorized, and social, economic, and political developments stunted-- that we issue an appeal to all of you for you are our last and only hope. We ask you to intervene and use the resources at your disposal to pressure Israel to lift the curfew off Nablus and the other Palestinian communities that are held hostage to the whims of Sharon and his bloodthirsty government.

We are trying desperately to carry out our journalist mission and inform our public in Nablus of the developments on the ground. However, as you may already know, our job is dangerous and complicated. Not long ago, a colleague of ours, Nasser Ishtaia, of Reuters, lost his 4-day-old daughter, as they were stopped endlessly at Israeli checkpoints; other colleagues of ours were killed, injured or arrested by the Israeli military for no reason. In April, Israel decided to reoccupy all towns and villages in the West Bank. During that time, our station was shelled almost killing two of our reporters who refused to leave the station and insisted on giving the Nablus population news of what was going on. Unfortunately, heavy bullets and rockets shattered our studios completely destroying two transmitters and other equipments valued at over \$50,000.00 dollars (the sum may seem small to people in the US and Europe but it is a huge investment to us here).

Things are getting worse as days pass by. Unlike journalists elsewhere, our mission is not only to report the

news. We do not exaggerate when we say that we are the lifeline of this community. Before April and the direct Israeli re-occupation of Nablus, we used to give out a bulletin on the "road situation" every 15 minutes to inform our public of what back-roads people could take to get the injured and the ill to hospitals or to get some important documents processed (sometimes people outside of Palestine do not realize that no one would make a trip and pass Israeli checkpoint unless their trip were absolutely necessary. It is not just the danger involved in taking such a trip, but the hardship of walking long distances at the risk of being turned back and most importantly at an exuberant cost when people have no money for food, medicine, or water and electricity bills). These bulletins were heard by the population of Nablus and the surrounding villages and refugee camps, such as Balata, Askar, and Ein. We would issue an emergency bulletin every time someone spotted an Israeli patrol near the open roads and called on by Jawwal (local Palestinian mobile phones) to notify us. Now that the roads are completely blocked and no one comes in or leaves Nablus, we serve as the only source of information as we sadly announce the names of the martyrs to allow people to attend funerals and offer condolences--the only form of social support people can give to each other in the face of a continuous 24-hour curfew.

Life style has changed for everyone in Palestine: The high school general matriculation exams usually end by mid June. In Nablus, the Tawjeehi exams were delayed until the end of July. The delay in the taking, grading and posting the results of the exams (August 6th) has already deprived Palestinian high school students from much needed time to apply for and seek acceptance at Palestinian and other Arab universities. Most of the spots have already filled up and the road blocks and border closures, combined with the high cost of travel when 75% of Palestinians live below the poverty line (at \$2.00 per day for a family of four) will surely make it impossible for Palestinian students to enroll in colleges in September thus losing a year and maybe more of their future. Under normal circumstances, newspapers and school post the results of the high school exams. But since we are under curfew, no newspapers have reached Nablus for quite a while. Schools are the other place at which students find out their results. But most schools in Nablus have now been occupied by the Israeli military and turned into armed posts. As a result

links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military cooperation and training) between all states and Israel. (Article 425).

One year after Durban, Israel is engaged in the destruction of Palestinian civil society and its political leadership and the re-establishment of direct military occupation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. More than ever, Israel, protected by the United States and tolerated by the European Union, violates international law, human rights and UN resolutions.

Therefore, we as members of Palestinian civil society welcome all recent initiatives to boycott Israel which have been launched in many parts of the world. For the sake of freedom and justice in Palestine and the world, we call upon the solidarity movement, NGOs, academic and cultural institutions, business companies, political parties and unions, as well as concerned individuals to strengthen and broaden the global Israel Boycott Campaign.

### **Israel Boycotts International Law and Human Rights - WE BOYCOTT ISRAEL!**

#### **With greetings of solidarity,**

Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ);  
Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD);  
BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights;  
General Federation of Trade Unions in Palestine (GFTUP);  
High Coordination Committee of the Local Committees for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled - West Bank;

Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy (PCPD);  
Palestinian Federation of Women Action Committees (PFWAC), Nablus;  
PNGO - Palestinian NGO Network;  
Palestinian Prisoners Society;  
Popular Committees of the Palestinian Refugees - West Bank and Gaza Strip;  
Residents of Destroyed Palestinian Cities and Villages in 1948 Palestine, Ramallah;  
Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC);  
Union of Health Care Committees;  
Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees (UPMRC);  
Union of Youth Activity Centers - Palestine Refugee Camps (UYAC).

Please disseminate this call as widely as possible, especially among the international solidarity movement and at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (CEHRO/WSSD) currently convening in Johannesburg, South Africa.

