

Highlights

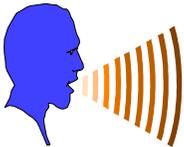
- ? The Only Real issue is Israel's Withdraw from Palestinian Lands.

Inside

1. Try Ariel Sharon
2. ACTION REQUESTED

Newsletter
Inspired Truth about the Holy Land
Volume 1 • Issue 1
July 2001

JERUSALEM ALERT



The Only Real issue is Israel's Withdraw from Palestinian Lands

The real issue by Jerusalem Alert.

By Charly Reese

(Reprinted with special permission North America Syndicate.)

It's the occupation.

That's the complete summation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In 1967, Israel occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. For 34 years, Palestinians have lived under Israeli military rule. They are now determined to be free of it.

Unfortunately, the Palestinians have only the facts, morality and international law on their side. The Israelis have a powerful army and the U.S. government, which not only gives Israel an annual \$3 billion subsidy but also blocks any and all international efforts to make Israel comply with United Nations resolutions and the Geneva Convention.

(Americans ought to ask themselves why their children are expected to die to enforce U.N. Security Council resolutions directed at other countries if the United States is going to block enforcement of all those directed at Israel.)

Right now, the Israelis are spinning the line that they made a generous offer and that because the Palestinians rejected it, why, they must not want peace. The fly drowning in that glob of salad dressing is that it wasn't a generous offer. It was, in fact, an offer that no Palestinian could have accepted.

First, Palestinians would have had to kiss goodbye West Bank and Gaza land already confiscated by the Israelis. They would have had no control over their borders or the water under their feet. They would have had to endure Israeli "military supervision" for an indefinite period. They would have had to write off the rights of Palestinian refugees and acknowledge Jewish ownership of the land underneath the third-holiest site in Islam, and they would have gotten, in return, a nonviable country cut into giblets and at the mercy of the Israelis.

In fact, the only thing to be negotiated is the timetable for Israel's complete withdrawal and dismantling of all the Jewish settlements. Palestinians have already conceded 78 percent of their

country. They are not going to concede hunks of the remaining 22 percent.

Furthermore, the Palestinians are daily victims of war crimes. The score card, according to Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi, director of the Health, Development, Information and Policy Institute, runs thus since the intifada started:

More than 500 Palestinians killed, a third of them children; 27,000 trees uprooted; 12,000 dunums of land (a dunum is 1,000 square meters) leveled in the Gaza Strip; 3,200 buildings destroyed, of which 1,200 were homes; and 23,000 Palestinians wounded. In comparison, he said, 106 Israelis have been killed and 760 injured. The numbers might have changed since he addressed the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine, a Washington think tank.

It's not fair to call Palestinians terrorists. It is not they who have used tanks, advanced warplanes and helicopter gunships against civilians; it is not they who use death squads and assassinations; it is not they who imposed collective punishments on innocent civilians. The Israelis are doing all of these things, which are war

crimes, to the Palestinians with American-made military equipment. I know that it's hard for Americans to undo so many years of pro-Israeli brainwashing. Just remember that the Palestinians, like the Founding Fathers of this country, are trying to throw off a foreign occupier of their homeland. They are resisting a powerful military government with the only means they have. They want liberty. They want the right to govern themselves. If we believe our own Declaration of Independence and our own Bill of Rights, then we must support them and not their oppressor. It is equally absurd to say the Palestinians don't want an end to the conflict. It is they, not the Israelis, who are suffering. Israel has become a rich country; the West Bank and Gaza are incredibly poor. Some of the Jewish settlements have plush lawns, gardens and even a swimming pool, while at the bottom of the hill, Palestinians have to get water for cooking and washing from a communal pump. Israelis live in houses, apartments and villas. Millions of Palestinians are jammed into sordid refugee camps. Other than the loss of tourist business - a loss they deserve, given the destruction they've laid on the Palestinians -- Israelis are leading normal lives behind the green line. If they're nervous because of an occasional suicide bomber, they should think how nervous they would be if they had to face tanks, helicopter gunships and assassins. I'm sorry our government is an accessory to war crimes and is such a world-class hypocrite. So long as we ignore the terrible plight of the Palestinians, no American should open his or her mouth about human rights, the rule of law or democracy. Such hypocrisy stinks in the nostrils of every sensible man and woman in the world. It bothers me that in our nation of 260 million people, we don't seem to be able to elect 535 to the House and Senate who have some integrity and

courage. With few exceptions, they have sold out to the Israeli lobby. One day a just God will give the Palestinians their freedom. I wonder what will have happened to ours by then? We certainly are not earning it.

Try Sharon, says war crime judge

(By: Katherine Butler, The Independent) (Reprinted with special permission CAIR-net.net.)

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, should be tried for war crimes in connection with the 1982 massacre of Palestinian civilians in Lebanon, the former chief prosecutor to the International War Crimes Tribunal for Yugoslavia has suggested. In a BBC Panorama programme last night, Judge Richard Goldstone, former chief prosecutor for the UN criminal tribunals for both the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, said: "If the person who gave the command knows, or should know ... that there's a situation where innocent civilians are going to be injured or killed then that person is as responsible, in my book more responsible even, than the people who carry out the orders". ... Judge Goldstone said it was regrettable that no criminal prosecutions had been brought.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Please take a few minutes to call or write to President Bush and Secretary of State Powell let them now that we Americans are seeking a true peace and Justice in the mideast to end the violence. Let them now that,

1. The occupation is the core of the conflict.
2. Israel's illegal settlement activities fuel the conflict
3. Israel is targeting Palestinian Christians, Muslims and Jews civilians

particularly children, using weapons paid for with American taxpayer dollars.

4. Americans blind support for Israel harms our interests and image worldwide.
5. Use of American weapons against civilians violates the U.S. Arms Export Control Act.

United States Government CONTACT:

President George W. Bush
The White House
TEL: 202-456-1414
FAX: 202-456-2461
E-MAIL: president@whitehouse.gov
Vice President Richard B. Cheney
Vice.President@Whitehouse.gov
Laura Welch Bush
First.Lady@Whitehouse.gov
Secretary of State Colin Powell
U.S. Department of State
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20520
E-MAIL: secretary@state.gov
TEL: 202-647-3672
FAX: 202-261-8577

Questions:

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to send us an Email at: Jerusalemalert@hotmail.com,

Also visit our website

Jerusalemalert.org

Next issues:

1. The History of Jerusalem
2. The man behind Zionism
3. Israeli propoganda

Editors

David Morgan & Patrice Lumumba Ford
Khalid Elolaimi

Committee Members

Jesse Joel, Andy Day, David Morgan & Patrice Lumumba Ford

Treasurer

Khalid Elolaimi