Bankrolling Colonialism

How US Zionist organizations in the Jordan Valley are undermining a future Palestinian state.
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“I don’t know how many people, including in the U.S. government, realize the extent of private American funding to settlements. . . . Every dollar that goes to settlements makes Middle East peace that much harder to reach”

Ori Nir, Spokesperson for Americans for Peace Now.
Abbreviations

AFNCI – American Friends of New Communities in Israel

CFOIC – Christian Friends of Israeli Communities

ICCPR – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

IOF – Israeli Occupation Forces, the occupying forces which control the West Bank

JNF – Jewish National Fund

OIF – One Israel Fund

PNA – Palestinian National Authority

UNSC – United Nations Security Council

WZO – World Zionist Organization

YESHA – Hebrew acronym for Judea, Samaria [the West Bank] and Gaza - the areas occupied by Israel since 1967. The YESHA Council is a political group in Israel which supports settlements.
**Glossary of terms**

**1967** – The second Arab-Israeli war that took place from June 5th to June 10th. It is also known as the six-day war. The Arabs were defeated and as a result of this war Israel began occupying the Gaza strip, the Sinai Peninsula, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Following the 1978 Camp David Accords, Israel handed back to Egypt the Sinai Peninsula and unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005 although it still maintains control of its borders, sea and airspace.

**Dunum** – Measure of land – 1 dunum equals 1000m².

**The Green Line** – The term used to describe the 1949 Armistice Agreements between Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. The proposed Palestinian state will be made up of the territory that is currently occupied by Israel beyond the Green Line, i.e. the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

**Judea and Samaria** – The term used by Israel and Zionist organizations to refer to the West Bank. Judea is the area south of Jerusalem and Samaria the area to the north. The terms come from the biblical names for this area.

**Nahal** – A Hebrew acronym for Pioneering Fighting Youth, an IOF infantry brigade. Their duties include creating military outposts in the West Bank. Between 1967 and 1977, the Nahal brigade established 21 outposts some of which were soon turned into civilian settlements in the Jordan Valley and its western slope.

**Kibbutz** – An agricultural community based on socialist and Zionist principles. They played a key role in the creation of the state of Israel for ideological reasons but also economic and security reasons. They were often placed at the borders of what would become the state of Israel. In the Jordan Valley, kibbutzim have been placed there to play the same role, providing security against the threat of invading armies and an economic role in that they have extensive agricultural output. There are 2 kibbutzim in the Jordan Valley under the jurisdiction of Bik’at HaYarden Regional Council.

**Moshav** – A communal farm similar to a Kibbutz, however, individuals own same-sized plots of land rather than collectively owning the entire area. There are 15 moshavim in the Jordan Valley under the jurisdiction of Bik’at HaYarden Regional Council.

**Settlement** – A residential community built on land occupied by Israel after the 6-day war in 1967. They include houses built for Israeli Jews in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan heights. They are illegal under international law.
Introduction

The Jordan Valley holds economic and political importance for both Israel and Palestine. It was under Jordanian control until it was captured by Israel during the 1967 6-Day War and has been illegally occupied ever since. The area holds strategic importance for Israel as it is perceived to serve as a ‘buffer zone’ from neighboring ‘enemy’ Arab countries. It also has economic importance due to the number of farms located in the area and its proximity to the Dead Sea which provides important tourism revenue. For Palestinians it is an essential and indivisible part of an economically, socially, geographically and politically viable Palestinian state.

Israeli settlers in the Jordan Valley, of which there are approximately 9,358 (according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics¹), live in violation of international law, but enjoy a multitude of benefits and heavily subsidized services from the Israeli government, in part to encourage increased settlement there, but also to develop and cultivate the area for Israel. Settlers throughout the West Bank, but particularly in the Jordan Valley, receive support from American Zionist Organizations in the form of so-called humanitarian projects including development and security programs. These projects contribute to settlers’ permanency, sense of belonging in the Jordan Valley and consolidate their ‘ownership’ of the land through international political support. In addition, they cement Israel’s ownership of the area and block any chance of returning the land to the Palestinians.

While Israeli settlers living in the Jordan Valley are supported by the Israeli government and wealthy Zionist organizations that fund every aspect of their lives, Palestinians in the Jordan Valley live in poverty without access to running water, proper sanitation facilities, electricity shortages, in constant fear of house demolitions, have restricted access and movement, limited access to healthcare and education and constraints on maintaining viable agricultural livelihoods due to Israel’s bureaucratic apartheid policies and military brutality.

95% of the Jordan Valley is Area C and thus does not come under the governance of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) but under Israeli civil and military control. The PNA is prevented from providing services to the Palestinian population there and are in effect captive to both the failure of The Oslo Accords and the restrictive Israeli measures and policies in the area that are encouraging the inhabitants to flee the area.

This factsheet focuses on American Zionist organizations that support settlements in the Jordan Valley. More precisely, it examines how these organizations normalize and legitimize illegal settlement activity through improving living conditions for settlers and promoting the settler and Zionist cause in the international sphere. These organizations use a variety of strategies and language to convey a righteous and moral image of settlers and settlements throughout the West Bank, but especially those in the Jordan Valley, through emphasizing their vulnerability and precariousness. In supporting and funding infrastructure, security, agriculture and welfare projects and promoting migration to the Jordan Valley and through its choice of rhetoric, these organizations create facts on the ground and help to recreate the Jordan Valley as an indivisible part of Israel thus blocking any claims Palestine has to the area.
Facts

The Jordan Valley is 120km long from the Green Line in the north to the northern edge of the Dead Sea in the south and 15 kilometers wide.² It comprises an area of about 2400 square meters or 28.5% of the West Bank.

The Palestinian population of the Jordan Valley is 58,000 approximately 2% of the Palestinian population in the West Bank. 70% of Jordan Valley residents live in the city of Jericho.³

Prior to the 1967 occupation the population was estimated at between 300,000 and 320,000.⁴

Approximately 40% of the population is made up of semi-nomadic Bedouin and herder communities who have traditionally grazed their animals across the Jordan Valley.⁵

There are 20 permanent Palestinian communities in the Jordan Valley, not including Bedouin communities.⁶

The Israeli settler population in the Jordan Valley is 9,358 who live in around 30 officially populated Israeli settlements. There are also various Nahal outposts some of which have unofficial and illegal (according to Israeli and international law) settler populations.⁷

Only 135km² or 5.62% of the Jordan Valley is under Palestinian Control while the remaining 2265km² or 94.37% of the land is controlled by Israel. 50% of the land is used for settlements and 44.37% is used for Israeli military purposes.⁸

27,000 dunums of land in the Jordan Valley is cultivated by Israeli settlers.⁹

American Zionist organizations in the Jordan Valley fund infrastructure, tourism, psychosocial projects, recreation grounds, water reservoirs and security services.

The Jordan Valley has some of the highest unemployment rates in the West Bank. The most recent statistics for the 2 main governorates comprising the Jordan Valley, Tubas and Jericho & Al Aghwar (the Jordan Valley) have unemployment rates of 17% and 10% respectively.¹⁰ In addition, in 2009, 18% of Jericho district residents and 33% of Tubas district residents were vulnerable to food insecurity, living in fear of hunger and starvation.¹¹

The poverty rate in the Jordan Valley for Palestinians is above 60%.¹²

Every Jordan Valley settler family is given a free house, a US$20,000 long-term loan, 70 dunums of land, free healthcare, a 75% discount on electricity, utilities and transportation, and an unlimited water supply.¹³

Settlement factories and farms in the Jordan Valley also receive huge amounts of government assistance. For example factories in crisis receive aid, grants are given for industrial research and development, grants and tax benefits are given to agriculture, and aid is given for rural settlement.¹⁴
30% of settlers in the Jordan Valley are economically engaged in agriculture and a further 30% in related services such as packing, refrigeration, transportation and administration.\textsuperscript{15}

The unemployment rate in Israeli West Bank settlements is 6.5%, which is lower than the average rate in Israel, which stands at 7.3%. The average income for West Bank settlers is also 10% higher than the average Israeli income. These rates are evidence of the benefits the government gives and the assistance they receive from Zionist organizations.\textsuperscript{16}

Between January 2000 and September 2007 Israel issued 91 construction permits to Palestinians in Area C, which amounts to just 6% of all applications. During the same period, 18,472 houses were built for settlers in the Jordan Valley. 4993 demolition orders were issued on Palestinian buildings of which 1663 demolitions were actually carried out. Along with East Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley is where most house demolitions are taking place.\textsuperscript{17}

