



July 14, 2016

VIA HAND DELIVERY: AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL

Yehuda Yaakov  
Consul General of Israel to New England  
20 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Yaakov,

We are writing in alarm about the recent actions of Mekorot, the Israeli National Water Company. As reported in the Israeli press, Mekorot drastically reduced the access of thousands of people in the Occupied West Bank to water in early June. With daytime temperatures regularly exceeding 100°F while Muslims fasted during the month of Ramadan, the cuts have been particularly cruel.

By the morning of June 4th, for just one example, the main water reservoir in Salfit (with a capacity of 1,500 cubic meters) was empty and the water remained turned off for 24 hours. Since then, Salfit has received less than 40 percent of its normal water allowance. Although Salfit is built on an abundant underground supply, its residents are denied access to their own water. Salfit's water is piped to Jewish settlements and into Israel and often sold back to West Bank Palestinians at inflated prices.

Water shortages and cuts have been reported in Palestinian towns and villages throughout the northern Jenin and Nablus districts. Animals and plants are dying. The health and lives of human beings, particularly the young, frail, and elderly, are at risk.

After first denying any problem, the Israeli government blamed a "burst water pipe," or the Palestinian Authority, and then claimed it was a naturally occurring shortage, suffered equally by Palestinian villages and Israeli settlers. These were all blatant lies.

As the occupying power, Israel is obligated under international humanitarian law to ensure the dignity and well-being of the population living under its control. Israel is not only failing to provide for all basic human needs but is also using water as a weapon to dominate Palestinians. We call on the Israeli government to restore full water access –

at least to the 100 liter per capita minimum daily allowance mandated by the World Health Organization of the United Nations.

Copies of this letter will be widely distributed and delivered to our elected officials in Massachusetts. No “partnership” between Massachusetts and the Israeli state can be justified while Palestinian residents endure such deprivations. We affirm our rights under the U.S. and Massachusetts Constitutions to continue to advocate for boycott, divestment and sanctions against practices that violate the basic rights of our fellow human beings as recognized under international humanitarian law.

Written and delivered by:

The Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine

Endorsed by:

Western Massachusetts Coalition for Palestine

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East - MA Chapter

Massachusetts Peace Action

Jewish Women for Justice in Israel/Palestine

Jewish Voice for Peace/Boston

Greater Boston United for Justice with Peace

Grassroots International

Friends of Sabeel/New England

First Church Congregational in Cambridge’s Task Force on Israel Palestine

Dorchester People for Peace

Code Pink Boston

Cambridge Bethlehem People to People Project

Boston University Students for Justice in Palestine

Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights

Boston College Students for Justice in Palestine

Boston Climate Action Network

cc:

Governor Charles Baker

Attorney General Maura Healey

All Members of Massachusetts Legislature