*9 februari 2023*

**Time is running out!**

We need your help now to raise 1 MILLION signatures before February 21 to pass a European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) that can push the EU to ban trade with illegal Israeli settlements.

**Sign the ECI**

Europe is the most important trading partner with Israel’s illegal settlements! Imports from these settlements constitute an economic backbone of Israel’s colonial settlement enterprise.

As we enter the final days of this campaign we urge our supporters to take the following three actions to #StopTradeWithSettlements:

***Sign the ECI!***

***Join the Twitterstorm happening throughout today.***

***Forward this email to your family and friends and ask them to sign the ECI.***

Click here Click here to join the Twitterstorm!

Israel’s most racist, far-right and fundamentalist government ever is escalating violence and brutality against Palestinians to new levels. So far this year, at least 36 Palestinians were murdered by apartheid Israel. Israel is planning to deport even more Palestinians from their homeland, demolish even more homes, arrest even more en masse, deploy even more occupation forces to the West Bank, especially in East Jerusalem, give even more guns to Israeli settlers, and further cement de facto annexation.

This is not just another petition. Your voice can make a significant difference.

As an EU citizen, you can contribute directly to ending EU complicity. Together, we can hold the EU accountable to its obligation to stop assisting illegal occupations anywhere.

**In solidarity,**

**The Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC)**

*10 februari 2023*

Beste lezer,  
  
Bij een [**inval**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=066cedb7ee&e=37d294b014) in een Palestijns vluchtelingenkamp in Jericho hebben Israëlische militairen vijf Palestijnen doodgeschoten. De Israëlische bezettingstroepen vielen afgelopen maandag in alle vroegte het kamp binnen, op zoek naar twee Palestijnen, en stuitten daarbij op verzet. In het vuurgevecht dat ontbrandde kwamen de vijf Palestijnen om het leven, vier van hen behorend tot dezelfde familie. Onder hen zouden de twee gezochte mannen zijn. De lichamen van de slachtoffers werden door de militairen meegenomen. Zeker elf Palestijnen werden gevangengenomen.  
  
**Beschieting restaurant**  
De twee gezochte Palestijnen waren volgens het Israëlische leger op 28 januari verantwoordelijk voor de beschieting van een restaurant aan de rand van de illegale Israëlische nederzetting Vered Jeriho, even ten zuiden van Jericho. Bij de beschieting raakte niemand gewond.  
  
In een poging de twee te vinden sloot het Israëlische leger de toegangswegen tot Jericho na 28 januari zo goed als af. Afgelopen zaterdag [**vielen**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=53548aa065&e=37d294b014) bezettingstroepen het kamp voor een eerste keer met zwaar materieel binnen in een mislukte poging de twee mannen te vinden. Daarbij vielen dertien Palestijnse gewonden en werden negen Palestijnen opgepakt. Drie woningen werden grotendeels vernield. Volgens [**Israëlische media**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=021a8b1203&e=37d294b014) vuurden militairen een geleide anti-tankraket op het kamp af.  
  
**Ruim één Palestijnse dode per dag**  
In 2023 kwamen op de Westoever tot en met afgelopen maandag 41 Palestijnen door Israëlisch geweld om het leven – een macaber gemiddelde van ruim één dode per dag. Twee weken geleden werden bij een inval in het vluchtelingenkamp van Jenin tien Palestijnen [**gedood**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=0133bf103e&e=37d294b014). Een dag later [**schoot**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=fac7a7e1ef&e=37d294b014) een 21-jarige Palestijn zeven Israëli’s dood in de illegale nederzetting Neve Yaakov in bezet Oost-Jeruzalem.

**Wij strijden tegen landroof, bezetting en onderdrukking. Helpt u mee?**

**Opinie**

**Een nieuwe VN-strategie voor de kwestie-Palestina is noodzakelijk**

*10 februari 2023*

Met het aantreden van Israëls nieuwe regering mag een fundamentele koerswijziging van de VN in de kwestie-Palestina niet langer uitblijven. Dat betoogt het [**Global Network on the Question of Palestine**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=adcaff6550&e=37d294b014) in een [**open brief**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=327c518874&e=37d294b014) aan de secretaris-generaal van de VN.  
  