\textit{Land classification and control in the Jordan Valley}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Area (total = 2,400 km\textsuperscript{2})</th>
<th>% of total Jordan Valley Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Palestinian Civil and Security Control</td>
<td>Jericho, Al-Uja</td>
<td>85 km\textsuperscript{2}</td>
<td>3.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Palestinian Civil and Israeli Security Control</td>
<td>Ein al-Beida, Bardala, Fasayel, Marj Na’jeh, Zubeidat, Nassareyyeh</td>
<td>50 km\textsuperscript{2}</td>
<td>2.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Settlement Regional Council Control</td>
<td>36 settlements</td>
<td>1200 km\textsuperscript{2}</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closed zones</td>
<td>Border line, military bases, natural reserves</td>
<td>1065 km\textsuperscript{2}</td>
<td>44.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area under Palestinian control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>135 km\textsuperscript{2}</td>
<td>5.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area under Israeli control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2265 km\textsuperscript{2}</td>
<td>94.37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey land refers to land whose ownership is, according to the Israelis, disputed, for example where a Palestinian’s title to the land is in dispute. Under Israeli law, such land cannot be developed, though Israeli settler construction is permitted. Private Palestinian land in this graph constitutes land that was registered up to 1968 or cultivated land that is recognized as private land according to Ottoman law. State land constitutes that land which was either unregistered by 1968 or has been seized by Israel because it has not been cultivated for 3 consecutive years.18

Source: Peace Now, 2006 ‘Breaking the Law in the West Bank – One Violation Leads to Another: Israeli Settlement Building on Private Palestinian Property’.
The Jordan Valley, located in the eastern strip of the Jordan Valley to the west of the River Jordan, at 2400 km² comprises 28.5% of the West Bank. It is 120km in length, stretching from the banks of the Dead Sea in the south, to the Green Line border at Bisan.

The territory is important for a number of reasons: it has agricultural wealth due to the fertile soil, a warm climate and large number of water resources all of which can contribute to large and varied harvests; is important for tourism due to its proximity to the Dead Sea as well as being the location for many historical and cultural sites; and has strategic importance being positioned on the border with Jordan.

For Palestinians, the Jordan Valley has more than strategic and agricultural importance; it will play a vital part in creating a viable Palestinian state. In an independent Palestine it will provide access, both for its people and for trade, to Jordan, the wider Arab region and the rest of the world. In fact the border with Jordan would provide the only foreseeable entrance and exit to an independent Palestinian state. The Jordan Valley is home to 58,000 Palestinians who are inextricably part of Palestine. Communication and access to the area for all Palestinians is essential in order to maintain a cohesive state. Logistically, the Jordan Valley will be essential for absorbing and resettling Palestinian refugees and coping with natural growth of the population because the population density is particularly low in the Jordan Valley, due to previous forced migration of much of the population in 1967 and shortly after and the inability of Palestinians to currently move there. As well as providing fertile agricultural lands, which will be essential to the Palestinian economy, its proximity to the Dead Sea provides important and enormous tourist potential for Palestinians and foreigners.

The Jordan Valley produces high volumes of fruit and vegetables for export abroad. With an area of 33,000 dunums being farmed, agricultural production by settlements in the Jordan Valley is valued at around 500 million NIS (or US$ 135.6 million).
The Dead Sea also provides minerals that are used in cosmetics marketed for their unique properties. These minerals, were Palestinians allowed to sell them as their own, could provide significant revenue highly beneficial to the Palestinian economy. There are many sites of historical and cultural importance in Jericho and the Jordan Valley and its proximity to the Dead Sea makes it the second most popular tourist attraction after Jerusalem.

For Israel, the Jordan Valley has various important features that make it reluctant to relinquish the area and return it to the Palestinians. Primarily, Israel uses the security justification to maintain control and ownership of land. Due to its location on the border with Jordan, the area is perceived to be of vital importance to Israel’s security and existence as it provides a buffer from surrounding states. Secondly, the Jordan Valley gives large tracts of fertile land and easy access to the Jordan River, which provides irrigation for water intensive crops. Israel’s excuses of security and economics mean that they have employed kibbutzim, moshavim and other farms to occupy large expanses of land and provide strategic civilian occupation that have created de facto border and defense. This strategy was also utilized in the early 20th century where farms would be placed along what would become Israel’s borders. The farming of land is also an important feature of Zionism, which has always emphasized a return to the land and cultivation of that land, thereby reinforcing the Jewish attachment and sense of belonging to the land. The fact that the Jordan Valley has been used for extensive and intensive cultivation means that the

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a) The term civilian is used to clarify that the presence of Israeli civilians in the occupied Palestinian Territory that are illegal under international law. However settlers are not strictly civilians because they are armed by the IOF and their settlements serve a military purpose in the oPt.
“During the 1999-2001 final status negotiations, initial Israeli proposals placed the Jordan Valley under various levels of Israeli control, with part of it annexed to Israel and other parts left under Israeli control via long-term lease arrangements, with the understanding that such areas would eventually come under full Palestinian sovereignty. These proposals were rejected by the Palestinians, who view the Jordan Valley as the only land reserve that could be used by a future Palestinian State to absorb large population increases expected from natural growth and refugee absorption. Additionally, Palestinians view control over their own borders as an important attribute of sovereignty.”

Israeli settlers here now have a substantive connection to the land (in addition to their religious claims), strengthening claims to the land and therefore making a future disengagement even more difficult. The large scale, highly profitable agricultural infrastructure that exists in the Jordan Valley also makes Israel reluctant to withdraw. Currently, the Jordan Valley produces high volumes of fruit and vegetables for export abroad. With an area of 33,000 dunums being farmed, agricultural production by settlements in the Jordan Valley is valued at around 500 million NIS (or US$ 135.6 million). Losing this land, therefore, would mean a sizeable dent in Israel’s economy. The Jordan Valley’s strategic position and agricultural benefits make it an area that Israel has been reluctant to give up; Binyamin Netanyahu recently stated explicitly that “Israel will never cede the Jordan Valley” making the likelihood of it being part of a Palestinian state, however essential it may be, even more unlikely.

«They asked me before the election if I’d honor [the Oslo accords]... I said I would, but [that] I’m going to interpret the accords in such a way that would allow me to put an end to this galloping forward to the 1967 borders. How did we do it? Nobody said what defined military zones were. Defined military zones are security zones; as far as I’m concerned, the entire Jordan Valley is a defined military zone. Go argue.»

Settlements in the Jordan Valley:
what are they and where are they?

“It was clear that the Israeli settlements in the territories, and especially in the densely-populated areas, have far-reaching political consequences. These settlements are intended to establish new facts to affect the future political solution. It was clear that establishment of the Israeli civilian settlements is a kind of statement of policy, whose weight is not much less than the Knesset’s decision in 1967 to annex East Jerusalem: this settlement was established on land from which Israel does not intend to withdraw.”


“Everybody has to move; run and grab as many hilltops as they can to enlarge the settlements, because everything we take now will stay ours. Everything we don’t grab will go to them.”


As a result of the 6-day war in June 1967, Israel came to occupy the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Gaza strip, the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula. It continues to occupy and control all these areas, except the Sinai Peninsula, despite this being a direct violation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, UN charter and the Geneva Conventions. Shortly after their capture settlements were built throughout the occupied territory as part of the ‘Alon Plan’, with the Jordan Valley being one of the first locations for Israeli settlement. The Jordan Valley was chosen because it was an easy place to colonize, it was not as densely populated as other areas, it lacked extensive Palestinian agriculture (although small-scale agriculture did exist there) and most of the land was registered as state land under the Jordanian administration. Israel issued military expropriation orders to take land for military use and for ‘state land’. This ‘state land’ was soon handed over for settlement use, using the excuse that settlements were necessary for security thus legitimizing them under international humanitarian law. All settlements built on land captured during the 6-Day War are illegal, but Israel continues to construct new buildings and international Zionist organizations continue to fund them. During the recent 10-month settlement freeze, the Israeli government declared that it would stop settlement expansion and the creation of new ones. However this did not apply to settlement expansion for the purposes of “natural growth” of the local population and settlements in East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley. This policy suggests that Israel sees the future borders of a Palestinian state without East Jerusalem or the Jordan Valley, effectively leaving it as an island surrounded on all sides by Israel.

b) UN Charter Chapter I Article 2 paragraph 4: “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations. In addition, Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention states that an occupying power cannot transfer its own civilian population into the occupying territory.

c) Military outposts are tolerated under international law.” Art 53 of the 4th Geneva Convention states that destruction of property is only permitted when absolutely necessary for military purposes. The 4th Geneva Convention takes occupation as a fact and only provides provision for the protection of persons living under occupation.
1967 “The Israelis had by now annexed de facto, if not formally, large new areas of Arab land, and there were now very many more Arab refugees. It was clear that what Israel or at least many of her leaders, really wanted was permanently to colonize much of this newly annexed Arab territory, particularly the Jordan valley, Jerusalem, and other sensitive areas”

George Brown, British Foreign Secretary, 1967 discussing the wording of the UNSC Resolution 242.

