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TROUBLED WATERS – PALESTINIANS DENIED FAIR ACCESS TO WATER

ISRAEL-OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

WATER IS A HUMAN RIGHT

AMNESTY
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Amnesty International is a global movement of 2.2 million people in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights. Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion – funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

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Cover photo:

A Palestinian girl takes a rest while collecting drinking water in Gaza.

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Back cover from top:

A water tanker in the West Bank; Palestinians in the area rely on such tankers as their homes have no running water.

© Keren Manor/Activestills.org

Israeli settlers enjoy the swimming pool in the Maaleh Adumim settlement, unlawfully established in the West Bank in violation of international law, while nearby Palestinian communities struggle to access even minimal quantities of water for their basic needs.

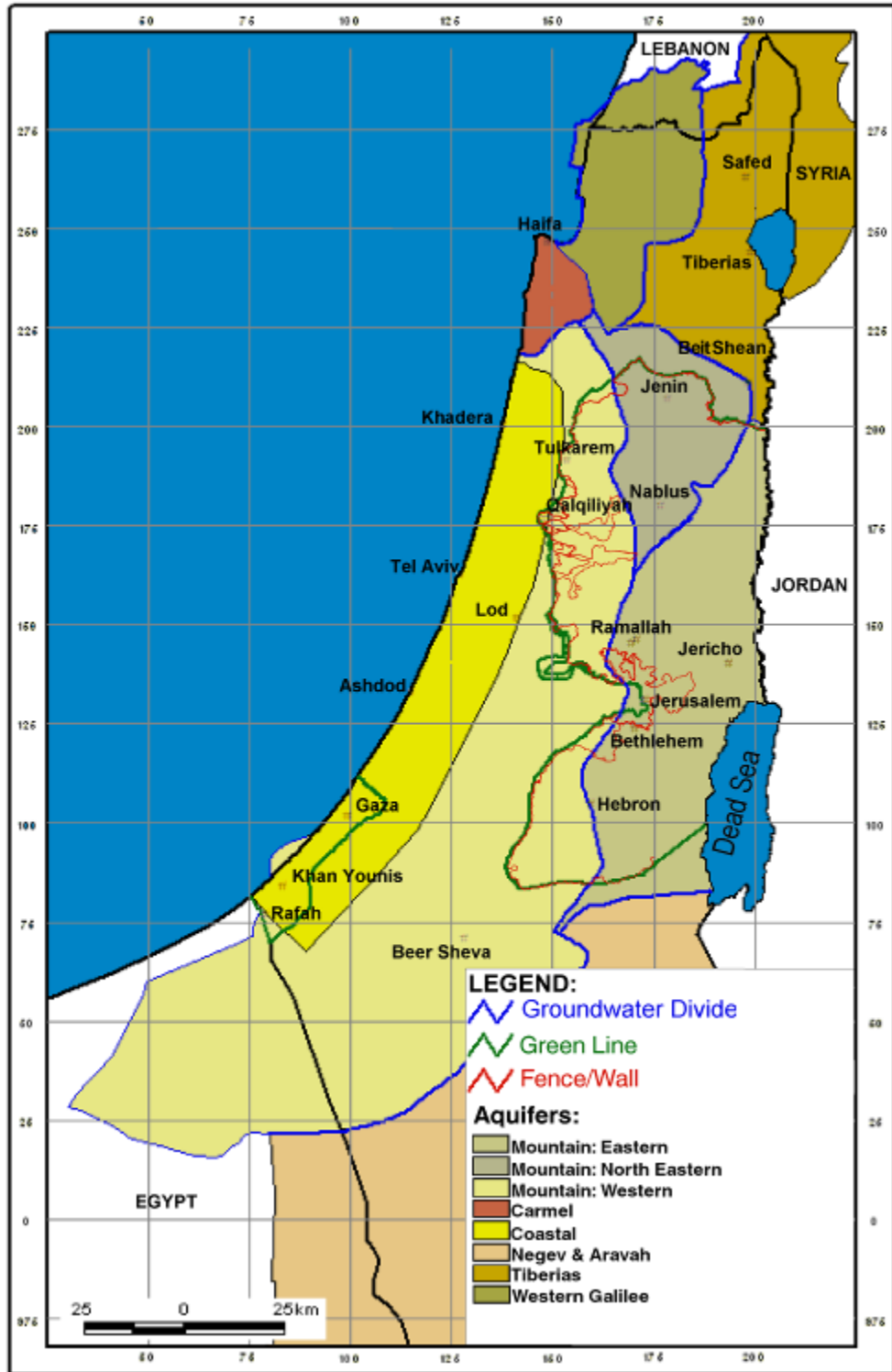
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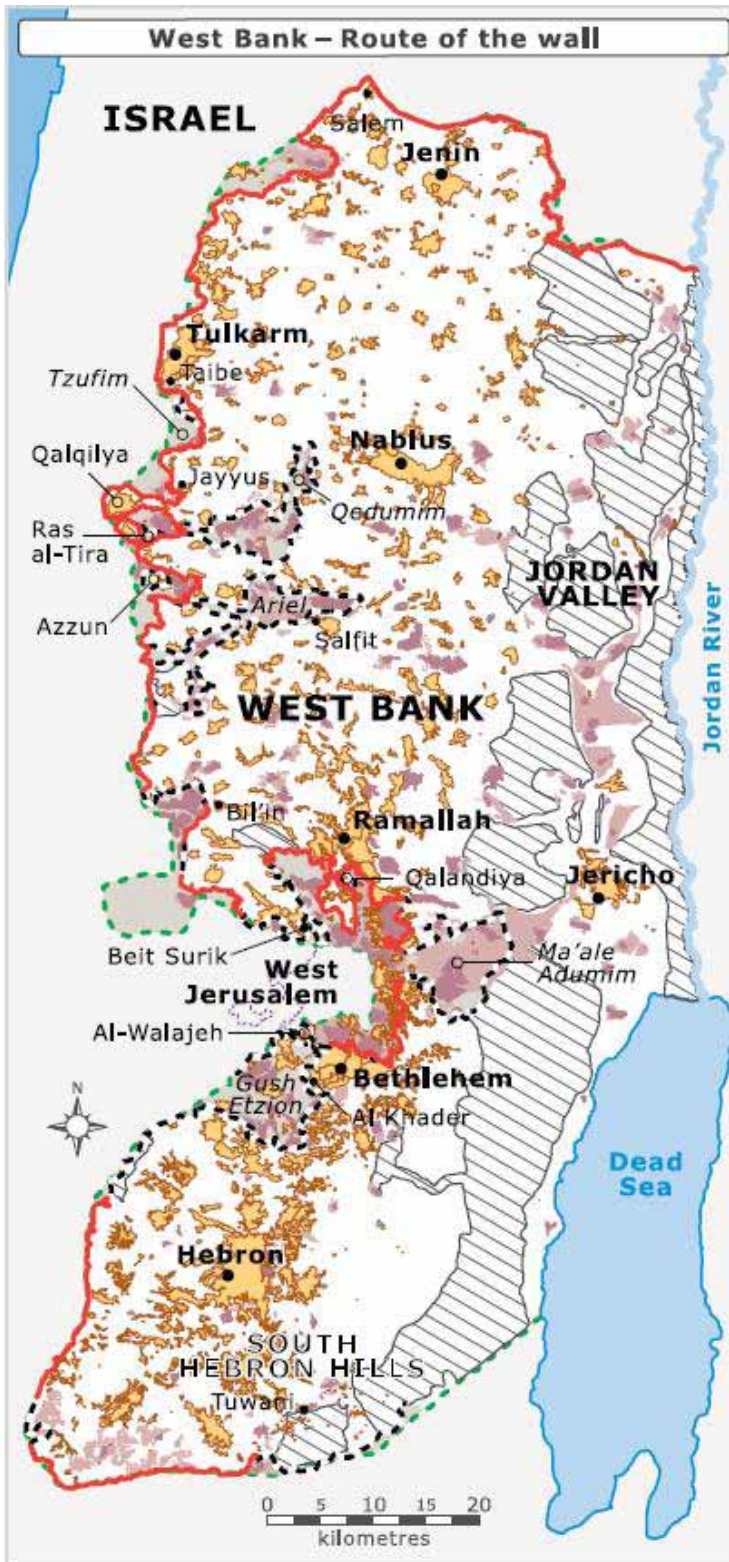
A water reservoir stands empty in Jiftlik, a Palestinian village in the West Bank.

