



Israel uses Water as a Weapon against Palestinians

Water—The impact of Israel's illegal settlements on Palestinian communities

- Israel diverts water in the West Bank from Palestinian communities to its illegal settlements.
- The 650,000 Israelis living in settlements are allotted six times more water than the three million Palestinians living in the West Bank.
- Israeli settlements consume as much as 700 litres/person/day of water—while Israel restricts some Palestinian communities to 10–20 liters/person/day—far below the World Health Organization's recommendation of a minimum 100 litres/person/day.
- In the summer, Israel routinely cuts the water supply to Palestinians by as much as 50% to meet settlers' consumption needs.
- Nearly 200,000 Palestinians in the West Bank do not have access to running water, but illegal settlers have enough piped water for personal use, swimming pools, spas, farms, and orchards.
- Israel's control of more than 80% of the water in the West Bank, its illegal settlements, Separation Wall, and military zones have deprived the Palestinian economy of nearly 65% of the most fertile and best grazing land.
- At most, 35% of irrigable Palestinian land is allowed to be irrigated, costing the Palestinian economy more than 100,000 jobs per year.
- No Israeli settlement in the West Bank has a sewerage system. Their wastewater and sewage is released into Palestinian water sources and land. 80% of the garbage generated by Israeli settlements is dumped on Palestinian land.
- Nearly half of Palestinian children in rural areas now suffer from diarrhea (the biggest killer of children under 5 years old in the world) because of sewage and poor water quality.

See the Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine, waterjusticeinpalestine.org, for citations.