2010 “Israel will never cede the Jordan Valley”

Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

Agricultural settlements, as well as having economic benefits also have the advantage of controlling large tracts of land. According to a B’tselem report on West Bank settlements, those in the Jordan Valley occupy 2-7 times the size of actual built up areas of the settlements. Settlement farms occupy a continuous block on the east side of the Jordan Valley, effectively blocking Palestinians from the Jordan River and the border with Jordan. These farms have been built on confiscated Palestinian land and on land from which Palestinians have been forced out. With little finances or power, the Palestinians of the Jordan Valley have no recourse but to acquiesce to the Israeli authorities and give up their land.

Settlements and military outposts are strategically located to serve a number of functions. They may be placed beside or surrounding Palestinian villages, preventing expansion, threatening the very existence of the village and preventing communication and links to nearby Palestinian villages. They may also be located on hilltops, serving a surveillance function by monitoring Palestinian villages below. In its layout of settlements, Israel has created a continuous tract of Israeli-owned land, resulting in the further division of Palestine by, in effect, creating a barrier out of settlements, cutting Palestinians off from each other, dividing their land and thus reaffirming Israeli control. Consequently, without Israeli withdrawal, expanded Palestinian land ownership and the area’s inclusion in a future contiguous Palestinian state are impossible.

Jordan Valley settlements, like most settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem have been built with the aim of creating permanent facts on the ground. By moving its own population onto occupied land and creating infrastructure such as settler-only roads as well as extensive agriculture, Israel is cementing its ownership of the land. Israel has recreated the Jordan Valley, both physically and in the Israeli public imagination, as Israeli land. It can then use these facts on the ground in future political negotiations, which means that it is unlikely to surrender the land to Palestinians. The fact that the Jordan Valley is an area contiguous to Israel makes claims to land ownership easier to manipulate.
"The civilian presence of Jewish communities is vital for the security of the state... There must not be the slightest doubt regarding our intention to hold the areas of Judea and Samaria for ever... The best and most effective way to remove any shred of doubt regarding our intention to hold Judea and Samaria forever is a rapid settlement drive in these areas."

Matityahu Drobless, 1980

By transferring a large number of people to the Jordan Valley, Israel can maintain control of large tracts of land easily. The state and its military apparatus, and settlers themselves are perceived to be protecting the land from neighboring enemy states. Although Israel cites security as the main reason for the necessity of settlement in the Jordan Valley, settlements do not in fact provide the country with any security. Due to a number of factors such as resource allocation and Israel’s policies of apartheid in the West Bank, settlements have not brought peaceful control to the area; on the contrary settlements actually require extensive military backup and protection. Furthermore, in 1994 Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty ending 46 years of declared state of war which itself lends more evidence that the necessity of settlements for security is negligible. Despite this, American Zionist organizations continue to use the excuse of security as a reason to maintain settlements in the Jordan Valley, citing the necessity of them to secure the entire country.

Although the Jordan Valley has some important religious sites, it does not compare to Jerusalem or Hebron in terms of religious importance for the Jewish people. Nevertheless, settlement by the national-religious section of the Israeli population is increasing. Since 2001 national-religious activists have established 9 new illegal outposts in the Jordan Valley, including 3 surrounding Jericho. National-religious settlers see themselves as pioneers, resettling the land of biblical Israel and fulfilling God’s will. However, in reality their existence is propped up by the Israeli government and by Zionist organizations in the USA fundraising in order to maintain an Israeli hold of the area to ensure that it will forever remain occupied territory.
The story of settlement in the Jordan Valley is the story of pioneering, Zionism, of challenges and of exceptional people, believers who bound their lives to this magnificent enterprise with few examples like it in our history. It is an example of the power of stubbornness and persistence in facing the difficulties of climate, environment, security, of firm hold in the harsh land of the Jordan Valley until reaching results.  

Ehud Barak, former Prime Minister, and current Minister of Defense, Chairman of the Labor Party.

Settlement houses in the Jordan Valley, which are given for free to settlers.

**Restrictions to Access.**

In 2003 Israel drew up plans to build an Eastern separation wall similar to the separation wall that divides the West Bank from Israel. The wall would run the entire length of the Jordan Valley preventing access to Palestinians living in the rest of the West Bank, effectively annexing the area to Israel. Although the plans were abandoned after extensive international condemnation, this has not prevented Israel from placing other restrictions on access to the Jordan Valley. The Israeli occupation forces have put in place 6 checkpoints restricting access into and movement within the Jordan Valley, separating Palestinians from their land, their families and their jobs. Palestinians who are not residents of the Jordan Valley according to their ID cards are not allowed to pass through the military checkpoints in private vehicles; they may only enter on foot or in public transport or must obtain a permit from the Israeli authorities. Drivers of Palestinian vehicles are also only permitted to use side roads. Palestinians who own land in the Jordan Valley but whose ID cards do not show a Jordan Valley residential address, are prevented from reaching their lands. These constraints on access also have serious humanitarian consequence such as preventing service providers and delivery trucks from entering villages, increasing commuting times for teachers and students, preventing access to markets to sell produce, and restricting access to healthcare. These checkpoints and restrictions on movement were first put in place during the second intifada with the excuse that they were temporary security measures to protect Israel but have now become a permanent fixture. In effect, Israel has created a virtual wall around the Jordan Valley in an attempt to create an area without Palestinians, further strengthening Israel’s own claim to the territory. It has created a permanent form of control in the West Bank, constraining daily life and economic development and expansion for Palestinians, increasing protection for settlers at the cost of Palestinians’ security, and facilitating the West Bank’s illegal occupation. These restrictions on access to the Jordan Valley as well the restrictions on land use by Palestinians create separation and apartheid as a fact on the ground. The result of this is that, according to the NGO Peace Now, Israelis who come to the Jordan Valley see it as Israeli land in that all they see are other Israelis, Israeli kibbutzim and moshavim, the IOF, Israeli infrastructure and roads free from Palestinian vehicles. The Jordan Valley has been created in Israeli’s collective conscious as Israel, not Palestine, thus making it increasingly difficult to relinquish.
All movement to and from the section of the Jordan Valley north of Jericho remains tightly controlled by four permanently staffed IDF checkpoints, Tayasir, Hamra, Ma’ale Efrayim and Yitav. With the exception of around 56,000 people who are registered in their IDs as residents of the Jordan Valley (including Jericho), the majority of Palestinians remained prohibited from crossing these checkpoints with their private vehicles, unless they have obtained a special permit. Moreover, those who obtain these permits are required to have the vehicles licensed in their names before being able to drive them through the checkpoints, further constraining the ability to move. [Source: OCHA West Bank Access and Closure Map June 2010]
American Zionist organizations: projects they fund and their effect on Palestine.

“Israel must have secure and defensible borders to ensure its future. The Jordan Valley communities are an essential element in determining the eastern border of the state. We can maintain these communities only if the residents there are encouraged and helped.”
Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

Israel’s hold on the Jordan Valley, its reluctance to give it up and the area’s perceived necessity to the survival of Israel has prompted a surge in financial and political support from Zionist organizations in the United States, the country from where most of Israel’s international political and economic support originates.

American Zionist organizations have existed since the birth of the Zionist political movement. The organizations that sprang out of this movement were founded to advocate for a permanent Jewish state and to promote Aliyah (Hebrew for ascent, or the migration of Jews to Israel). These organizations continue to support Israel through political lobbying and financial support.