Directe aanleiding is een [**verklaring**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=73db3e50d3&e=37d294b014) van de nieuwe, extreemrechtse regering van Israël. Die laat zien dat de regering geen onderscheid maakt tussen bezet Palestijns gebied en Israël binnen de erkende grenzen van voor juni 1967. Ze ontkent het recht op [**zelfbeschikking**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=77579b6442&e=37d294b014) van het Palestijnse volk, erkend als een dwingende norm van internationaal recht. Ze laat zien dat Israël de intentie heeft om te annexeren, een ernstige schending van datzelfde recht.  
  
Deze ontwikkeling vormt de grootste bedreiging voor het Palestijnse volk sinds de stichting van de staat Israël in 1948, toen 750 duizend Palestijnen – bijna driekwart van de bevolking – werden verdreven en in ballingschap gedwongen.  
  
Gezien deze dreiging is een fundamentele verandering van strategie van de VN en zijn lidstaten noodzakelijk. De nieuwe strategie moet de fouten en mislukkingen uit het verleden vermijden. Vorige pogingen om tot vrede te komen gingen uit van de verkeerde premisse dat twee ongelijke partijen in staat zouden zijn door middel van onderhandelingen een einde aan het conflict te maken. Essentieel is dat de onvervreemdbare rechten van het Palestijnse volk volledig worden gerealiseerd. Zonder een rechtvaardige oplossing voor de situatie van de Palestijnen is er geen perspectief op een vreedzaam samenleven van de twee volken.  
  
**The Rights Forum, dat deel uitmaakt van het netwerk, publiceerde een**[**verkorte versie**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=daf975fadc&e=37d294b014)**van de brief op zijn website.**

**Kwart miljoen handtekeningen voor burgercampagne tegen illegale nederzettingen**

*10 februari 2023*

Deze week heeft het Europees Burgerinitiatief '[**Stop Handel met Nederzettingen**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=4ee0bed05e&e=37d294b014)' een mooie mijlpaal bereikt: een kwart miljoen Europese burgers ondertekenden tot nu toe de petitie die moet leiden tot een verbod op handel met illegale nederzettingen in bezette gebieden. Deze week sloot ook de prominente ngo Oxfam Novib zich bij de campagne aan.  
  
De campagne loopt nog tot en met 20 februari, en bevindt zich dus in de laatste fase. In Nederland is de petitie inmiddels ruim 26 duizend keer ondertekend. Hoewel de vereiste minimumgrens daarmee reeds lang is bereikt, streven wij ernaar om ten minste 30 duizend handtekeningen op te halen.  
  
Wij doen daarom nog eenmaal een beroep op uw steun: [**teken de petitie**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=ebaba93d77&e=37d294b014), verspreid haar binnen uw netwerk en help ons de grens van 30 duizend handtekeningen te bereiken!

**Barcelona verbreekt tijdelijk de banden met Israël**

De burgemeester van Barcelona heeft op 8 februari [**aangekondigd**](https://rightsforum.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=259401a17cfcc2916fe8034ed&id=8f524eac7d&e=37d294b014) dat de Catalaanse stad alle institutionele betrekkingen met Israël opschort. Een belangrijk onderdeel van de maatregel is het bevriezen van de stedenband tussen Barcelona en Tel Aviv.  
  
In een brief aan de Israëlische premier Benjamin Netanyahu schrijft burgemeester Ada Colau dat de betrekkingen opgeschort zullen blijven 'totdat de Israëlische autoriteiten een einde maken aan de systematische schending van de mensenrechten van Palestijnen'. Barcelona is de eerste stad ter wereld die een dergelijke stap zet.

*9 februari 2023*

*From Jenin to Jericho, 2023 has seen a horrifying escalation of raids, murder, and brutal violence against Palestinians. Below, three JVP staff leaders share reflection, analysis, and a call to action:*

* A crisis moment for Palestine —***Stefanie Fox****, Executive Director*
* Updates from the ground — ***Eran Efrati****, Director of Campaigns and Partnerships*
* Why Rep Ilhan Omar was kicked off the House Foreign Affairs Committee — ***Beth Miller****, Political Director of JVP Action*

**A crisis moment for Palestine**

*By Stefanie Fox, Executive Director*

Nearly every day for the last few weeks, I’ve woken up to heartbreaking news from Palestine.

