

# The Jewish National Fund

Founded in 1901 to build a Jewish homeland in Palestine



A history of colonization in Palestine

# **Zionism: the ideology & movement behind the colonization of Palestine**

**^The ideology & movement on which the colonial project of Israeli state building in Palestine is founded & continues**

**^Maximum land in Palestine for the State of Israel with minimum number of Palestinians**

# Origin and Principles

- Established at the Fifth Zionist Congress, Basel, 1901.
- The JNF's mission to buy land in 'Eretz Israel', for the settlement of Jews.
- JNF land, 'inalienable property of Jewish people' and is for sole use of Jewish people.
- JNF expressly prohibited from selling its land



# The 'village files'

*The JNF had special units which collected information and built what was known as the 'village files'*

These included:

- Aerial photographs
- Topographical maps
- Quality of village land, including water sources
- Detailed records of their inhabitants
- Names of those involved in resisting the British and Zionist



# JNF and the Nakba

The JNF played a large role in the Nakba ('catastrophe'), which was the process of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their land by Zionist militias and the State of Israel between 1947-1949

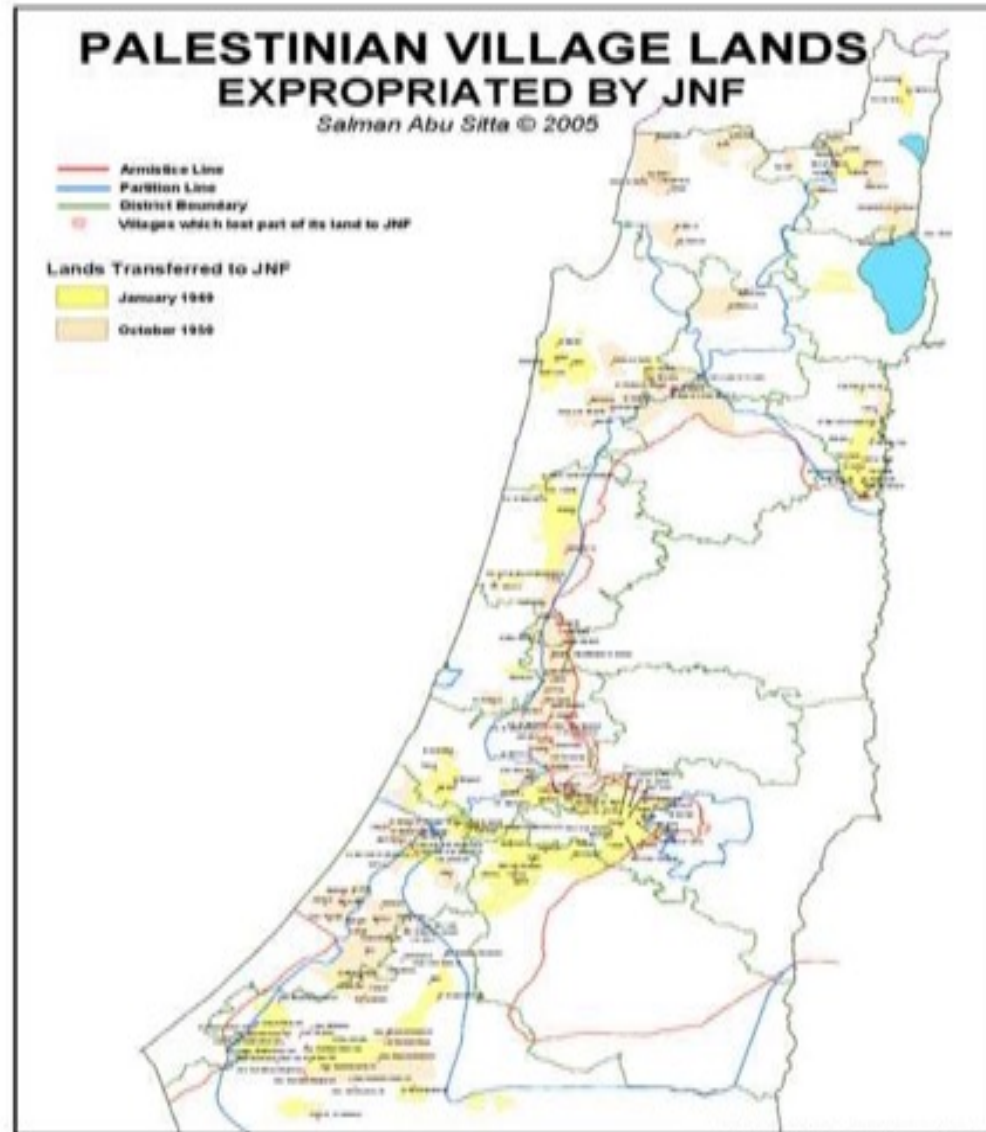
The 'village files' drawn up by JNF, were primary reference for Zionist forces executing depopulation and destruction of Palestinian communities