Support for settlements in the Jordan Valley comes predominantly from national-religious Zionist organizations who view the occupied territory as an inseparable part of Israel, describing it as having been ‘liberated’ during the 6-Day War. These organizations are not only Jewish; they include Christian Zionist organizations such as Christian Friends of Israeli Communities (CFOIC).

The larger organizations such as the World Zionist Organization, Hadassah and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) are mainly focused on development or political lobbying and solidarity. Hadassah, for example, gives thousands of dollars to medical care and research and even funds a hospital in Jerusalem. AIPAC on the other hand is a pro-Israel lobbying group promoting Israel’s political interests in the United States. These organizations harness the support of the Jewish population in the United States to give donations in support of the Jewish homeland and the pro-Israel policies in government policies and other areas of public life.

d) Zionism is an ideological and political movement for a Jewish homeland and for the return of Jews to this homeland.
American Zionist organizations draw on the Zionist ideas of a global Jewish identity and the importance of a strong and secure Jewish homeland for Jews everywhere in order to gain financial support. They promote themselves to concerned citizens in North America through framing themselves as charitable organizations providing humanitarian support, solidarity, or development to the state of Israel.

In addition to using these images they use four further themes and ideas in order to gain support and funding from US citizens.

1. **Biblical and religious importance of the land** – Zionist organizations claim that the Jewish people have the right to live in the West Bank because it is part of Biblical Israel. By using the Bible to back up the claim that Jews belong in the occupied territory, Palestinians become either the foreigners who do not belong or are rendered invisible and, by ignoring the existence of Palestinians, American Zionist Organizations are implying that the land was empty before settlers came along. Sometimes it is explicitly stated that no Palestinians have been living in the area where settlements now exist making it easier to justify their location.

2. **Vulnerability of Israel** – Zionist organizations emphasize the vulnerability of Israel in terms of its location (surrounded by Arab states) and its history as a victim of terrorist attacks. They claim that the survival and strength of settlements are crucial to the survival of the state of Israel and that if settlements did not exist, Israel would become a weaker more defenseless state. This claim is justified by the proximity of settlements to Palestinian towns or to border areas (i.e. in the Jordan Valley); as a result their presence is perceived to protect Israel from terrorism through their control of these parts of the West Bank. Thus American organizations support settlements through financial contributions in order to help settlers maintain the existence and security of Israel. These organizations conflate settlements with Israel and will often state that their donations are going to projects in Israel when in actual fact they are going to illegal settlements in the West Bank.

3. **Settlers as pioneers** – Settlers are presented as pioneers living on the front line defending Israel and contributing to the *Judaiization* of the West Bank by living in newly colonized places and recreating them as Jewish areas. Therefore they are in need of financial support in order to achieve this task.

4. **Completing the Zionist project** – Zionist organizations utilize the main principles of Zionism and attachment to the land. The land is described as being barren and that the settlers are furthering the Zionist project in ‘making the desert bloom’, at the same time ignoring Palestinian existence.

These themes manipulate and distort the reality in the Jordan Valley. They completely ignore how the land was seized and how Palestinians continue to be treated by the occupying forces. Their websites and other literature attempt to portray these organizations as humanitarian and non-political but in reality these organizations are funding settlement activities considered illegal under Israeli law, US law and international law.

e) Some outposts in the West Bank are illegal under Israeli law as well as international law although the Israeli government does little to halt their development into fully fledged settlements.
Projects funded by American Zionist non-profit organizations:

There is wide variation in the size and mandates of Zionist organizations and the projects they fund. Zionist organizations range from large organizations which promote Israel and gain support from the diaspora, to smaller and sometimes more specialist organizations and organizations which only raise money for settlements.

The following is a list of American Organizations that are known to give support to Jordan Valley settlements:

- **American Friends of New Communities in Israel**
- **Central Fund of Israel**
- **Christian Friends of Israeli Communities**
- **Jewish National Fund**
- **Jordan Valley Development Fund**
- **Hadassah – the Women’s Zionist organization of America**
- **One Israel Fund**
- **Shiloh Israel Children’s Fund, Inc.**
- **Shuva Israel**
- **World Zionist Organization**

The projects funded by these organizations range from providing for needs such as medical equipment and food parcels to educational, recreational and community building projects to security and economic development in settlements.

Among some of the projects are:

**Agricultural/economic support:**
- **Jewish National Fund**
  - A growing number of date palms have been planted along the Jordan Valley road in recent years as part of the Jewish National Fund’s Tirzah reservoir project, which collects 6 million cubic meters of run-off.
- **Christian Friends of Israeli Communities**
  - Olive grove in Maskiyot

**Aliyah/promoting settlement in the Jordan Valley**
- **One Israel Fund**
  - Encourages donations to help re-establish communities for former Gaza settlers in the West Bank.
- **American Friends of New Communities in Israel**
  - Project Maskiyot - relocation of former residents of Gush Katif in Gaza to Maskiyyot in the Jordan Valley.
- Project Bar Amana – project to encourage non Israeli citizens to purchase houses in the West Bank (not only the Jordan Valley)
  World Zionist Organization
- Promoting building of settlements in the West Bank including in the Jordan Valley

**Psycho-social support for victims of terrorism/projects for at risk teens**

One Israel Fund
- Support for Ginat Eden, a rehabilitation farm for girls that is located in the Jordan Valley, close to Mevo’ot Yericho.
  Shiloh Israel Children’s Fund
- Various psychological counseling programs for victims of terrorism in the West Bank including in the Jordan Valley.
  Jordan Valley Development Fund and Christian Friends of Israeli Communities
- Adolescent Treatment Centre for at risk teens – money needed for psychologists.

**Military/security support**

One Israel Fund
- Funding for IOF and security of settlements
  American Friends of New communities in Israel
- The Yesha Council – emergency communications system
  Jordan Valley Development Fund
- Emergency first aid and medical equipment to deal with situations in the Jordan Valley including potential attacks.
  Central Fund of Israel
- Raising money for emergency defense unit including radios, pagers, binoculars and flashlights.

**Education**

Christian Friends of Israeli communities
- A library for Maskiot
- A library for Shadmot Mechola
- Argaman recreation court
- Gilgal – music program
- Hemdat – project for children with special needs
- Ma’ale Ephraim – after school centre
- Yitav Learning Centre

**Water resources:**

Hadassah
- Tirzah Reservoir Jordan Valley
  Jewish National Fund
- Reservoirs throughout the West Bank.

**Other projects:**

Christian Friends of Israeli Communities
- Educational/tourist exhibit about the history importance of Gilit “both from a Biblical standpoint and a security one as well”
- Jordan Valley Community Centre
- Kindergarten playgrounds for Fazael, Hemdat, Massua, Mechora, Naama, Netev Hagedud, Roi, and Yafit.

One Israel Fund also solicits unmarked funds for all Jordan Valley settlements.
Map of the West Bank showing Israeli settlements which receive funding from American Zionist organizations. According to the map, in the Jordan Valley Mehola, Rotem, Maskiyot, Ma-ale Efraim, Gigal and Mitzpe Yericho all receive donations. (Source: The New York Times)
These projects shape the landscape and the future of the Jordan Valley. By funding infrastructure and property, these organizations are helping to create ‘facts on the ground’ which can be used in future negotiations with the PNA to cement Israel’s ownership of the land, eliminating any temporal characteristics from the Israeli occupation. Such investments from Israel and abroad makes it difficult for Palestinians to claim ownership of the land. Furthermore, these projects normalize life in settlements by providing all the services that settlers might need and more, further legitimizing Israel’s legitimate presence in the land. While such investments certainly aim to improve the lives of the settlers, they are purposefully marginalizing Palestinians and delegitimizing Palestinian presence on Palestinian land. Indeed, international support for settlements indirectly opposes international law, which calls on Israel to dismantle the illegal colonies.

In addition, they contribute to the expropriation of Palestinian natural resources; most importantly, water. The agricultural projects, reservoirs and other public works, funded and implemented by these Zionist organizations require vast amounts of water and other resources that mean that they are rerouted from Palestinians, denying them access to their right to water. These organizations are contributing to the breaches of human rights and international law committed by the Israeli government and military.
CFOIC is a Christian Zionist organization that directly funds settlement activity in the Jordan Valley. It was founded in 1995 in the United States in response to the Oslo Accords which would eventually return all of the West Bank land to Palestinians (although the Oslo Accords only called for withdrawal from parts of the West Bank and did not address the issue of settlements). CFOIC considers the West Bank, or Judea and Samaria as it is referred to, the heart of Biblical Israel belonging to Jews and crucial to the survival of Israel. It is firmly against the Oslo Accords because they were to take away a crucial area of land which, according to the Bible was given to the Jews by God.