Nearly every day, I learn that the Israeli military has raided another refugee camp, or that settlers have destroyed Palestinian homes and property at will. Each morning I learn of the murders of children and their elders who were trying to save them.

The current crisis comes at the hands of Israel’s new far-right, fascist government, which was elected by and for the settler movement. Their mission: to expand settler colonialism throughout historic Palestine. The Israeli government, and its emissaries in the military, are hard at work to create the conditions in which they can carry out that mission.

While enabling murder after murder, indignity after indignity, Netanyahu is calculating just how much damage he can inflict against Palestinians without testing the limits of Israel’s most powerful ally. The U.S. government, it seems, has a tremendous capacity to turn the other cheek where Israel’s brutality against Palestinians is concerned. Again and again, the Biden administration affirms its “great friendship” with Israel, essentially giving Netanyahu free rein to continue his regime of racist violence.

Yet we know that popular opinion in the U.S. is increasingly critical of Israel and its blatant rights abuses, including among our Jewish communities. The movement for Palestinian liberation is growing stronger every day. Just yesterday, the city of Barcelona cut sister city ties with Tel Aviv in protest of Israel's Apartheid policies. Powerful players in the U.S. government see the pressure building for accountability here too, and they're scared. Congress’s recent vote to remove Ilhan Omar from the House Foreign Affairs Committee was pure retribution for her vocal critique of Israel and support of Palestinians. They’re lashing out because we’re winning.

It’s essential that we keep the growing power of our movement in mind through our heartbreak, hopelessness, and rage. JVP offers a place to come together in community, in organization, where we can get informed, share in outrage — and, most importantly, to conceive and carry out a plan for change.

**We have a Jewish tradition that says our actions, rather than our beliefs, are the true measure of our contributions to the world.**

*9 februari 2023*

**Updates from the ground**

*By Eran Efrati, Director of Campaigns and Partnerships*

Every day since the start of 2023, Israeli forces have conducted coordinated raids, attacks, abductions, and executions. They have ended Palestinian life daily, committing ethnic cleansing at the fastest rate since the Nakba.

Earlier this week, after a nine-day siege, the Israeli military stormed the Aqbat Jabr refugee camp outside Jericho in the occupied West Bank, killing five Palestinians. This followed a harrowing five-hour raid that injured 13 more the night before, during which the Israeli military barred ambulances and medical personnel from providing care to injured Palestinians. The military also withheld the bodies of murdered Palestinians from grieving families, a standard practice by the Israeli government.

This attack came just a week after Israeli forces killed nine Palestinians in Jenin refugee camp, following days of blockade, closures, home demolitions, settler attacks, and near-nightly military raids.

And it’s not just the military committing these horrific acts. Netanyahu’s new Jewish supremacist government has also mobilized settler militias backed by the border police, the secret police, and the Ministry of Justice to escalate the full force of state violence against Palestinians.

All across occupied Palestinian territory, Israel has severely restricted movement, the delivery of basic supplies, and access to urgent care. The Israeli state is out to demolish dissent and any semblance of free life in Palestine.

In the last month, we have seen Palestinian parents trying to protect their children and being shot to death, first in Qalandiya then in a checkpoint next to Ramallah. Have no doubt: We will see more and more executions in broad daylight of parents trying to protect their children from being taken by Israeli soldiers, from the brutality of night raids in their homes.

We cannot be silent.

We are in active conversations with the global movement for Palestinian liberation and return, coordinating an international response guided by our Palestinian partners across continents, countries, and cities. We will not wait until thousands lose their lives, and we will not continue our regular lives while theirs are being taken away daily.

We are on the verge of a revolution — the second phase of the Unity Intifada. As Palestinians declare their intent to resist separation and come together in uprising, we should be crystal clear on our role in supporting liberation for all.