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West Bank, including East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel since June 1967

5,600km² total area: about 130km north-south and 65km east-west

200+ unlawful Israel settlements and "outposts"

550+ Israeli military checkpoints, blockades and obstacles

709km-fence/wall, 80 per cent of it on Palestinian land inside the West Bank



“Water is life; without water we can’t live; not us, not the animals, or the plants.”

“Water is life; without water we can’t live; not us, not the animals, or the plants. Before we had some water, but after the army destroyed everything we have to bring water from far away; it’s very difficult and expensive. They make our life very difficult, to make us leave. The soldiers first destroyed our homes and the shelters with our flocks, uprooted all our trees, and then they wrecked our water cisterns. These were old water cisterns, from the time of our ancestors. Isn’t this a crime? Water is precious. We struggle every day because we don’t have water.”

Fatima al-Nawajah, a resident of Susya, a Palestinian village in the South Hebron Hills, to Amnesty International, April 2008.



A Palestinian woman draws water from a cistern in Susya. © Shabtai Gold (IRIN)

In Susya, most of the rain-harvesting water cisterns which the villagers used to collect and store water for use during the dry season were demolished by the Israeli army in 1999 and 2001, along with the ancient caves and other shelters that were the villagers’ homes. In November 1999, the

Israeli army sealed the caves to prevent their continued use, destroyed other homes and the water cisterns, and forcibly expelled the villagers from the area. In March 2000, however, the cave dwellers obtained a temporary injunction from the Israeli Supreme Court allowing them to return and preventing their further expulsion by the Israeli army pending the court’s final decision in the matter, which has yet to be reached. Since then, the villagers have been able to remain in the area but under threat of future expulsion and with hardly any water supply.

The increasing restrictions imposed by the Israeli army on the Palestinian villagers’ access to water and the constant threat of demolition of their homes and destruction of their property have led more than half of the villagers to leave the area.

On 3 July 2001, the Israeli army destroyed dozens of homes and water facilities in Susya and several other Palestinian villages nearby.¹ The army smashed the villagers’ rainwater harvesting cisterns, some of them centuries old, with bulldozers and filled them with gravel and cement to prevent their repair. The soldiers also smashed water heating solar panels that

had been provided to the villagers by a non-governmental organization. Some water cisterns were left undestroyed but they, together with the tents and shacks that now serve as the villagers' homes, and even the one toilet which they have built, all have demolition orders pending.



Susya toilet under demolition order by the Israeli army © AI

The official reason given by the Israeli authorities for the destruction was that the structures lacked building permits – permits which the Israeli army systematically refuses to grant to Palestinians in the area. The aim, clearly, was to expel the Palestinian villagers from the area in order to make way for the expansion of the nearby Israeli settlement of Sussia (established in 1983). The expansion of the settlement in the 1990s was accompanied by increased harassment of Palestinian villagers by Israeli settlers and efforts by the army to expel the Palestinian cave dwellers and other inhabitants of the villages in the South Hebron Hills, who are among the most disempowered of Palestinian communities.

In September 2008 the Israeli army informed the remaining villagers that a military order had been issued to declare 150 dunums (15 hectares) of land near the village a “closed military area”, thereby denying the villagers access to the 13 rainwater harvesting cisterns located there and making their water shortage worse still.

Meanwhile, in the nearby Israeli settlement of Sussia, whose very existence is unlawful under international law, the Israeli settlers have ample water supplies. They have a swimming pool and their lush irrigated vineyards, herb farms and lawns – verdant even at the height of the dry season – stand in stark contrast to the parched and arid Palestinian villages on their doorstep.