CFOIC’s aims are to provide support to settlements in the West Bank by linking them with Christian Communities around the world. In reality this means fundraising for various ‘humanitarian’ projects. On its website, CFOIC draws heavily on the bible to justify the right of Jews to live in the West Bank and to justify the area’s annexation to Israel. It rejects the idea of occupation and instead uses the language of liberation of the land and return of the Jews to their rightful place. It barely refers to Palestinians, instead evoking passages from the bible to claim that Jews are the rightful owners of the land and not Palestinians, whom it deems to be a foreign people.

CFOIC creates an image of vulnerability, describing Jewish settlements in the West Bank as defenseless in that Palestinian towns and villages are often surrounding them. However it also refers to settlers as brave pioneers, using the same Zionist rhetoric of the early 20th Century when the first Jewish settlers came to Palestine.

CFOIC invokes the language of the West Bank as barren and empty, a land without a people and so free to be settled by Jews. It states most settlements are located on barren land which has been uninhabited for thousands for years. In doing so, CFOIC emphasizes the settlers’ innocence andropoliticizes settlements by implying that they have no effect on the rights and lives of Palestinians who live around them.

CFOIC also uses language and imagery similar to many other humanitarian NGOs in order to gain donations from the public. It creates an impression of vulnerability, that settlers are in a precarious position, threatened not only by potential terrorist attacks but also from house demolition by the Israeli state. They are ordinary families who want and need the same things as other families, wanting the best for their children and wanting to live in peace. They are also extremely religious people who are fulfilling God’s will to live where He gave them land. As well as this, they are depicted as pioneers returning to a ‘dangerous’ land and making the desert bloom. However in order to do this, they need support from Americans.

Like other religious Zionist organizations, CFOIC draws extensively on the bible to defend the Jews ‘rightful ownership’ of the West Bank, referring to it as Biblical Israel. Despite the fact that the Jordan Valley has little religious importance for Jews, settlement of national-religious settlers is increasing, while the number of secular settlers is stagnant or shrinking especially since the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005.

According to its tax return (form 990) in the tax year 2008, CFOIC provided support for projects in 80 settlements and help for over 50,000 settlers throughout the West Bank. These projects included emergency equipment, education, programs for new immigrants, psychological services, tourism, food parcels, programs for children and young people, assistance for former Gaza Strip settlers as well as assisting pilgrimage groups in planning their trips and itineraries to Israel. CFOIC also has a program called ‘adopt-a-settlement’ where Christian congregations can ‘adopt’ settlements in the West Bank through giving monthly donations to a chosen settlement, similar to sponsor-a-child programs. This ‘adoption’ reinforces this idea of settlements as financially and politically weak and the necessity of international support.

The projects CFOIC initiates in the Jordan Valley are directed at leisure and education, such as libraries, recreation grounds and after school music group.

f) This form, as well as tax return forms for all the organizations mentioned in this report, can be found at the National Centre for Charitable Statistics http://nccsdataweb.urban.org/
Projects in the Jordan Valley funded by CFOIC

- A library for Maskiyot
- Olive grove in Maskiyot
- Recreation court in Argaman
- Music program in Gilgal
- Project for children with special needs in Hemdat
- Jordan Valley teens at risk program (also funded by Jordan Valley Development Fund)
- Ma’ale Ephraim after school centre
- Educational/tourist exhibit about the historical importance of Gilit “from a Biblical standpoint and a security one”
- Jordan Valley Community Centre
- Yitav Learning Centre

CFOIC portrays settlers in the Jordan Valley as in danger and in need of support but at the same time calls them brave pioneers who are farming the land ‘making the desert bloom’ and fending off terrorist attacks. CFOIC creates a moral and righteous justification for its existence and the necessity of donors and support for settlers. It reinforces the right of Israel to be there and recreates the Jordan Valley as a vital part of Israel that in turn makes it increasingly difficult for Palestinians to make claims to the area and for its return to Palestinian control.

Profile: American Friends of New Communities in Israel

Profile: American Friends of New Communities in Israel

(\url{http://www.israelcommunities.com/})

$490,873 total given 2005, 2006 and 2007 – Direct support to settlements.\(^{43}\)

Program, according to tax return – To assist in settling new communities in Israel including absorption, social and educational needs ($113,491).

American Friends of New Communities in Israel was founded in 1999. From its website its stated purpose is:

- to assist potential donors in the United States in becoming aware of conscientiously operated humanitarian projects and
- to make IRS tax benefits available to United States citizens who wish to donate funds to humanitarian projects in Israel.

According to its tax return (form 990) its program is ‘to assist in settling New Communities in Israel including absorption social and educational needs’. Since its foundation, over three million US dollars have been donated to settlements in the West Bank, funds which are used for humanitarian, educational, community development or security needs. It gave $490,873 to directly support illegal settlements from 2005 – 2007 inclusive.\(^{45}\)

Projects in the Jordan Valley funded by AFNCI:

- Project Bar Amana – project to encourage non Israeli citizens to purchase houses in the West Bank (not only the Jordan Valley).
- The YESHA council – AFNCI donates money for an emergency communications system to be used in case of terrorist attacks in settlements. This project is run throughout the West Bank, not only in the Jordan Valley.

AFNCI alleviates any doubt about the legitimacy of their work by stating that all projects funded must have proper documentation from the Israeli authorities confirming their legality and proper financial administration or testimony from social services attesting to the needs of the beneficiaries. Projects are also visited by AFNCI volunteers to ensure accountability and transparency. However its website makes no acknowledgement that settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and that the lives of Palestinians in the Jordan Valley have been made insufferable by Israel’s colonialist and apartheid policies there as well as in part by AFNCI’s activities there.
Case study :-
Resettlement of former Gaza settlers in Maskiyot

“We are withdrawing from the Gaza Strip - an area in which there is no chance of establishing a Jewish majority, and which is clear to us all, will never be part of the State of Israel in any final agreement. At the same time, we are directing the majority of our efforts to the most important areas to ensure our existence – the Galilee, the Negev, Greater Jerusalem, the settlement blocs and the security zones”

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s Speech at the Jewish Agency Assembly June 28 2005.

“In political terms it [the Maskiyot plan] is also extremely significant. The future of the Jordan Valley is one of the most important territorial questions that must be addressed in order to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Unilateral actions that seek to cement Israel’s hold on the area undermine the chances of achieving any peace agreement, including one in which Israel could retain some control over the area through a bilateral arrangement with the Palestinians.”
Maskiyot settlement in relation to Palestinian villages and other Israeli settlements (settlements are shown in purple).

Source: OCHA OPT Closure Maps 2010
In 2005 Israel unilaterally pulled out of the Gaza Strip, evacuating around 7,800 settlers from 21 Israeli settlements. The disengagement from Gaza has been widely criticized as it is a way for Israel to put more control on the West Bank as it has little strategic or demographic interest in the Gaza Strip. Indeed, following the evacuation, Israel took measures to resettle many of the settlers in Maskiyot, a Nahal outpost in the north of Jordan Valley. Maskiyot was first established in 1982 as a military outpost, but was transformed into a settlement for religious students in 2002. Shortly after the disengagement from Gaza, 20 families were planning to move to Maskiyot to live in prefabricated homes. In 2006, construction of 100 new homes was approved but then postponed due to international opposition. However, the project has gone ahead with a tender being issued in May 2009 for 20 permanent homes to replace the mobile homes that were temporarily housing the Gaza settlers. The long-term plan is to build these 100 homes and for 800 residents to move in. In addition, the settlers want to graze sheep on 500-acre of land, and grow date palms, olive trees and 3,600 argan trees.

Most of the settlers from Gaza had been part of the national-religious segment of Israeli society and their resettlement in the Jordan Valley has helped change the demographic there from a mainly secular population to a now predominantly national-religious one. This demographic change to the Jordan Valley has serious repercussions for future talks about both the status of the Jordan Valley and whether Israel will withdraw. With a mainly secular population, withdrawal may have been easier than with a national-religious population.