BADIL Resource Center aims to provide a resource pool of alternative, critical and progressive information on the question of Palestinian refugees in our quest to achieve a just and lasting solution for exiled Palestinians based on their right of return.  
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## **The growing clamor for ethnic cleansing**

by *Ali Abunimah*

*The Electronic Intifada* <http://electronicintifada.net/features/articles/020828ali.shtml>

(AMMAN -- August 27, 2002) -- An Israeli organization has published detailed plans for the "complete elimination of the Arab demographic threat to Israel" by forcibly expelling all Palestinians, including Palestinians in the occupied territories and Palestinian citizens of Israel from the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea within a 3-5 year period.

Gamla, a group founded by former Israeli military officers and settlers, published these recommendations on its website in a nine thousand word manifesto titled "The logistics of transfer," penned by Boris Shusteff last July 3. The mass ethnic cleansing of every Palestinian, the author argues, is "the only possible solution" to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and is "substantiated by the Torah."  
([www.gamla.org.il/english](http://www.gamla.org.il/english)) Gamla receives tax deductible

contributions from a New York-based charity that claims that its goal is greater Arab-Jewish tolerance.

The manifesto recognizes that Israel will never win widespread support for expulsion, but argues that it needs "only a modicum of support from its closest ally -- the United States," in order to carry out the plan.

Under the plan, Israel would launch an information campaign and increase economic strangulation of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to force them to leave "voluntarily." One measure would be to deprive Palestinians of employment, literally starving them out (one could say that this policy is already being implemented). Palestinian citizens of Israel would face complete apartheid and religious coercion as Israel would "pass a

law that will stipulate in some form that non-Jewish citizens of the state, while retaining full and irrevocable civil rights, will have no ability to participate in Israeli political life." Failing that, the paper continues, "Israeli Arabs can be given one more option - to convert to Judaism if they prefer to stay put."

At the same time, Israel will try to convince the international community to establish a Palestinian state far away from Israel and the occupied territories (in Iraq or Saudi Arabia). The author writes that: "Israel must make clear to the world community that, if a decision cannot be made within 3 to 5 years to establish a state for the Palestinian Arabs in some viable location, she will be forced to start the forced expulsion of Arabs into Jordan and the Sinai."

The expulsion plan provides details about how this will be done, in lightning military strikes: "As an example, the relocation of a small settlement (1,000 people) can be completed within a 48-hour period, similarly to a military border-crossing operation. Israel will supply the relocated community with temporary housing, water and electricity (providing tents, a generator, water cisterns, etc.). The abandoned settlement must be completely demolished level with the ground."

While Israel moves to implement the complete annexation of all the occupied territories, it would, according to the plan, have to subdue the population by carrying out war crimes and crimes against humanity if any Palestinians try to resist: "Any attempts on the part of the Arabs [Palestinians] to carry out sabotage or terrorist activity must be immediately suppressed in the most brutal way. It is possible, for example, to implement a suggestion by Harvard Professor Alan Dershowitz, an American liberal lawyer. With slight modification, it works as follows: Israel issues a warning that, in a response to any terrorist attack, she will immediately completely level an Arab village or settlement, randomly chosen by a computer from a published list. The essence of the idea is to make the Arabs completely responsible for their own fate, and to make it clear that terrorism will not be merely tolerated, but will be harshly punished. Along with the world community, the Arabs will know precisely what will result if they attack Jews. The use of a computer to select the place of the Israeli response will put the Arabs and the Jews on a level footing.

The Jews do not know where the terrorists will strike, and the Arabs will not know which one of their villages or settlements will be erased in retaliation. The word "erased" very precisely reflects the force of Israel's response. The Arabs residing there will be evicted without compensation, all houses and buildings completely demolished, and the settlement itself, with the help of bulldozers and any other necessary equipment, will be leveled into a large field. After the appearance of several such fields the Arabs will lose any desire to commit terrorist attacks and the

number of Arabs wanting to leave Eretz Yisrael will certainly increase."

The only precedent for such a chilling and methodical approach to ethnic cleansing would be the industrialized elimination of Jews planned and carried out by Nazi Germany. Are these words merely the ramblings of an extremist group carrying no wide influence, or do they represent another step in legitimizing discussion of a once taboo idea gaining broad-based support in Israel and amongst some American Jewish organizations?

Gamla claims that it is "in the forefront of the battle for the land of Israel, organizes activities, participates in demonstrations, and publishes articles, posters and stickers for that cause," and that "most of its activities are coordinated and joined with other grassroots organizations of the national camp."

