

Why does economic pressure on Israel make sense?:

- All other strategies have failed. Despite decades of attempts, all efforts to persuade Israel to stop illegal settlements and other rights violations have failed.
- Canadians support it! A January 2017 EKOS poll (<http://cjpme.org/survey>) indicated that 91% of Canadians believe that economic pressure and sanctions are a reasonable way for Canada to censure countries violating international law. Given Israel's ongoing violations of international law, 66% of Canadians overall, and 84% of NDP supporters, believe that government sanctions on Israel would be reasonable.
- The most basic step Canada could take to pressure Israel economically would be to label products from illegal Israeli settlements. However, the simple labelling of these products will not prevent Israeli settlement businesses from continuing to profit off Israel's human rights abuses.
- Many human rights organizations (like Amnesty International) have called on governments to ban Israeli settlement products. The Danish government, for example, recently agreed to exclude settlement products from trade agreements with Israel. The Irish parliament is also debating a ban on settlement products.
- An arms embargo against Israel under the international Arms Trade Treaty would be another way to pressure Israel to cease its human rights violations.
- Other more forceful mechanisms of economic pressure are also possible, and are already being pursued by governments and civil society groups around the world.



How else could Canada promote peace and justice in Israel-Palestine?:

- Canada could recognize Palestine as a state, as more than 100 countries have already done.
- Canada could condemn Trump's Jerusalem decision. When the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to condemn Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Canada did not vote against, but only abstained.
- Canada could increase its aid to Palestinian refugees. The Trump government recently threatened to slash humanitarian funding to UNRWA, the UN aid agency for Palestinian refugees. Canada could increase its funding to UNRWA to ensure Palestinian refugees receive adequate education, health care and related.



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HUMAN RIGHTS in Israel-Palestine

16-year-old Palestinian Fawzi al-Junaidi is seized by Israeli occupation soldiers in the Palestinian city of Hebron in December, 2017. When presented before an Israeli military court after days in detention, he had bruises covering his neck, chest and back.

Why should Canadians be concerned about Israel-Palestine:

- Israel has maintained a military occupation in the Palestinian territories for 50 years, and daily commits human rights abuses against Palestinian civilians.
- Israel illegally colonizes the Palestinian West Bank, creating massive housing developments it calls “settlements,” and forcing Palestinians off land slated to become part of a future Palestinian state.
- Five million vulnerable Palestinian refugees across the Middle East wait in limbo and poverty for a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Governments around the world exploit the conflict to justify militaristic policies, consolidate dictatorships, and distract from pressing humanitarian concerns.
- Israel presents itself as a Western-styled democracy, yet repeatedly violates international law and ignores UN resolutions calling for an end to its abuses.

Canada has a historic responsibility for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

- Many Canadians don’t realize it, but Canada was one of the main architects of the UN partition plan of 1947, which called for the creation of a majority Jewish state (Israel) and a neighbouring majority-Palestinian-Arab state.
- This Partition caused 700,000 Palestinians to lose their homes and triggered generations of poverty and dispossession for these Palestinians.

What do human rights groups typically demand of Israel?:

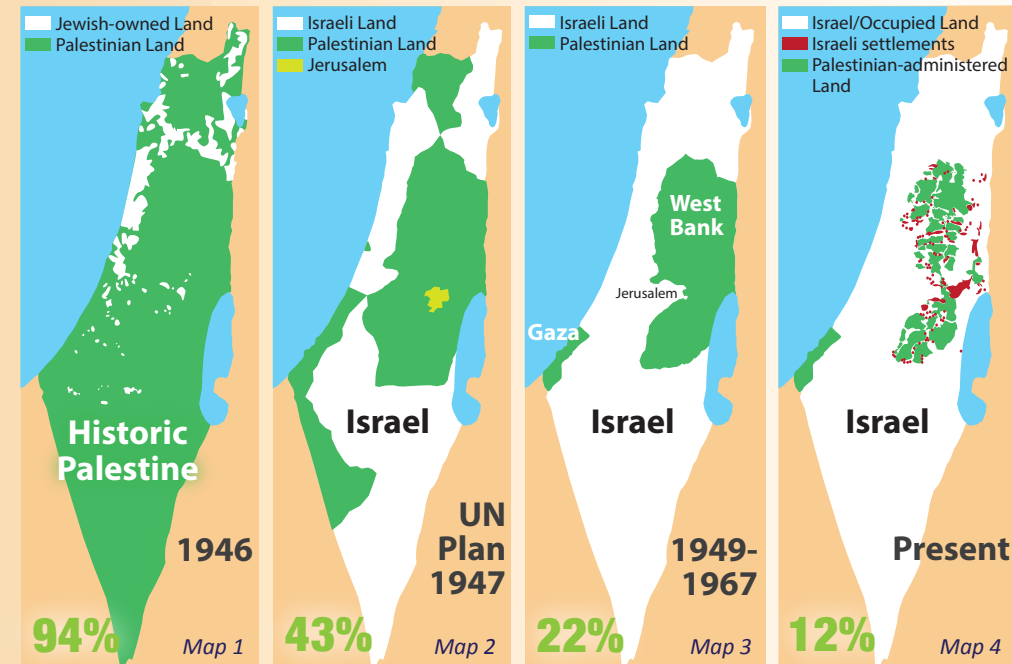
- Israel is asked to end its occupation and colonization of Palestinian lands. International law stipulates that an “occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.”
- Israel is asked to dismantle its 8 metre high Wall. In 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) condemned Israel’s Wall, demanding that it be dismantled and that reparations be paid to the Palestinians.
- Israel is asked to recognize the rights of Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality. Despite the guarantees of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Israel pursues ongoing discriminatory policies against its Palestinian minority.
- Israel is asked to offer a solution or compensation to Palestinian refugees.
- Israel is asked to lift the illegal blockade of Gaza, in place since 2006. Human rights organizations consider this an extreme form of collective punishment.
- Israel is asked to end the indefinite military detention and mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners, especially Palestinian children.



Palestinians wait at an Israeli military checkpoint next to Israel’s Wall.

Illegal Israeli settlement encroachment on Palestinian land

Since 1967 Israel has built over 120 Jewish-only colonies on militarily occupied Palestinian land. Such colonies violate international law, provoke the Palestinians, and preclude the possibility of a viable future Palestinian state.



Map 1: Following World War II, land ownership in Israel-Palestine was roughly 6% Jewish and 94% Palestinian.

Map 2: The UN Partition Plan of 1947 allocated 53% of the land to a Jewish-majority state and 47% of the land to a Palestinian-majority state. The UN called for Jerusalem to become a shared international city.

Map 3: In the armed conflict of 1948, Israel seized vast amounts of land intended for the Palestinian-majority state, and annexed West Jerusalem.

Map 4: In 1967, Israel invaded the West Bank and Gaza, illegally annexed East Jerusalem, and has militarily occupied these territories ever since. **Since 1967, Israel has continuously confiscated land to build illegal “settlements.”** There are now over 120 settlements and over 600,000 Jewish-Israeli settlers. These settlements are recognized by human rights organizations and governments as the biggest obstacle to peace in Israel-Palestine.

Palestinian children play while Israeli settlement units rise in the background.

