BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT & SANCTIONS
for
PALESTINIAN WATER JUSTICE

**LIFESOURCE** is a Palestinian-led collective organizing to build a popular movement for Palestinian water justice. LifeSource has been active in Palestine the last three years working with communities on the ground to understand their options and taking action to resist Israel’s colonization of Palestinian water resources.

www.LifeSource.ps

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**International Law & Water Rights**

The Hague Regulations – *Article 43*: an occupying power must restore and respect existing law in the occupied territory.

The Hague Regulations – *Article 55*: prohibits use of resources within occupied territory for the benefit of occupier’s citizens.

The Fourth Geneva Convention – *Article 55*: occupying power must supply the needs of the occupied civilian population.

The International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment #15: “The human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic uses.”

State parties have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill this right without discrimination. “Obligations to respect require that State parties refrain from interfering directly or indirectly with the enjoyment of a right.”

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**Israeli Violations**

Military Orders of 1967-1968\(^1\) brought new mechanism to govern water resources in the West Bank and Gaza. The Oslo Accord of 1995 only served to reinforce Israeli veto for the years 1995-2000, and Israeli veto is still enforced today\(^2\).

Israel’s national water company, Mekorot, has drilled over 40 wells in the West Bank for the benefit of illegal Israeli settlers. From within the Green Line Israel is taking 80% more than its share of transboundary water resources agreed upon under Oslo\(^3\).

While supplying adequate quantities of water to illegal settlers, Mekorot supplies insufficient quantities of water to Palestinian villages. Israel blocks construction of water infrastructure projects which would benefit Palestinians, and allows the Israeli army and Israeli settlers to destroy Palestinian water infrastructure, including even rainwater harvesting cisterns\(^4\).

In 61% of the West Bank Israel deems illegal and demolishes all Palestinian infrastructure development, including schools, clinics, homes – and water and sanitation infrastructure\(^5\).

Due to the siege on the Gaza Strip, Gazans must rely on the underground tunnels with Egypt in order to rebuild water infrastructure that was destroyed during Operation Cast Lead. Even spare parts and electricity/fuel needed for the day-to-day functioning of undamaged infrastructure cannot enter the Strip. Water in Gaza is severely contaminated\(^6\).

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\(^3\) World Bank Report, April 2009.


Israeli Policies and Practice Violate Palestinian Rights to Water

Palestinian per capita consumption of water is below the World Health Organization’s recommended 100-150 liters per day, while Israeli per capita consumption is 280 liters per day. Some communities in parts of the West Bank consume as little as 20 liters per person per day due to Israeli restrictions on Palestinian infrastructure development and Israeli imposed quotas on water abstraction. 60,000 Palestinians living in the West Bank are not connected to a water distribution network and must purchase water by tanker, which carries increased risk of water-borne disease and costs up to 12 times as much as water from the network. Israel asserts complete control over water resources in the West Bank. Israel has blocked the development even of wastewater treatment plants in the West Bank, causing pollution of the ground water. Many wells in Gaza were destroyed during Operation Cast Lead and a number of wastewater treatment plants in Gaza were damaged. The ongoing siege of the Gaza Strip prevents the import of spare parts, PVC, cement and steel needed for day-to-day maintenance of water and sanitation systems, let alone to rebuild or to develop the sector. The siege also prevents the import of sufficient quantities of fuel for pumping water and sewage.

LifeSource Call for Boycott

LifeSource calls on all individuals, organizations, institutions and companies who value the human right to water – as protected by international human rights and humanitarian law treaties ratified by Israel – to join the international movement for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) of Israel until Israel complies with international law upholding the human right to water, ends the Israeli occupation and Israeli colonization of Palestinian territory, and demonstrates a respect for Palestinian sovereignty over Palestinian land and Palestinian water resources.

LifeSource echoes the 2005 Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions of Israel. BDS is a non-violent and effective means to pressure a government to comply with international law.

What can we boycott?

Israeli water bottling companies - like Ein Gedi and Eden Springs - profit from Israel’s colonization of Palestinian water resources. These companies profit while Palestinians are denied sufficient water through the distribution systems and must purchase tankered or bottled water.

BOYCOTT ISRAELI BOTTLED WATER

Israel has large agricultural settlements in the Jordan Valley, which use 40 MCM of water annually, while 2.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank are limited to 152 MCM annually, including water that they purchase from Israel. Israel prevents all Palestinian development in 90% of the Jordan Valley, including water and sanitation infrastructure. The Jordan Valley is a closed military zone for the Palestinians still living there, while settlers and Carmel refrigerated trucks roam freely.

BOYCOTT ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Palestinians must purchase 52% of their domestic water supply from Mekorot, the Israeli national water company. As deep Israeli-controlled wells dry up Palestinian water resources, Palestinians are prevented by Israel from rehabilitating water resources and drilling new sources, and Israel’s Wall illegally cutting through Palestinian land isolates Palestinian wells and springs from their communities.

DIVEST FROM COMPANIES AND PRESSURE STATE UTILITIES THAT HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH MEKOROT INCLUDING SIEMENS, KINROT, LOS ANGELES AND THE PORTUGUESE WATER UTILITY EPAL

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