

IRAQ FACTS

Is U.S. policy towards Israel/Palestine creating anger?

“Yes,” says most people round the globe. They link U.S. occupation of Iraq with Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territory. Why does this U.S. policy increase anger?

- U.S. taxpayers pay for Israel’s occupation of Palestinian lands. During that 37-year armed occupation, the U.S. has given Israel over \$100 billion, mostly for its military.¹ Currently, total U.S. aid to Israel is about 1/3 of the U.S. foreign aid budget.²

- Recently, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) acknowledged Israel’s duty to protect its citizens, but ruled that Israel must not build a wall on remaining Palestinian lands. Yet 90% of the completed wall will be on that land.³ The wall divides Palestinian families, cutting off access to their land, jobs, schools, and medical care. It traps 200,000 Palestinians on the Israeli side.⁴

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1 www.endtheoccupation.org --also in: “Tinderbox: U.S. Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism,” Stephen Zunes, Common Courage Press, 2003, p.109.

2 www.wrmea.com/us_aid_to_Israel. (“The Strategic Functions of U.S. Aid to Israel,” Stephen Zunes)

3 www.betsalem.org

4 www.gush-shalom.org

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8 Josef Federman, “Sharon says he’ll escalate Gaza offensive,” AP (reprinted in The Seattle Times, 10/4/04)

6 www.palestineobserver.org/new_web/factsheet_water.htm 7 Ibid.

5 www.palestineobserver.org/new_web/factsheet_settlements.htm

Begin by telling Bush, Kerry, Murray and Cantwell to cut off U.S. military aid for the Israeli occupation.
How can we change U.S. policy to respect international opinion and institutions and stop creating anger?

For decades the U.S. has ignored U.N. resolutions that Israeli settlements are illegal. Despite this, both Bush and Kerry express unwavering support for Israel. Senator Patty Murray actually condemned the I.C.J. ruling against the wall, and the Bush administration won’t abide by the ICJ ruling.

- Israel has driven millions of Palestinians from their ancestral homes and forced them to live in refugee camps. Now Israel, using U.S.-made tanks, bulldozers, and missiles, is attacking those camps, destroying homes, uprooting orchards and farms, and killing thousands of refugees and their children.⁸
- Israel and its over 150 illegal settlements⁵ divert 75% of Palestinian water for their own use,⁶ leaving Palestinians with less than the minimum requirements established by the World Health Organization.⁷

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