INTRODUCTION

Lack of access to adequate, safe, and clean water has been a longstanding problem for the Palestinian population of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).² Though exacerbated in recent years by the impact of drought-induced water scarcity, the problem arises principally because of Israeli water policies and practices which discriminate against the Palestinian population of the OPT. This discrimination has resulted in widespread violations of the right to an adequate standard of living, which includes the human rights to water, to adequate food and housing, and the right to work and to health of the Palestinian population.

The inequality in access to water between Israelis and Palestinians is striking. Palestinian consumption in the OPT is about 70 litres a day per person – well below the 100 litres per capita daily recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) – whereas Israeli daily per capita consumption, at about 300 litres, is about four times as much. In some rural communities Palestinians survive on far less than even the average 70 litres, in some cases barely 20 litres per day, the minimum amount recommended by the WHO for emergency situations response.³

Access to water resources by Palestinians in the OPT is controlled by Israel and the amount of water available to Palestinians is restricted to a level which does not meet their needs and does not constitute a fair and equitable share of the shared water resources. Israel uses more than 80 per cent of the water from the Mountain Aquifer, the only source of underground water in the OPT, as well as all of the surface water available from the Jordan River of which Palestinians are denied any share.

The stark reality of this inequitable system is that, today, more than 40 years after Israel occupied the West Bank, some 180,000 – 200,000 Palestinians living in rural communities there have no access to running water and even in towns and villages which are connected to the water network, the taps often run dry. Water rationing is common, especially but not only in the summer months, with residents of different neighbourhoods and villages receiving piped water only one day every week or every few weeks. Consequently, many Palestinians have no choice but to purchase additional supplies from mobile water tankers which deliver water at a much higher price and of often dubious quality. As unemployment and poverty have increased in recent years and disposable income has fallen, Palestinian families in the OPT must spend an increasingly high percentage of their income – as much as a quarter or more in some cases – on water.

In the Gaza Strip, the only water resource, the southern end of the Coastal Aquifer, is insufficient for the needs of the population but Israel does not allow the transfer of water from the West Bank to Gaza. The aquifer has been depleted and contaminated by over-extraction and by sewage and seawater infiltration, and 90-95 per cent of its water is contaminated and unfit for human consumption. Waterborne diseases are common.

Stringent restrictions imposed in recent years by Israel on the entry into Gaza of material and equipment necessary for the development and repair of infrastructure have caused further deterioration of the water and sanitation situation in Gaza, which has reached crisis point.

Water shortages and poor sanitation services in the OPT affect all sectors of the Palestinian population and especially the poorest and most vulnerable communities, those living in isolated rural areas and in overcrowded refugee camps.

While Palestinians throughout the OPT are being denied access to an equitable share of the shared water resources and are increasingly affected by the lack of adequate water supplies, Israeli settlers face no such challenges - as indicated by their intensive-irrigation farms, lush gardens and swimming pools.⁴ The 450,000 Israeli settlers, who live in the West Bank in violation of international law, use as much or more water than the Palestinian population of some 2.3 million.⁵

The restrictions imposed by Israel on Palestinians' access to water supplies in the OPT are manifested in multiple ways: control of water resources and land, and restrictions on the movement of people and goods make it excessively difficult for Palestinians to access their water resources and to develop and maintain the water and sanitation infrastructure. Furthermore, a complex system of permits which the Palestinians must obtain from the Israeli army and other authorities in order to carry out water-related projects in the OPT has delayed and rendered more costly, and in many cases prevented, the implementation of much needed water and sanitation projects.

During more than four decades of occupation of the Palestinian territories Israel has over-exploited Palestinian water resources, neglected the water and sanitation infrastructure in the OPT, and used the OPT as a dumping ground for its waste – causing damage to the groundwater resources and the environment. Urgent measures are now needed to ensure that adequate water supplies are made available today and in the future, and to prevent further damage to the water resources and the environment.

Israeli policies and practices in the OPT, notably the unlawful destruction and appropriation of property, and the imposition of restrictions and other measures which deny the Palestinians the right to water in the OPT, violate Israel's obligations under both human rights and humanitarian law.

