

# UPROOT the *JEWISH NATIONAL FUND*

## Refuse to 'Greenwash' Racism



www.stopthejnf.org  
www.bdssouthafrica.com

## The Campaign so far...

- **"StopTheJNF" is an international campaign** aimed at ending the role of the Jewish National Fund (JNF) in the:
  - > on-going displacement of indigenous Palestinians from their land
  - > theft of their property
  - > funding of historic and present day colonies, and
  - > destruction of the natural environment.
- **The JNF has been consistently condemned by anti-Zionist Jews, progressive Israelis** (including Professors Ilan Pappé and Uri Davis) and other justice-loving peoples.
- In 2010 the **JNF tried to associate itself with Greenpeace. This backfired.** Greenpeace (South Africa) responded saying that the claims: *"misrepresents any linkages between ... Greenpeace, as there is no formal linkage between the organisations."*
- **Human Rights workers in the United States (US) have launched an application with the US Internal Revenue Services** to immediately investigate and revoke the JNF's charity status. They contest: *"the JNF funds activities that are both contrary to the public policy of the United States and inconsistent with activities of a charitable or environmental organization."*
- Earlier this year, **Friends of the Earth (FoE) in Scotland fully endorsed the StopTheJNF campaign.**
- In February, the **legendary folksinger, Pete Seeger, publicly distanced himself from the JNF.**
- A few months ago the **British Prime Minister, David Cameron, withdrew his patron status from the JNF.**
- Last month the **Scottish Green Party rejected the JNF's claims of being a "green" organization.**
- Two weeks ago **Canadian students protested the JNF at Carleton University.**

[\[www.youtube.com/watch?v=brTjyDUTnA\]](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brTjyDUTnA)  
[\[www.stopthejnf.org/unitedstates\\_takeaction\\_irsletter.html\]](http://www.stopthejnf.org/unitedstates_takeaction_irsletter.html)  
[\[www.stopthejnf.org/\]](http://www.stopthejnf.org/)  
[\[www.stopthejnf.org/about.html\]](http://www.stopthejnf.org/about.html)  
[\[www.stopthejnf.org/greatbritain\\_campaignnews\\_friendsoftheearth28may2011.html\]](http://www.stopthejnf.org/greatbritain_campaignnews_friendsoftheearth28may2011.html)  
[\[http://icahdusa.org/2011/02/folk-music-legend-pete-seeger-endorses-boycott-of-israel/\]](http://icahdusa.org/2011/02/folk-music-legend-pete-seeger-endorses-boycott-of-israel/)  
[\[www.stopthejnf.org/greatbritain\\_campaignnews\\_pressrelease27may2011.html\]](http://www.stopthejnf.org/greatbritain_campaignnews_pressrelease27may2011.html)  
[\[www.stopthejnf.org/greatbritain\\_campaignnews\\_scottishgreenparty31oct2011.html\]](http://www.stopthejnf.org/greatbritain_campaignnews_scottishgreenparty31oct2011.html)

### What is the Jewish National Fund?

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) was established by the world Zionist Federation in 1901 with the specific aim of acquiring land in Palestine 'in perpetuity' and for the "exclusive" use of 'persons of Jewish faith, race or ancestry' only.

The JNF has exercised that function by driving Palestinians from their homes and playing a direct role in the depopulation of Palestine.

### The Jewish National Fund (JNF)

- an openly racist organization and unashamed supporter of the Israeli regime

- The SA branch of the **JNF has initiated an unashamed declaration of support for Zionism and Apartheid Israel**, they state : *"We are proud Zionists, proud of the miraculous and outstanding achievements of the State of Israel". Zionism is widely considered by progressive social-justice groups as a form of racism.*
- On its website, **the SA branch of the JNF, considers its "Zionist education work" as "highly important".**
- The JNF was the "initial fundraising arm of the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF)" and continues to work with the SAZF and the Israeli embassy in Pretoria. At a recent JNF and Israeli embassy co-hosted benefit dinner held in Sandton, the Mail&Guardian newspaper exposed that the event's invitation was open about **its purpose to: "ameliorat[e] the perception of Israel portrayed by our media."**
- The **Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu recently stated in a personal address to JNF leaders:** *"I would like to thank all of you for all you have done for the State, for all you are doing at present, and for all you will be doing in the future for Israel's benefit."*
- JNF World Chairman, Efi Stenzler, thanked the Israeli Prime Minister for his words: *"The JNF representatives seated here are devoted Zionists. The purpose of the JNF is that they all get together and think about how to continue contributing towards the future of the State of Israel."*
- The **JNF has never distanced itself from the practices of the State of Israel** (including Israel's practices of war crimes and crimes against humanity). On the contrary, it has been a supporter of the Israeli regime's policies and practices.

**It is clear, that the main intention of the JNF is to further the agenda of the State of Israel –  
The JNF it is NOT an environmental-justice organization.**

## JNF Builds Parks over Demolished Palestinian Homes

- During the two decades following the depopulation and destruction of more than four hundred Palestinian villages in 1948, a number of **huge European-style pine forests were planted and recreational parks were established by the JNF. These JNF forests have been strategically planted above destroyed Palestinian villages**, a process of 'demolition followed by dense forestation'.