To encourage settlement in the Jordan Valley, Israel has given grants and other free services to the new settlers. The project has also gained extensive support and funding from American Zionist organizations, most notably CFOIC, AFNCl and One Israel Fund. In addition, Maskiyot’s website requests donations for many expensive leisure projects including:

- Indoor children’s activity center
- A children’s pool
- Housing
- A community center
- Security equipment
- A 7 acre community open space-parkland-amphitheater-trail system
- A synagogue
- Sports field
- Physical fitness facility
- Horse farm and horseback riding therapy facility

These planned projects will all take up large areas of land in the surrounding areas meaning that if these projects receive funding (most likely from Zionist organizations) they will encroach onto more Palestinian land, further displacing, marginalizing and disenfranchising the indigenous population.
The effects on nearby villages

The project has had serious repercussions for Palestinians in the village of Al-Aqaba which lies to the west of Maskiyot in Area C. Over the years, Al-Aqaba’s connections to neighboring communities and markets, and the rest of the Jordan Valley, have been incrementally severed and the population has decreased by 85%, numbering 2000 people in 1967 to 300 today.53 Human rights violations have increased with the expansion of the settlement. As of December 2008, demolition orders have been placed on 39 structures in the village, constituting virtually the entire village, because Israel claims they are in violation of the construction ban for Palestinians in Area C.54

The Israeli occupation forces have also placed checkpoints around the village cutting it off from the rest of the Jordan Valley. Residents can only cross if they have permits from the authorities. There are further checkpoints which separate the village from Nablus and Jenin. The occupation forces also occasionally place a checkpoint at al-Aqaba’s eastern entrance. These checkpoints prevent the free movement of residents around the West Bank and also make getting to markets to sell produce from al-Aqaba’s land difficult.55

The institutionalized discrimination by settlers and the Israeli occupation forces is darkly demonstrated in a case study concerning the Bedouin village of Al Maleh. In the summer of 2010, settlers from Maskiyot arrived on the edge of the Bedouin village of Al Maleh supported by settler security and military forces. The settlers began to intimidate the community with guns and threats. They pitched a tent and played loud music well into the night. In addition to the tent, the settlers also reportedly drew a line, symbolizing a border which the Bedouins could not cross, effectively cutting them off from their land. The fake border was also enforced by the military and settler security. Soon after, the area was declared a closed military zone and forced both the Bedouins and the settlers to take down their tents, implying that they had both committed wrongs.56
Central Fund for Israel

The Central Fund for Israel is an umbrella charity that collects donations and distributes them to various charitable organizations in Israel and to settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. One of its main donors is Irving Moskovitz, a man who also funds numerous extremist settler organizations in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. He has supported settlers in the Old City of Hebron and has purchased houses in Palestinian neighborhoods of East Jerusalem and the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem’s Old City. Moskovitz’s support for settlements is manifested not only in his financial backing for settlements, settler charities and his land purchases in East Jerusalem, but also in his funding for various American neoconservative policy think tanks such as the Hudson Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs and the Center for Security Policy.57 Moreover, Moskovitz has also worked for the Ariel Center for Policy Research - ‘a hard-line advocacy and research institute’58

Moskovitz, although an extremely wealthy and powerful individual who is single handedly funding a considerable amount of illegal settlement activity in the West Bank, is essentially representative of the politics and motives of those who fund settlements in the West Bank, especially in the Jordan Valley. His financial support and political strength are undoubtedly helping to prevent a future peace deal – exactly his aim.

The illegality of these projects and their effect on the Middle East Peace Process

Funding of American Zionist Organizations

A recent study by the Macro Center for Political Economics in Israel has found that the settlement project has cost the Israeli government US$17 billion since it began.59 This sum has bought houses, apartments, roads and other infrastructure as well as public buildings such as schools and synagogues. It does not include, however, the military infrastructure and personnel to protect settlers and settlements, an amount that will surely run into billions of dollars as well.

In addition to the US$17 billion, US charitable organizations donated $33.4 million to settlements and related organizations in the occupied territory from 2004-2007.60 Many of the donations gained from US citizens are also tax-deductable. Larger organizations also have corporate donors, for example Hadassah includes High Rise Capital Management and Selman & Company among its corporate sponsors. Added to this is their non-profit status in the US that gives them tax exemption. The Zionist organizations supporting illegal settlements are therefore gaining direct support from the US government and are thereby contravening US law (as well as international law by funding construction on illegally occupied landg) through the funding of illegal, and sometimes extremist, activity which could be defined as terrorism.h These donations are entirely illegal as the US government stipulates that US money cannot be spent on settlements in occupied territory.61

US charitable organizations donated $33.4 million to settlements and related organizations in the occupied territory from 2004-2007.

US support for settlement organizations

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g) The UN Security Council, in resolutions 446, 452, 465 and 471, has declared the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied territory illegal.

also contravenes its policy in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its role as an honest broker of peace; the USA’s publicly stated position is the establishment of a two-state solution based on the Green Line.

However these organizations campaign for the right of Jewish people to live in the occupied territory, and do not even recognize these areas as occupied but as ‘liberated’. Through their donations, and particularly by donating money to physical developments such as infrastructure, buildings and promoting increased settlement to the area, these organizations are clearly fighting against any peace process that would see the area become an independent state.

The settlers who live in the Jordan Valley are not in desperate need of humanitarian assistance considering the money and support they receive from the Israeli government (which includes free housing, grants, loans, land for agricultural use etc.). These organizations are simply using the guise of humanitarian and charitable assistance to make political gains. They are against any kind of peace deal and are using the donations they receive to advance their political agenda.

"I don’t know how many people, including in the U.S. government, realize the extent of private American funding to settlements. . . . Every dollar that goes to settlements makes Middle East peace that much harder to reach."

Ori Nir, Spokesperson for Americans for Peace Now.

**Total revenue and expenses of selected organizations which fund Jordan Valley settlements for the year 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Total revenue (US$)</th>
<th>Total expenses (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Friends of New Communities in Israel</td>
<td>25,250</td>
<td>7,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Fund for Israel</td>
<td>13,058,831</td>
<td>12,766,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Friends of Israeli Communities</td>
<td>1,354,454</td>
<td>1,363,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadassah - the Women’s Zionist organization of America</td>
<td>19,987,495</td>
<td>16,237,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish National Fund</td>
<td>50,634,205</td>
<td>44,000,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Valley Development Fund</td>
<td>45,878</td>
<td>81,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Israel Fund</td>
<td>1,821,762</td>
<td>1,982,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEF Israel Endowment Funds</td>
<td>53,503,933</td>
<td>60,386,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiloh Israel children’s fund</td>
<td>231,906</td>
<td>222,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Friends of Mitzpe Yeriho, Inc.</td>
<td>507,234</td>
<td>526,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Zionist Organization</td>
<td>10,035,088</td>
<td>9,095,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>151,206,036</strong></td>
<td><strong>86,283,928</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


i) Due to the way donations are used, it is incredibly difficult to track them. Therefore, a complete list of all organizations that give to Jordan Valley settlements and the amounts they donate is impossible to obtain.
Apartheid policies

It is evident from Israel’s actions and the living conditions for Palestinians in the Jordan Valley that Israel practices a policy of apartheid. Israeli settlers are favored over Palestinians in every area of life. Settlers are allowed to expand and develop their communities but Palestinians are not. Settlers can move around easily but Palestinians are prevented from doing so. Settlers have the protection of the IOF and private security firms; however Palestinians are subject to systematic abuse and discriminatory Israeli measures and receive no protection from PNA security.

Furthermore, while American Zionist organizations can fund any kind of permanent project, including new buildings, agricultural development and tourism projects, NGOs working in Palestinian areas cannot provide any sustainable projects to Palestinians. Recently, simple renovations of schools and houses in Palestinian area have been funded by international donors but these risk demolition by the IOF at any time because they are in Area C, thereby discouraging further investment from donors. The scope of work carried out by donors and NGOs is therefore limited to emergency relief and assistance, which risks creating dependency among beneficiaries and does little to resolve their problems.

What are the effects on Palestinians?

“You don’t simply bundle people onto trucks and drive them away...I prefer to advocate a positive policy, to create, in effect, a condition that in a positive way will induce people to leave”

Ariel Sharon, 24 August 1988

Settlements in the Jordan Valley have had a devastating effect on Palestinians living in the area. As well as their effect on serious curtailments to sustainable livelihoods in the Jordan Valley (including using a disproportionate amount of water and appropriating Palestinian water supplies and the military confiscation of Palestinian land for settlement expansion, agriculture and military usage,) settlements have serious ramifications for the future establishment and viability of a Palestinian state.