Due to Israel's failure to fulfil its obligations, as the occupying power, the burden of dealing with these challenges has fallen to international donors and, since its establishment in the mid 1990s, to the Palestinian Authority (PA), the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA),⁶ and other local service providers, all of whom depend on international donors for funds. Yet, the Israeli authorities continue to obstruct Palestinian and international efforts to improve access to water in the OPT.

In the face of water shortages and amid deepening poverty in recent years some Palestinians have resorted to drilling unlicensed wells, while others have connected to the water network illegally, and many have stopped paying their water bills. These practices have further compounded the problem by undermining the economic viability and the authority of the PWA, which has proved to be unable or unwilling to stop such practices.

The restrictions imposed by Israel on access to and development of water resources for Palestinians have been accompanied by other factors that have hindered the efficient delivery of many urgently needed water and sanitation projects in the OPT. These include the PWA's

near-total dependence on international donors for funds, donors' choices and priorities, and poor coordination among donors.⁷ Adding to this, the PA and PWA have been beset by internal divisions compounded by weak and fragmented management structures, lack of expertise and of political will, and allegations of mismanagement and corruption.

This report examines the main patterns and trends affecting access to water for Palestinians in the OPT, and analyses how these are impacting severely on the population's rights, as protected under international human rights and humanitarian law, and which are necessary for the Palestinians to live in dignity.

NOT EVEN A DROP

On 10 March 2008, Fa'iq Ahmad Sbeih received a visit from an Israeli army patrol at his farm in al-Farisiya, a few km north of Jiftlik, in the Jordan Valley area of the West Bank. The soldiers confiscated 1,500 metres of rubber hose which brought water to his farm from a spring on a hill above his land, and crushed the small metal pipe which was connected to the hose. The confiscation order delivered by the army stated that the hose was confiscated "due to lack of permit". The army considers the spring water as "state property"

In the past, local farmers had tried to build a water cistern to collect water from the spring and to harvest the rain water but the army prevented them, because they did not possess, and could not obtain from the army, a permit to do so. When an Amnesty International delegate visited the farm on 11 March 2008 Fa'iq Sbeih was beside himself with worry: *"This is my family's livelihood. We work day and night and we need water; and the weather is getting hotter every day. Already the situation is difficult this year because we have had so little rain; you can see how little water there is in the stream and we only took a bit of it. I can't buy another pipe; and if I do the army may come and take it again."*

The army subsequently returned the rubber hose to Fa'iq Sbeih, though it was damaged and no longer usable, and reiterated the ban on him using the water from the spring. With the onset of the hot season he tried to keep some of his crops alive by buying water from other areas, delivered by tanker, but he still lost most of the crop.⁸

Without access to water from the spring Palestinian farmers like Fa'iq Sbeih have no option but to travel several km to buy small quantities of water that they then transport to their orchards by tanker. This is the most expensive way to obtain water, the more so because the restrictions imposed by the Israeli army require the water tankers to take long detours and circuitous routes to make their deliveries. The unlawful Israeli settlements which surround al-Farisiya face no such problems. Their residents have free access to the water from the spring which Fa'iq Sbeih and his family are not permitted to use, and which forms a small stream that flows down towards the Israeli settlements. As well, they have ready access to an abundant supply of water from nearby wells to which Fa'iq Sbeih and other Palestinian farmers have no access.

The nearby Israeli settlement of Shadmot Mechola advertises on its website: *"Breathtaking tours to Amaryllis bulbs hot houses which are harvested, packed and shipped to Europe and USA and potted in time to bloom during the winter holiday season. Short tours of our "Hi-tec" dairy farm, vineyards and orchards. Tours of farms in the Jordan Valley who specialize in crops of vegetables, fruits, flowers and spices for export in hot dry climate."*⁹



Sprinklers in Israeli settlement farms in the Jordan Valley, West Bank © AI

According to one international water expert, commenting on the discriminatory use of water by Israeli settlers in the OPT: *"It is easy to make the desert bloom by using someone else's water and by denying them access to their fair share of water."*