One of the group's three founders is Elyakim Haetzni, one of the first and most prominent West Bank settlers who lives in Kiryat Arba settlement near Hebron. Another was the late Lt. Colonel Shlomo Baum, a founder of Israel's notorious Unit 101, which with the young Ariel Sharon as its leader carried out the brutal massacre of dozens of civilians in the Palestinian village of Qibya in 1954, among other atrocities. The third, retired Colonel Moshe Leshem, also a longtime spokesman for the settlers, has a show on Israel's settler radio network "Arutz 7" along with Haetzni.

Gamla receives tax-deductible contributions from Americans through a New York-based charity called PEF Israel Endowment Funds ([www.pefisrael.org](http://www.pefisrael.org)) which states that it was established in 1922 by Justice Louis Brandeis and Rabbi Stephen Wise. Among its stated purposes is "promoting greater tolerance and understanding between religious and secular communities and between Arabs and Jews." Under this liberal guise, the organization appears to be channeling funds to a group advocating the total destruction of a nation -- in other words, genocide.

The Gamla website also frequently publishes and promotes the writings of Daniel Pipes, a professional Arab-basher, and ubiquitous guest on American television talk shows. Within Israel, Palestinians are viewed as a "demographic threat" across the political spectrum, the only difference being on how to deal with this threat. For traditional leftists, "separation" is the preferred option, while among the right-wing outright expulsion is gaining support. The debate about the "demographic threat" is carried out in overtly racist terms. In summer 2001, Haifa University professor Arnon Sofer, renewed Israeli anxieties about the fertility of Palestinian women with a study predicting that by 2020 non-Jews will be a majority west of the Jordan River. "Some Israelis say," according to The Chicago Tribune, "that ticking below the surface of the violent confrontation between Arab and Jew is a silent

bomb, a demographic bomb." Their solution is to adopt a "Chinese rule" limiting the number of children Palestinians are allowed to have. ("Birthrates alarm Israel," Chicago Tribune, April 21, 2002)

While lamenting that only the Moledet party, founded by the assassinated Israeli tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi, openly advocates expulsion, the Gamla paper takes heart that recent opinion polls in Israel put support for some form of 'transfer' at 46% and in some cases 60% depending on how the question is posed.

According to Professor Majid Al-Haj of Haifa University, the struggle of Palestinian citizens of Israel is no longer primarily about achieving equality with Jews within Israeli society, but has reverted to a more basic struggle simply to remain in their homeland against a rising tide of pro-transfer sentiment being freely expressed in Israeli Jewish society. Al-Haj, one of the few true Arab experts on Israeli society, speaking recently at the Jordan University Center for Strategic Studies, cited as an example the infamous conference in the Israeli town of Herzliya in November 2000, just months into the Intifada. At that meeting, more than three hundred prominent Israeli intellectuals, former and sitting generals and politicians, former prime ministers, and Israel's past and sitting president openly discussed ideas including "exchanges of population," limiting the democratic rights of Palestinian citizens, forcing Palestinian citizens to sign a document recognizing Israel as a Jewish state as a condition of retaining their citizenship, and the primacy of Israel's "Jewish" over its "democratic" character.

The transfer idea is gaining ground because the common conception that Jews should live separately from everyone else provides room for it to flourish. Today there are almost no Jewish voices in Israel calling for Palestinian-Israeli coexistence on the basis of full equality regardless of religion or ethnic affiliation. One of Israel's leading lights on the left, novelist A.B. Yehoshua, while not supporting transfer, regards co-existence between Palestinians and Israelis as a thing to behold with horror. "Two people in one state," Yehoshua warned, "is a threat to our existence. Anyway, we did not come to Israel to live in a bi-national state, but in a Jewish state." ("Israel is losing the demographic race," [Israeltoday.co.il](http://Israeltoday.co.il)) This view is typical of the Israeli left, the vast majority of which only supports some form of Palestinian statehood as a mechanism to preserve Jewish primacy. While in most countries that practice it, democracy is understood as a mechanism to protect minorities from the tyranny of the majority, among Israeli liberals democracy is only valuable as a tool to maintain the tyranny of a Jewish majority over a Palestinian minority without the embarrassment of having to adopt formal apartheid or advocate ethnic cleansing. We must be clear that the concern for maintaining a Jewish majority is about preserving power and privilege, not about protecting cultural identity, heritage and reli-

gious practice. Those can be much better protected, and enhanced in a multi-ethnic society where freedom of religion, speech and association are guaranteed to all. At least that is what good Americans are brought up to believe. The "demographic threat" comes not only from Muslim Palestinians, but also from Christians. Last June Haaretz reported that Dr. Asher Cohen of Bar-Ilan University had discovered that already Israel's Jewish majority is "only" seventy two percent, far less than the eighty one percent claimed by official figures. This difference is accounted for by the high rate and relative ease of assimilation of Christians from the former Soviet Union and guest-workers into Israeli society, something that in most other countries claiming to be liberal democracies would be seen as a desirable trend. In response to Cohen's findings Israel's Interior Minister Eli Yishai declared that "Clearly it's impossible to bar the arrival of couples in which one of the members is Jewish, but we should see to it that families that are completely Christian do not come here -- including people who go to church on a regular basis." ("Demographic balancing acts," Haaretz, June 13, 2002)