- Many of the JNF forests have been (re)named after donors. In this way, **the very core of JNF activities contribute to what the Israeli academic, Ilan Pappé has termed, 'memoricide'** - the active or attempted erasure of the living connection between Palestinian social memory and the material traces from which social memory is formed in places, landscapes, towns and villages.

- For Example, **Canada Park, a project of the JNF, has been built on top of three Israeli-destroyed villages in the Occupied Palestinian Territories** – Beit Nuba, Imwas and Yalu. The villages were occupied, bulldozed and demolished by Israel in 1967.

[Issa, 2003]  
[Pappé, 2007]  
[<http://palsolidarity.org/2011/02/palestinian-refugees-supporters-protest-canada-park>]

## **JNF's Complicity in Human Rights Abuses**

- Israeli author, Uri Davis, in the well-known book "Apartheid Israel" (Zed Books, London, 1987) notes: **"the JNF is one of the most significant enabling institutions for Israel's segregation policies.** Today, the JNF controls vast properties belonging to millions of Palestinians, developing them exclusively for persons of "Jewish nationality," a concept established and promoted in the JNF's charter to exclude all others."

- In 1953, **the Israeli parliament legislated special status to the JNF enabling it to carry out governmental functions as a Zionist institution** (and for Jews only).

- The **JNF directly controls 13% of all Israeli Land**, (approximately 78% of its current holdings, which were acquired in 1949 and 1953, belong to Palestinian refugees).

- Further, the **JNF appoints six out of thirteen members of the governing board of the Israel Lands Authority (ILA)**, which controls 80 percent of all land in Israel. It is through this relationship with the JNF that the **Israeli state outsources its land-management functions to this discriminatory state-chartered organization.**

- **The JNF's policies prohibit Palestinian citizens of Israel from leasing or buying land** from the JNF. This discriminatory policy contributes to the institutionalisation of racially segregated towns and villages throughout the state and ensures Israel's apartheid policies.

[Davis, 1987]  
[[www.stopthejnf.org/callforaction.html](http://www.stopthejnf.org/callforaction.html)]

## **Displacement of Bedouins**

The South African website for the Jewish National Fund's (JNF) 'Project Negev' claims that:

"Israel's constantly growing population ... is running out of space, and the Negev is a massive land reserve waiting to be developed...Grasp the economic, demographic and geographic realities of Israel, and you will understand the immediate need to develop the Negev. ... JNF South Africa are making a difference by assisting young pioneers to establish farmsteads...Most of the sites have been chosen for their scenic location and in many cases have been built on previously disturbed sites."

- The **presentation of 'Project Negev' on the website of JNF South Africa is stunning in its repetition of the generic colonial doctrine of terra nullius (empty land)**, and its rhetorical renaming of colonial pillage as the 'development' of land by 'young pioneers'. Unmentioned and unacknowledged by the JNF in this scenario is the forced removal of Bedouin communities and their villages that such colonisation and settlement entails.

- **The Bedouin village of Al-Araqib has been demolished over 19 times. The village's destruction was commissioned by the JNF and the Israeli Land Authority**

- A few hundred meters from al-Araqib sit half-dozen bulldozers surrounded by razor wire and heavily guarded by Israeli police officers and soldiers. **A sign hangs on a shed inside the permanent bulldozer encampment: "Works being carried out by Keren Kayemeth Leisrael –Jewish National Fund."**

- **The JNF aims to plant a forest over the village of al-Araqib.** This forest would **involve forcibly displacing the 300 Indigenous Bedouin residents** of al-Araqib.

- The expulsion and demolition of Al-Araqib, by the JNF, **is documented in a recent report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay.**

- **The JNF and ILA's active involvement in the destruction of Bedouin villages in the Negev area and the maintenance of discriminatory land and planning policies** perpetuates poor living conditions. It **forces Bedouin people to live in informal shanty towns or unrecognized villages** without access to proper services and which may also be demolished by the Israeli authorities.

- The Israeli state, through bodies such as **the JNF and ILA have consistently made it difficult for the Palestinian Bedouin population**, who make up approximately 12% of the Palestinian population in the country, to live and build homes in the Negev. Persistent harassment from the Israeli authorities and discriminatory land and planning policies have made it impossible for Bedouins to build where they live or continue the longevity of their villages in the Negev which have existed prior to the establishment of the state of Israel.

[[www.dominionpaper.ca/articles/3951](http://www.dominionpaper.ca/articles/3951)]  
[[www.pacbi.org/pics/file/The%20UJ-BGU%20Report%20\(15%20March%202011\).pdf](http://www.pacbi.org/pics/file/The%20UJ-BGU%20Report%20(15%20March%202011).pdf)]

*"As is starkly clear, the JNF is an organisation with explicitly racist aims of conquest.*

*We call upon all those committed to environmental justice to cease and refrain from working with the Jewish National Fund".*

**Palestinian Environmental NGO Network / Friends of the Earth (FoE) Palestine**