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Between the two world wars Britain ruled Palestine under a League of Nations mandate, which ended with a UN decision in November 1947 to partition the territory of Mandate Palestine into two states, Israel and Palestine – 53 and 47 percent of the territory, respectively. The State of Israel was established in May 1948 amid Arab protests and a war broke out between Arab and Israeli forces from which Israel emerged victorious. More than 800,000 Palestinians were either expelled or fled from Israel and became refugees in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and neighbouring countries. The war ended in 1949, with Israel having conquered additional territory and the State of Israel having been enlarged to comprise 78 percent of Mandate Palestine. The remaining 22 percent, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, remained under the control of Jordan and Egypt, respectively. Hostilities between Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan in June 1967 ended in Israel's occupation of the West Bank (including East Jerusalem, which Israel later annexed in violation of international

law) and the Gaza Strip.¹⁰ These areas became known as the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

Some 4,000,000 Palestinians, more than 1,500,000 of them refugees, currently live in the OPT under Israeli military occupation - some 1.5 million in Gaza and some 2.5 million in the West Bank - including more than 200,000 who live in East Jerusalem.¹¹

Negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the early 1990s led to the Oslo Accords and to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in 1994, with jurisdiction in parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Negotiations on a permanent status agreement on Jerusalem, settlements (the Israeli colonies unlawfully established in the OPT), the delineation of borders, allocation of water resources, and Palestinian refugees were deferred, but were to be concluded by 1999. However, by 2000 no progress had been achieved on any of these issues and Israel was continuing to build unlawful settlements and so-called "bypass" roads in the OPT at an unprecedented pace.¹²

A Palestinian uprising (*intifada*) against the continued Israeli occupation broke out in September 2000. Since then, more than 6,000 Palestinians and more than 1,100 Israelis, most of them unarmed civilians, have been killed in violent attacks and confrontations. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been arrested by the Israeli army; currently, some 6,500 are detained or serving sentences in Israeli prisons and the Israeli army has destroyed more than 6,000 Palestinian homes as well as large areas of agricultural land and other Palestinian property throughout the OPT.

In September 2005 Israel withdrew its settlers and troops from Gaza, but retained control of Gaza's land borders, air space and territorial waters, and since then has kept Gaza under an increasingly stringent blockade, punctuated by periodic outbreaks of armed confrontations. Stringent restrictions imposed by Israel on the movement of Palestinians within the OPT have stifled the Palestinian economy and caused high unemployment and poverty. Most Palestinians in the OPT now depend on international aid.

Israel has continued to seize large areas of Palestinian land and to build unlawful settlements and "by-pass" roads and other infrastructure to support them. Currently more than 450,000 Israeli settlers live in the OPT, about half of them in East Jerusalem

Since 2000 most of the provisions of the Oslo Accords have become irrelevant and the PA's ability to function has been sharply curtailed by Israeli restrictions. Inter-factional tensions between the two main Palestinian political parties, Fatah and Hamas, increased after Hamas won the Palestinian parliamentary election in 2006 and led to severe armed clashes in which hundreds of people were killed in 2007 in the Gaza Strip. Since then Hamas has maintained a de-facto administration in the Gaza Strip and a PA caretaker government administers parts of the West Bank, while Israel retains overall control over both areas.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Israel's actions and policies have greatly diminished existing water sources and restricted the availability of water for the Palestinian population in the OPT in breach of Israel's obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law. These actions and policies include diversion of the Jordan River and its tributaries, leading to the denial of access to water from this source for the Palestinians, the imposition of quotas and restrictive allocations of water from the aquifers as well as restrictions on construction of new water installations. Through these actions and policies, Israel breaches its obligation under the ICESCR to respect the right to water, which requires that state parties refrain from interfering directly or indirectly with the enjoyment of the right to water.²²¹ The obligation which Israel has breached includes its obligation to refrain from engaging in any practice or activity that denies or limits equal access to adequate water, arbitrarily interfering with customary or traditional arrangements for water allocation and unlawfully diminishing water.²²²

The military orders imposed and maintained by Israel create substantial barriers to the availability and accessibility of water for the Palestinian population and are applied in a discriminatory manner between Israeli settlers and the Palestinians living in particular areas. They amount, therefore, to a violation of the right to water as they are "*policies which are manifestly incompatible with pre-existing domestic or international legal obligations in relation to the right to water*".²²³ They also breach the Hague Regulations' prohibition on the occupying power changing the character and nature of property and natural resources in the occupied property, and the obligation to safeguard and administer these resources in accordance with the rule of usufruct and not to utilize the resources of the occupied territory for the benefit of its own civilian population.