This anti-Christian war cry was recently taken up by Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron and his Ashkenazi counterpart Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, who warned that "seventy percent of the new immigrants to Israel are professed non-Jews, with no connection to Judaism." In a joint statement, the two clerics concluded, "We cannot continue to bring entire Christian families to Israel." (Chief rabbis call for revision to be made in Law of Return," Haaretz, August 25, 2002)

The view that non-Jews, including the indigenous Palestinians, are a mortal threat, a cancer, a bomb to be defused, echoes precisely the language of racists and ethno-nationalists everywhere. Only the claim of Israeli exceptionalism, and misuse of the memory of the Nazi holocaust, has protected Israel from the censure it deserves for allowing such views to flourish. The sheer breathtaking hypocrisy is encapsulated by the Israeli government with Moledet ethnic cleansing advocates amongst its ranks condemning European countries like France and Austria for allowing racist parties to grow too powerful.

A few years ago it would have been easy to dismiss the Gamla document as the work of marginal extremists. But in today's Israel, where pro-ethnic-cleansing ministers sit in the cabinet, and even those who would not support transfer are opposed to co-existence and equality, it is a worrying sign. Most of the brutal measures Israel carries out today with nary a word of concern from the outside world would have been unthinkable two years ago, including the mass starvation of millions of besieged Palestinians. It would not be surprising to see some of the measures proposed in the expulsion manifesto adopted piecemeal as Israel's swing to the far right continues unchecked.

The Gamla document is notable not because it raises ideas that no one else in Israel is talking about, but rather because it tries to take a generalized and growing clamor for transfer to the next level -- detailed formulation of a specific program for the expulsion of the Palestinians around which political support and action can be organized.

Extremists such as Gamla are closely tied with 'mainstream' politicians, and by running ahead of them can test the waters and introduce ideas that the mainstream is not yet ready to fully embrace.

It may not even be necessary for a majority of Israelis to support expulsion for it to be carried out since the settler movement -- from which Gamla emerges -- has managed to wield disproportionate influence on all Israeli governments, especially that of Sharon. For example, while polls show that the majority of Israelis are in favor of removing settlements in the occupied territories, the settlements continue to grow, absorbing a disproportionate chunk of Israel's budget even while unemployment and poverty within Israel itself are spiraling. Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is waiting in the wings for Sharon to fall, has mortgaged himself even more to these elements.

The expulsion plan's author may not be entirely deluded either, when he banks on American support. Last May, Dick Arney the most senior Republican in the United States Congress openly advocated the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians on MSNBC's Hardball, while the usually bland USA Today newspaper published a February op-ed by one Emanuel Winston calling for the "resettling" of the Palestinians in Jordan.

Neither of these calls elicited the slightest protest from mainstream commentators and politicians in the United States. As extreme as President Bush's support for Israel has become, it appears moderate next to that of so-called Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who stated recently that Israel should be able to keep the "so-called occupied territories" because it won them fair and square in a war. When Hillary Clinton, New York's "liberal"

Senator, visited Israel earlier this year, she was hosted by and warmly embraced Benny Elon, the leader of the Moledet ethnic cleansing party. The Sharon government's egging on of the United States to bring forward its attack on Iraq cannot be motivated solely by fear of Iraqi "weapons of mass destruction," since Israeli intelligence assessments downplay the actual threat from the devastated Iraqi armed forces. It may not be far-fetched to speculate that some within Israel would see a regional war as the only opportunity to carry out a round of expulsions, and delay the day when the "demographic bomb" explodes. Theodor Herzl, writing Zionism's founding tract, "The Jewish State" recognized that his dream of taking over Palestine could not be fulfilled without transfer. Herzl famously declared "We shall try to spirit the penniless [Arab] population across the border by procuring employment for it in the transit countries, while denying it employment in our country." Recent scholarship by Israelis and others, and fifty four years of the lived reality of Palestinians bear uncontestable witness to the fact that mass expulsion has always been part of Israel's strategy and practice. Whether it will become so again is anybody's guess, but the warning signs are there to be heeded. [ENDS] ■