The Israeli government promotes settlement in the Jordan Valley by making it a beneficial choice for those on low incomes through providing incentives such as free housing and land, huge discounts on utilities and transportation, loans, and a never ending supply of water for agriculture and personal consumption. In addition, assistance and financial support from American Zionist organizations contribute to building community projects such as recreation grounds, libraries, extra security, agricultural assistance and other ‘humanitarian’ initiatives.

As a result of these policies to promote Jewish settlements, Palestinians face land confiscation, restrictions on building, lack of electricity, unreliable access to water sources and frequent water shortages, inability to access services, markets, education and healthcare.
Living conditions and human rights for Palestinians in the Jordan Valley

Due to Israel’s access and movement restrictions, the location of settlements and the seizure of land and water sources, living conditions for Palestinians in the Jordan Valley have become dire.

**Forced displacement**

When settlements expand, Palestinians are forced out of their homes and their houses demolished. Jordan Valley Palestinians are also forced out because of lack of viable and sustainable livelihoods caused by land confiscation, bans on housing construction and closures. Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal states that deportation or forcible transfer of a population is a crime against humanity. Article 12 of the ICCPR also states that “Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.”

Although the Jordan Valley has the highest birth rate in Palestine, its population has remained stagnant because so many residents are relocating or being forced to move to other parts of the West Bank.

**House demolitions**

“In June 2009, the UN recorded the highest monthly total of demolitions in Area C since it began to systematically track this data in 2006. 79% of Palestinians displaced during this period were residing in the Jordan Valley in areas declared closed military zones.”

Between the years 2000 and 2007, 1,663 homes were demolished in the Jordan Valley. Recently there has been a disheartening increase in demolitions in the Jordan Valley. In July 2010, the entire village of Al Farisiya was demolished in order to expand the nearby settlement of Mehola. Demolitions have also taken place in Ein Al Hilwa and Jiftlik.

House demolitions are in direct breach of art 53 of the 4th Geneva Convention and the 1907 Hague Conventions which state that private property must be respected and cannot be confiscated.

\[j\) Article 53 of the 4th Geneva Convention states “Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.”

\[k\) Art. 46. Hague Conventions Laws of War: Laws and Customs of War on Land (Hague IV); July 29, 1899. Family honour and rights, the lives of persons, and private property, as well as religious convictions and practice, must be respected. Private property cannot be confiscated.\]
Restrictions on movement

The restriction on movement caused by Israeli only roads, IOF checkpoints and expanding settlements impacts the ability of Palestinians to access a number of rights ratified in international law including a number of articles from the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These include: article 6, the right to work; article 11, the right to an adequate standard of living; article 12, the right to health; article 13, the right to education; and article 10, the right to protection of family life.69

Healthcare

Palestinians in the Jordan Valley depend on the Jericho public hospital as the sole public hospital in the area. Given the movement and access restrictions within the Jordan Valley, residents face tremendous difficulty accessing health services. Only 8 percent of households in the Jordan Valley have access to health care services.70 While settlers can easily obtain medical treatment inside Israel, Palestinians must apply for permits. Preventing access to healthcare and protection of the sick and denying humanitarian assistance is a violation of the 4th Geneva Convention.

Education

Access to schools is severely restricted with only 38 elementary schools for about 13,000 students. Due to prohibitions on construction, schools are not allowed to be built in Palestinian villages in Area C and commuting distances for teachers and students are also unnecessarily long due to restrictions on which roads can be used. In settlements, well-funded schools exist as do after-school clubs and provision for those with special needs, all funded by American Zionist non-profits. No such provision exists for Palestinian children.

Livelihoods

Settlements, and the infrastructure that comes with them such as security and roads, prevent Palestinian forms of sustainable livelihood. Palestinians cannot export their produce and cannot reach local markets quickly enough to sell perishable goods. They are also prohibited from building packing houses in their fields. Due to the dearth in employment opportunities, Palestinians are forced to work in settlements for low wages, thereby contributing to the settler economy while undermining their own economy and industries. Due to land and water shortages, combined with restrictions on road use and the Israeli practice of confiscating farm land, viable agricultural livelihoods are made difficult.
Land

Land around settlements is appropriated for security purposes and where land is not registered it is confiscated by the military. Additionally land that is not cultivated for 3 consecutive years can be confiscated even if the land has been closed by military order prohibiting access and cultivation in the first place. This land cannot be returned to Palestinians but can be given to Israeli settlements to use. This practice of confiscating Palestinian land and subsequently transferring it to settlers represents an institutionalized means of forced displacement, banned by the Fourth Geneva Convention. In 2008, a military database of settlement activity was created. Although the database is top secret, the parts of it that were released revealed that 75 percent of settlement construction in the West Bank has been done without permits or have been built contrary to permit specifications. It also revealed that 30 percent of settlement building has been carried out on private lands belonging to Palestinian residents.

Food Security

As well as the closures and checkpoints which isolate the Jordan Valley from the rest of the West Bank, making it difficult for farmers to get their produce to markets, large areas of fertile agricultural land have been confiscated for use as settler farms meaning there is insufficient suitable land to sustain the Palestinian population with its food supply. Without an adequate supply of food grown within Palestine, people have to buy fruit and vegetables grown on settlement farms and from farms within Israel proper, thus undermining the Palestinian economy. The Palestinian produce that is available comes at grossly inflated prices due to high production costs, Israeli produce and imported goods undercut locally grown produce.

Water and sanitation

Only 37 percent of Jordan Valley residents have access to water and a mere 2 percent of residents say that sanitation services are available. Settlers consume 6.6 times more water per capita than Palestinian residents. Palestinians are not allowed to dig wells or build lakes or reservoirs. The appropriation of water sources and the prohibition of use of the Jordan River have made agriculture in the Jordan Valley difficult. The Israeli authorities continually cut off or threaten to cut off water supplies to villages in the Jordan Valley, forcing them to rely on water tanks and purchase water from Mekorot, the Israeli water company.

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3) Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention allows for the displacement of a civilian population only for the purposes of ensuring the safety of the population or if there is a pressing military reason requiring such action. Furthermore, the displacement is only legal if all possible measures are taken to ensure that the displacement will be well received by the indigenous population.

4) For a comprehensive report on water and sanitation in the Jordan Valley see the recent MA'AN Development Center’s report ‘Draining Away: The water and sanitation crisis in the Jordan Valley’ available for download on MA’AN’s website.
A school for Bedouin children in the Jordan Valley. It consists of around 8 rooms made from corrugated iron and concrete which serve 70 children.

**Impact on development**

Palestinians living in Area C, which is how most of the Jordan Valley is categorized, are forbidden from constructing any kind of building and must first gain permission from the Israeli authorities but this process is lengthy and requests are usually rejected.\(^{(n)}\)
The implications of this ban are that no irrigation or drinking water networks, water storage facilities or sewage networks can be built. Farmers also cannot build packing sheds or any other permanent structure. As well as these economic necessities, schools, medical centers and homes also cannot be built. These constraints on construction mean that the Jordan Valley is effectively in a process of de-development. The Jordan Valley cannot maintain any sustainable agriculture let alone industry to improve the economy of Palestine. This insufficient agriculture means that Palestine has to rely on imports from Israel and from produce grown on settlement farms.

**Impact on human rights**

As well as having detrimental effects on livelihoods, there are also serious human rights and political consequences to supporting Jordan Valley settlements. Forced displacement, house demolitions and restrictions on movement are just some of the serious human rights violations that occur in the Jordan Valley due to settlement expansion and military activity. Palestinians also suffer regular physical and verbal abuse from settlers and soldiers and are frequently discriminated against and their rights denied.

