

## The JNF Supports Racism and Dispossession of Palestinians



### What Is the JNF?

The **Jewish National Fund** was created in 1901 at the Fifth Zionist Congress in Switzerland. Its purpose has always been to 'acquire' land "for the purpose of settling Jews on such land". Crucially, this land could never again be sold or leased to *non-Jews*. Today the JNF enjoys charitable status in over 50 countries worldwide, including Canada.

### The JNF- Historic and Present-day Colonizer

Established as the principle Zionist tool for the colonization of Palestine,

the JNF was actively involved in dispossession prior to the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948:

*"....The only solution is to transfer the Arabs from here to neighbouring countries. Not a single village or a single tribe must be let off."* **Yossef Weitz (Head of JNF Settlement Dept) 1940**

Today, the JNF is complicit in Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, supporting West Bank settlements and settlers in East Jerusalem.

The JNF funds infrastructure for illegal settlements in the Jordan Valley—located deep in the West Bank. While these settlements expand with the aid of the JNF, more water and lands are being stolen from the Palestinians.

In illegally-annexed East Jerusalem, the JNF, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Himnuta, has been evicting Palestinians from their homes and providing this land for the settler organization, Elad.

## The JNF Supports Israel's Discriminatory Policies

The JNF also has a direct role in implementing Israel's discriminatory policies against its Palestinian citizens, continuing the dispossession of Palestinians still living inside Israel (20% of the population). 93% of the land in Israel is public land that is allocated as either property of the state, the JNF, or the Development Authority.

13% of the land in Israel is under the control of the JNF, and the JNF has much influence over the control of the remaining 80% of public lands. Under the JNF's charter, it is prohibited from selling or leasing land to *non-Jews*.



## Canadian Tax Dollars Fund Illegal JNF Activities

Because JNF-Canada has official Canada Revenue Agency charitable status, it provides tax credits for donations, meaning that up to 25% of their budget effectively comes from our taxes. This has rightly been dubbed the “racist JNF tax fraud”.

### Canada Park: An Egregious Example

JNF-Canada raised \$15 million after the 1967 war to build **Canada Park**, a 3200 hectares park between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Shamefully, this “tribute to Canada and the Canadian Jewish community” was built on the land of three peaceful Palestinian villages - **Beit Nuba, Imwas and Yalu** - after the Israeli military razed the villages and expelled their 5,000 residents, all in violation of the *Fourth Geneva Convention*. A 1986 UN Special Committee reported to the UN Secretary-General that the villagers were being denied their right of return to their land now occupied by this park built by JNF-Canada.

## JNF Destroying Bedouin Villages to Plant Forests

Palestinian Bedouin residents in the Negev are being forcibly relocated and refused access to their villages and lands. The Bedouin village of Al-Araqib has been destroyed 49 times. It is one of 35 unrecognized Bedouin villages in Israel, and therefore receives no municipal services such as access to an electrical grid, water, paved roads, hospitals, schools or other basic services. The JNF, with support from Christian Evangelical ‘God-TV’, has planted trees on land claimed by the villagers of Al-Araqib, and plan on using the land that the village is on for a ‘God-TV forest’. According to a coalition of Bedouin and Jewish human rights groups,

*“The JNF, instead of promoting civic equality for all Israelis - the basis for trust and peaceful co-existence - is now supporting (and being supported by) an evangelical ministry that wishes to utilise Israel and the planting of trees to bring about the Second Coming of Christ.”*



### What Can YOU do?

1. Support Independent Jewish Voices-Canada in our work to challenge JNF-Canada. Join us or donate at [ijvcanada.org](http://ijvcanada.org)
2. Talk to your MPs and MPPs, urging them to withdraw their support for the JNF.
3. Talk to representatives of your local JNF branch, telling them to stop supporting discrimination.

Founded in 2008, **Independent Jewish Voices – Canada** is a national human rights organization whose mandate is to promote a just resolution to the dispute in Israel and Palestine through the application of international law and respect for the human rights of all parties.