**Now is the time to grow our numbers. Now is the time to fight.**

*12 februari 2023*

Earlier this week, Barcelona mayor Ada Colau cut ties with Israel until “Israeli authorities stop the systematic violation of human rights of the Palestinian people.” This decision represents an exciting victory in the movement for Palestinian liberation. But Colau has already faced backlash from Zionist Jewish organizations in Israel and Spain promoting false claims of antisemitism.

Since 1998, Barcelona has had a “twinning agreement” with Tel Aviv calling for friendship and cooperation between the cities. But after Israel’s assault on Gaza in May 2021, a local campaign began urging Colau to break ties. As Colau wrote in her breakup letter to Netanyahu, her constituents called on her to “condemn the crime of apartheid against the Palestinian people” — and she heard them and took action.

Barcelona’s declaration is a victory not only for local organizers, but for the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement for Palestinian freedom. As the Boycott National Committee (BNC) noted in a statement, it was courageous city councils who were the first to cut links with apartheid South Africa.

We know this is only the beginning — and so does our opposition. That’s why it’s essential that we stand up as proud anti-Zionist Jews to celebrate and lift up what it looks like to hold Israel accountable for its apartheid crimes.

In solidarity,

Tallie Ben Daniel

Managing Director

*15 februari 2023*

**Biden administration’s “concern” doesn’t cancel U.S. complicity**

This week, the Biden administration said that it is “deeply troubled” by the Israëli government’s announcement that it will approve thousands more illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank. This comes on the heels of the U.S.’s expression of “deep concern” over the Israëli government’s rapidly escalating state violence against Palestinians under occupation and siege.

Yet these expressions of trouble and concern amount merely to ineffectual handwringing, as the U.S. takes no concrete steps to hold Israël to account. Instead, the U.S. maintains full complicity in the violence of Israel’s current and past government, providing $3.8 billion in unconditional annual military funding and actively seeking to silence Palestinians seeking justice. Our sister organization JVP Action offers further analysis and demands accountability now.

**Read JVPA’s statement**

**THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IS COMPLICIT IN ISRAEL'S WAR CRIMES AND MUST WITHDRAW SUPPORT NOW**

Press Releases / February 14, 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Adina Marx | media@jvp.org | 929-290-0317

*"Statements of ‘deep concern' are meaningless in the face of the Israëli government's rapidly escalating state violence against Palestinians living under occupation and siege."*

**Washington, D.C., February 14,2023** - Following another night of deadly Israëli military raids on Palestinian communities, Jewish Voice for Peace Action calls on the Biden administration to take concrete actions to hold the Israëli government accountable for violations of human rights and international law and withdraw U.S. support now.

During its first 1.5 months in office, Benjamin Netanyahu’s far-right coalition government is behaving exactly as promised: accelerating its violent attacks on Palestinians and committing grave violations of human rights and international law. Meanwhile, the Biden administration wrings its hands, makes hollow statements, and takes no meaningful action.

Israel's far-right government has launched an escalated phase of state violence against Palestinians, which is the root cause of every senseless and tragic death. In the first six weeks of 2023, Israëli forces and settlers have killed 50 Palestinians, including 11 children. Last year was already the deadliest for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since 2004, and 2023 is now set to out-pace it. Attacks carried out by Palestinians in illegal settlements in Jerusalem, and gunfire from Jewish-lsraeli citizens carrying weapons during these attacks and shooting at attackers, have resulted in the killing of 11 Jewish-lsraelis.

The Israëli government's domination and oppression of Palestinians is the root cause of each of these deaths. Netanyahu and the other extremist leaders in his coalition government are using this moment to justify the rapid expansion of the settler project - demolishing more Palestinian homes, building more settlements and outposts, and increasing mass arrests and displacement of Palestinian communities. This week's announcement to approve thousands more illegal settler units and nine outposts make the intentions of the government even more explicit.

The United States is fully complicit in the violence of Israel's current and past government. In addition to the $3.8 billion dollars in unconditional annual military funding sent from the U.S., the Biden administration has actively sought to silence Palestinians seeking accountability at home and in the international arena.