\(^{(n)}\) According to Human Rights Watch, between 2000 and 2007 94% of all requests for building permits submitted by Palestinians in the West Bank were rejected by the Israeli authorities.
Palestinians living near settlements also suffer violence and threats that come from settlers. From the beginning of the second Intifada in 2000 to the end of 2004, settlers killed 34 Palestinians in the occupied territory\(^7\) and attacks continue today.\(^7\) Attacks are aimed not only at people but also at property. B’tselem, an Israeli human rights organization which documents settler violence against Palestinians, says settlers have blocked roads and damaged Palestinian property such as crops, cars and houses. B’tselem argues that these attacks are intended to force Palestinians to leave their land so settlers can take over.\(^7\) Palestinians also suffer repercussion attacks when outposts or settlements are demolished in the West Bank, in what are known as ‘price tag’ attacks. Settlers are armed by the IOF and the Israeli police have a policy (albeit unspoken) of extreme leniency. Settlers are tried as civilians under Israeli law whereas Palestinians are tried in military courts.\(^7\)

**Impact on the creation of a viable Palestinian state**

The support of Jordan Valley settlements from Zionist organizations in USA has many adverse effects on the creation of a future viable Palestinian state. In giving so heavily to Jordan Valley settlements American Zionist organizations are cementing Israel’s illegal claim to the land. Ownership and attachment to the land and to communities is strengthened through funding so-called humanitarian projects. Developing permanent infrastructure, services and economic projects means a Palestinian state is blocked; settlers will refuse to move the longer they live on the land and work the land.

Support for settlements is not just financial; it can also be harnessed politically as well. Settlements also benefit from tremendous political support from their American backers. By pressuring the United State government on the settlement issue, supporters of the Israeli colonial projects are shielding the settlements from increased international pressure. Donors, as part of the hugely powerful and influential Jewish and Israeli lobby, can potentially wield a great deal of political leverage to put pressure on the Israeli state as well as the American government to promote settlement expansion and halt any solution to the occupation.

> These settlements are here to stay for a long time. We don’t establish new villages only to pull them down later.

Former Israeli President Yitzhak Rabin, 1976 speaking on a tour of West Bank settlements.\(^6\)
Conclusion

Israel continues to build and expand in the occupied Palestinian territory, making a contiguous and viable Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital implausible. Through its settlements Israel intends to annex the most economically viable and strategically important Palestinian land and leave the Palestinians with small and isolated parts of the land, weakening them politically, economically and socially at the same time. This can already be seen in East Jerusalem where settlement building continues at a fast pace and in the Jordan Valley where Israelis are still being encouraged to settle and are given huge incentives to do so. Israel has absolutely no intention of giving up the entire occupied West Bank; what it intends as a Palestinian state will be continuously interrupted by Israeli settlements, roads and other infrastructure.

American Zionist organizations facilitate the blocking of a viable and contiguous Palestinian state through funding permanent infrastructure and building international support for settlements. Furthermore while the number of secular settlers is decreasing, the population of national-religious settlers is rising in the Jordan Valley, encouraged in part by these organizations that fund their new settlements. The national-religious movement’s power and influence is growing in Israel and supporters of this movement are dramatically increasing the population in the Jordan Valley through a combination of migration and high fertility (national-religious adherents have a fertility rate of over 6 while secular Israelis have a fertility rate of 2.5). This group is also gaining power in government positions, the army, and the civil service. These people are the ones who will refuse to leave the Jordan Valley in the event of a negotiated two-state solution.

American Zionist organizations have harmful effects on Palestinians’ rights in the Jordan Valley. In promoting and facilitating new settlement there, they are forcibly displacing Palestinians and demolishing houses and other buildings, preventing access to water, restricting movement, restricting access to services such as education and healthcare, confiscating land, and preventing sustainable livelihoods. These organizations are denying assistance to those who need it most. They are helping to prop up an illegal occupation and give support to people who already receive thousands of dollars worth of assistance from the Israeli government. These organizations are also contributing to Israel’s apartheid regime and colonialism in the occupied territory. They are providing settler-only services because Palestinians are not allowed entry into settlements.

This funding is illegal by the fact that settlements throughout the West Bank are internationally recognized as being illegal and money cannot be spent on illegal activities. The US government needs to act to investigate and prevent further funding to settlements in the West Bank and put pressure on Israel to withdraw from the area.

Palestinians will not agree to the state that Israel is planning for them, one that does not include East Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley. Unless settlements are stopped and a two-state solution agreed upon, the problem will only increase; support for settlements will increase as Israel continues to build on the land and legitimize its actions with excuses.

Israel’s increasingly restrictive policies on Palestinians in the Jordan Valley and the million dollar support for settlements from American Zionist organizations are creating the conditions for displacement, slowly emptying the area of all Palestinian life and intensifying Israeli ownership, control and facilitating its annexation.
# Appendix 1:

## Estimated Population for Tubas Governed Localities in Jordan Valley by Locality
(Mid-year, selected years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bardala</td>
<td>1577</td>
<td>1626</td>
<td>1675</td>
<td>1724</td>
<td>1773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ein Al Beida</td>
<td>1081</td>
<td>1114</td>
<td>1148</td>
<td>1182</td>
<td>1215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kardala</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Fareseyya</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Maleh</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadidiyya</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Estimated Population for Nablus Governed Localities in Jordan Valley by Locality
(Mid-year, selected years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ein Shibli</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beit Hassan</td>
<td>1192</td>
<td>1226</td>
<td>1259</td>
<td>1293</td>
<td>1326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Nasareyyeh</td>
<td>1354</td>
<td>1392</td>
<td>1430</td>
<td>1468</td>
<td>1506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Akraneyyeh</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Froush Beit Dajan</td>
<td>1159</td>
<td>1191</td>
<td>1224</td>
<td>1256</td>
<td>1289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Estimated Population for Jericho and Al-Aghwar Governed Localities in the Jordan Valley by Locality
(Mid-year, selected years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marj Na’jeh</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>838</td>
<td>861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zbeidat</td>
<td>1340</td>
<td>1382</td>
<td>1423</td>
<td>1464</td>
<td>1504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marj Ghazal</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiftlik</td>
<td>4401</td>
<td>4536</td>
<td>4671</td>
<td>4805</td>
<td>4939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasayel</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Uja</td>
<td>4010</td>
<td>4133</td>
<td>4256</td>
<td>4379</td>
<td>4501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nwe’meh</td>
<td>1165</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1236</td>
<td>1272</td>
<td>1307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ein Dyouk el Fouqa</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ein Dyouk el Tahta</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>1026</td>
<td>1055</td>
<td>1085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jericho</td>
<td>20,416</td>
<td>21,044</td>
<td>21,669</td>
<td>22,293</td>
<td>22,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqbet Jabr Refugee Camp</td>
<td>6343</td>
<td>6538</td>
<td>6733</td>
<td>6926</td>
<td>7120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ein el Sultan Refugee Camp</td>
<td>2036</td>
<td>2098</td>
<td>2160</td>
<td>2223</td>
<td>2285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other localities</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total population in the 3 Jordan Valley governorates</strong></td>
<td><strong>51,843</strong></td>
<td><strong>53,426</strong></td>
<td><strong>55,003</strong></td>
<td><strong>56,579</strong></td>
<td><strong>58,147</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The above statistics do not include the Bedouin communities.*

*Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*
Appendix 2:
Settlements in the Jordan Valley and their populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement</th>
<th>Population in 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Almog</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argaman</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beit ha’Arava</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beqa’ot</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitronot (Nahal)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elisha (Nahal)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>En Hogla</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilgal</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gittit</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamra</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemdat (Nahal)</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalya</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma’ale Efrayim</td>
<td>1,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maskiyot</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massu’a</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mehola</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mekhora</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menora (Kfar Haoranim)</td>
<td>2,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netiv HaGedud</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niran</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No’omi</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peza’el</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ro’i</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotem (Nahal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadmot Mehola</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomer</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vered Yericho</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yafit</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yitav</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total population</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,732</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Appendix 3:
Outposts in the Jordan Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outpost</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mevo’ot Yericho (also known as Sha’arei Yericho)</td>
<td>15 families</td>
<td>North of Jericho</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mul Nevo</td>
<td>5 individuals</td>
<td>East of Jericho</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omer Farm</td>
<td>1 family</td>
<td>North of Jericho</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitzpe Kramim</td>
<td>Around 15 families</td>
<td>East of Kochav Hashahar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma’ale Shlomo</td>
<td>Around 15 families</td>
<td>south of Kochav Hashahar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahavat Hayim</td>
<td>A few dozen families and students</td>
<td>west of Kochav Hashahar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitzpe Jericho North East</td>
<td>Around 29 families</td>
<td>Located on the road connecting Jerusalem with the Jordan Valley</td>
<td>Before 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Givat Sal’it</td>
<td>15 families</td>
<td>Northern tip of the Jordan Valley east of Mehola settlement</td>
<td>September 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maale Efrayim Preparatory</td>
<td>Around 30 students and staff</td>
<td>West of Maale Efrayim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Peace Now http://peacenow.org/entries/archive5214)
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