# After the Nakba

- 1949 and 1950 acquisitions of ‘abandoned’ or absentees’ land.
- The Palestinians who owned the land and are now refugees or Internally Displaced People, have never been paid for the land which was taken from them.
- By 1956 the JNF had increased its share of land from 3.5% to 13% of the land of what is now Israel.
- 72% of JNF land was acquired after May 1948, these acquisitions were illegal under Geneva Convention.
- The JNF’s role in the illegal expropriation of this land and its redevelopment makes the JNF complicit in the denial of the Palestinian refugees Right of Return.
- In 1950 the JNF-KKL drained Lake Hula in the interests of agricultural development. Once rich with diverse animal and plant life, today the area is a barren desert

# Land acquired in 1949 and 1950



## Fact: Land Administration (ILA)

- The ILA is responsible for administering the 93% of Israeli land owned by the state (80%) and the JNF (13%).
- The ILA was established in 1960 to be run by a council of 22 members of which, from the start, the JNF was granted 10 seats.
- As part of the ILA, the JNF can represent Israel in international proceedings having to do with land.
- JNF have influential role within the structure of the Israeli state. However, they are legally independent from the state.

*“Entrusting the Jewish peoples’ land to the JNF frees the State of Israel, even though it is the state of the Jewish people, from having to deal with this [of discriminating against Palestinians] issue and in so doing violate the principle of equality.” ~Tom Segev*



# Canada Park

As part of the process of occupying the West Bank, 3 Palestinian villages, Imwas, Yalu and Beit Nuba. They were demolished and those living there forcibly removed. Established in 1973 with funds from JNF-Canada, Canada Park is planted on the ruins of these villages to cover up the land theft and displacement.



# Imwas, 1958



# Imwas, during the destruction, 1967



# Imwas, 1968



# Imwas, 1988



# the on-going history of destruction and displacement

- Plants non-indigenous trees that destroy native plants and habitat
- Plant trees that are not suited for environment and cause deadly and destructive forest fires
- Destroy natural environments for the purposes of developing Israeli agricultural projects and settlements
- As part of this on-going destruction, the JNF has...
  - Planted over 250 million non-indigenous trees
  - “Developed” over 250,000 acres for settlement
  - Planted over 1000 “parks”
  - Created 180 dams and reservoirs



# JNF today

- Branded as an environmental charity.
- Focuses on planting trees, developing land for settlement and creating parks.
- Enjoys charitable status in over 50 countries.
- Support from high profile individuals.



## Blueprint Negev

- Heavily supported by the JNF USA.
- Systematic discrimination against the indigenous Bedouin community.
- Al-Araqib has been demolished more than 20 times over the past several years.
- The JNF has been involved in Jewish settlement of



since 1939:



# Ethnic cleansing and environmental destruction are not a charitable activities

- Participation in the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and the destruction of a way of life
- Benefit from land and water theft
- Building settlements on Palestinian land and property
- Planting trees and parks over destroyed villages and agricultural land
  - Independence Park/JFK Memorial
  - British Park
  - Jordan Valley Meeting Point
  - Canada Park
- Destroying the natural habitat
- Discriminatory land administration



# JNF in the United States

- Raises over \$50 million per a year to support JNF activities in Palestine
- Receives tax exemption for its activities in all 50 states
- US Projects:

Pedu'el Park

Gane Perat Park in the illegal colony of Nofe Perat in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Cedars Valley 9/11 Memorial (Jerusalem) which links New York with Jerusalem

Ilanot Forestry Center

Yuvalim Scenic Path in the Galilee

"Avi" Picnic Area, Biriya Forest in the Galilee

Contribution to scenic lookout at Misgav Am

Leisure corner at Neshar Park

American Independence Park

Contribution to Ammunition Hill

J.F. Kennedy Memorial



# Stop the JNF Campaign

- The Stop the JNF Campaign is part of the Palestinian National Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.
- Despite its complicity in war crimes and crimes against humanity, the JNF and its affiliate organizations enjoy charitable status in over 50 countries as an environmental charity.
  - The Stop the JNF Campaign urges global civil society to join us in a campaign to challenge the JNF by...



**Stop the JNF Campaign**  
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- **exposing and documenting** the role of the JNF in the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestine;
- **protesting and disrupting** the JNF's fundraising activities across the globe;
- **opposing and acting** to nullify the JNF's charitable and tax exempt status in Europe, the Americas, Oceania and Asia, and Africa;
- **condemning** the activities of the JNF through popular tribunals and truth commissions;
- **supporting** Palestinian and Israeli organizations resisting the forced displacement of Palestinians in the Naqab and Galilee; &
- **urging** those organizations collaborating with the JNF, and especially those with environmental and anti-racist mandates, to break ties with the JNF.

# What you can do

- Join the Stop the JNF Campaign
- Send a postcard to the IRS to demand the removal of the charity status of the JNF
- Take direct action to disrupt JNF events and fundraisers
- Prevent the JNF from participating in environmental sustainability conference and events
- Educate others about the JNF
- Start a Stop the JNF study group



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