Israel must uphold its obligations as the occupying power by putting an immediate end to current policies and practices which arbitrarily restrict the Palestinians' access to and availability of water in the OPT. In particular Amnesty International is calling on the Israeli authorities to take the following actions:

- Act as a matter of priority to permit the Palestinians to access and extract an equitable share of water from the shared aquifers and surface water resources in the OPT (including the Jordan River and river bank springs). Limit their own extraction of water from the shared water resources to a level that respects the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization, including by stopping extraction in excess of the aquifer's yearly sustainable yield. Ensure that the Palestinian population has access to a sufficient, safe, and regular supply of water to satisfy their personal and domestic needs and for their economic development, including the development of their industrial and agricultural activities and other activities necessary to enjoy their rights to an adequate standard of living, water, food, adequate housing, health and work.
- Act as a matter of priority to permit the construction of water and sanitation infrastructure sufficient to ensure Palestinians' physical access to sufficient, safe, and regular water, and to

prevent damage to water resources.

- Transfer responsibility for planning and building policies and regulations for water and sanitation facilities in the OPT to the Palestinian communities.

- Pending transfer of planning authority to the Palestinians communities, permit requirements must be reasonable, serve a legitimate purpose, be limited in time and be applied without discrimination. The management of water supplies should be undertaken in a manner that respect the principles of non-discrimination and the right of individuals and groups to participate in decision-making processes that may affect their rights to water, food, health, work and an adequate standard of living. Alleged permit violations should never result in summary destruction of hoses, pipes, and other equipment necessary for the delivery of water. Under no circumstances should any individual be deprived of the minimum essential amount of water.

- As a first step and pending further measures to ensure Palestinian access to an equitable share of the shared water resources, allow Palestinians to drill new wells and rehabilitate or upgrade existing wells and to access springs throughout the West Bank, including the East Jerusalem area, so as to ensure the realization without further delay of the water supplies for the Palestinians (196 MCM/Y) provided for in Schedule 10 of Article 40 of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza (the Oslo Accords) of 28 September 1995.

- Immediately allow the transfer of water from the West Bank to Gaza.

- Allow into Gaza as a matter of urgency the material and equipment necessary for the construction and repair of water and sanitation facilities, and the quantities of fuel necessary for operating these facilities, and ensure that water is never used as an instrument of political or economic pressure under any circumstances.

- Lift the restrictions on the movement of Palestinians and remove the obstacles – both procedural and physical - currently in place, which arbitrarily deny or restrict access to the Palestinians to adequate water supplies and to the land where water resources are located in the OPT, and which hinder the implementation and delivery of water and sanitation projects and services. Any restrictions on movement or other security measures may only be imposed if they are absolutely necessary, are related to a specific security threat and are non-discriminatory and proportionate in terms of their impact and their duration.

- Put an immediate end to the destruction of water harvesting and storage cisterns, spring canals, and other water facilities, revoke all outstanding orders for demolitions and place a moratorium on demolitions of such facilities in [Area C of] the West Bank.

- Put an immediate end to policies and practices which discriminate against Palestinians and which confer privileged access to water for Israeli settlers in the West Bank and immediately halt the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem – which are unlawful under international law - as a first step pending the removal of the Israeli settlements from the OPT.