Netanyahu's coalition government is exposing the State of Israël as the violent apartheid regime it has always been and removing the fake mask of democracy. It is long past time for the Biden administration to respond.

The Biden administration's finger-wagging over the Israëli government’s actions are inadequate and will not lead to any meaningful change. The U.S. should immediately take steps to withdraw support now and to hold the Israëli government accountable for its gross violations of human rights and war crimes against Palestinians, including ending U.S. military funding and diplomatic support for Israel's apartheid regime.

***"The Biden administration currently appears more concerned with wanting Israël to maintain its facade of democracy, than with the lives and rights of Palestinians living under Israëli apartheid. Statements of ‘deep concern' are meaningless in the face of the Israëli government's rapidly escalating state violence against Palestinians living under occupation and siege. It is long past time to finally end U.S. complicity in Israëli apartheid."***

***— Beth Miller, Political Director of Jewish Voice for Peace Action***

*Beth Miller is available to speak with the media*

*16 februari 2023*

You may have seen the video circulating on social media of our Executive Director, Human Rights Defender Issa Amro being brutally beaten by an Israëli soldier.

The attack happened in front of international iournalists, in front of cameras. This shows that soldiers feel emboldened to carry out these brutal assaults — they know the Israëli government stands by them. The Israëli National Security Minister — far-right extremist Ben Gvir — issued a statement in support of the soldier!

**Please help protect Issa now!**

***We need our own governments to act! Help Issa now*** by writing to the U.S. Department of State. Click here.

Scroll down to the form at the end of the site. Here is a template for your message:

Subject: Protect Issa Amro

***Message:***

***An Israëli soldier brutally assaulted Palestinian activist Issa Amro, grabbing him by the throat and throwing him to the ground during a peaceful tour of Hebron. issa is recognized as a Human Rights Defender by the U.S. State Department as well as the UN and EU and well known for his philosophy of nonviolence. He met with Secretary Blinken in 2021. We need the U.S. State Department to immediately issue international protection for Issa.***

***American journalist Lawrence Wright, winner of a Pulitzer Prize, witnessed the whole attack and stated that the Israëli army misrepresented the incident in their official statement: the attack was unprovoked, the soldier initiated the encounter and Issa neither cursed nor laid hands on the soldier.***

***The Israëli National Security Minister— Far-Right extremist and former Kahanist Itamar Ben Gvir — called for support of the soldier. The attack happened in front of cameras and an American journalist. It is clear the Israëli soldiers feel emboidened by the new government to carry out attacks with impunity. They are protected by the army, supported financially by the Israëli settler communities, and encouraged by the government.***

***The U.S. Department of State has a responsibility to work on behalf of its own citizens as well as to protect human rights worldwide. The attacks against Issa and other HRDs are escalating at an alarming rate. I ask you to listen to the testimonies of Palestinian HRDs as well as American journalists.***

***Issa's life and physical and mental wellbeing are in danger. I ask that the Department of State take measures to issue protection for Issa with immediate effect.***

Issa was giving a tour to Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Lawrence Wriqht from The New Yorker. As he led the tour into the closed part of Shuhada Street — Hebron's Main Street closed to Palestinians since 1994 — Issa sent the journalist through the closed Street while he himself walked on the adjacent graveyard, speaking to the two Internationals.

A soldier approached him, attempting to stop the tour. Then insisted that they delete the videos that they had filmed. Issa insisted that filming is legal, and the soldier detained him. Issa asked him to call his commander — no one came. Issa stated he wanted to speak to his lawyer.

Suddenly, the soldier grabbed Issa by the throat, choking him and throwing him brutally to the ground. Issa had kept his hands behind his back. The soldier kicked him on the ground until another soldier stopped him. Issa called the Israëli police for an ambulance and was asked, "Are you an Arab or a Jew?" He was then told they could not help him and no ambulance came.

The Israëli army tried to blame the assault on Issa, but journalist Wright stated clearly that the army had not told the truth about the attack, which was unprovoked.

**We need your help now more than ever. Please help us strengthen our work in Hebron and support the people on the ground!**