- Halt the construction of the fence/wall and other barriers or other permanent structures inside the OPT which restrict or deny access to the Palestinians to water and other resources; remove the sections of the fence/wall that have already been constructed within the OPT, restore seized properties and water related infrastructure and provide reparations for land, property and water-related infrastructure that was seized, damaged or destroyed.
- Ensure that any action taken in military operations in armed conflict rigorously adheres to the rules on the conduct of hostilities and applicable human rights law. In particular, Israeli forces must never deliberately attack water facilities and related infrastructure, and must take all necessary precautions during attacks to ensure that these and other civilian objects are not damaged as a result of indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks.
- Take effective steps to prevent soldiers, settlers and companies from violating the right to water of Palestinian individuals and communities in the OPT. Such steps should include full investigation, prosecution, and punishment of those responsible for unlawful acts.
- Ensure that adequate restitution and compensation are provided to those who have incurred damage to and loss of water facilities and other property as a result of violations by Israeli forces or settlers.
- Take immediate and concrete measures to put an end to, and enforce, the prohibition on dumping of waste in Area C of the West Bank and in any other areas where PA law-enforcement agents are not allowed to operate.
- Take concrete measures to put an end to the discharge of sewage and other wastewater from Israeli settlements in the OPT and allow the construction of Palestinian sewage treatment plants in Area C of the West Bank.

TO THE PWA

Amnesty International is calling on the PA and PWA to:

- Take measures to maximize existing water resources, by prioritizing measures which reduce the unacceptably high water losses;
- Take immediate and concrete measures to put in place the necessary oversight mechanisms to ensure that all water supplies under Palestinian control are rigorously monitored for quality so as to ensure that all the water delivered to consumers, whether through the network or via mobile water tankers, is safe and complies with WHO standards;
- Take immediate and concrete measures to put in place and enforce regulatory mechanisms to put an end to the activities of unlicensed vendors who sell water from private agricultural wells which is not monitored for quality and which is potentially unsafe;
- Take action against individuals who through unlicensed connections deprive their neighbours of water supplies;

- Take immediate and concrete measures to put an end to, and enforce, the prohibition on dumping of waste outside licensed dumps and landfills in the areas under PA jurisdiction;
- Take concrete measures to put an end to the discharge of untreated sewage and other wastewater into the environment, notably by prioritizing the development of sewage collection networks and treatment facilities;
- Carry out educational campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers to drinking water supplies and to health posed by the discharge of untreated sewage and the disposal of waste into the environment.

TO INTERNATIONAL DONORS

Amnesty International is calling on international donors to:

- Take steps to improve coordination among donors so as to maximize existing resources and the outcome of individual projects;
- Ensure a high level of oversight at all stages of each project to avoid mismanagement and malpractice;
- Ensure transparent reporting of difficulties and obstacles, including clearly identifying the causes and sources of such obstacles, which delay or prevent the implementation of water and sanitation projects;
- Commit to funding long-term sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure projects; challenge and publicly report restrictions and malpractices which delay or prevent the implementation of such projects; and refrain from just resorting to diverting funds to short-term stop-gap projects instead of addressing such delays and restrictions;
- Put in place an effective mechanism to monitor and report on activities by Israeli and Palestinian authorities which hinder the effective implementation and delivery of water and sanitation projects and services; and recommend corrective measures to be adopted by the concerned parties;
- Ensure that Israel, as the occupying power, fulfils its obligation to provide for the protection and welfare of the Palestinian population, and refrain from imposing sanctions that negatively affect the provision of water and sanitation services and other humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian population;
- Ensure that any peace process includes concrete provisions that address fundamental human rights issues at the heart of the conflict, including Palestinian access to an equitable share of the shared water resources and to land, the removal of Israeli settlements from the OPT, the dismantling of the fence/wall and other barriers which restrict Palestinian access to water resources inside the OPT.

GLOSSARY

Acronyms

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
COGAT	Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDF	Israel Defence Force (Israeli army)
JWC	Joint Water Committee
JWU	Jerusalem Water Undertaking
Lpcd	Litres per capita per day
m ³	Cubic metres
MCM	Millions of cubic metres
MCM/Y	Millions of cubic metres per year
NIS	New Israeli Shekels
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territories
PA	Palestinian Authority
PWA	Palestinian Water Authority
PARC	Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees
PHG	Palestinian Hydrology Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WBWD	West Bank Water Department
WHO	World Health Organization
WWTP	Wastewater treatment plant