



AUSTRALIANS FOR PALESTINE

Providing a Voice

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40 YEARS

Tuesday 5 June 2007, marks 40 years of Israeli Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Over 3.2 million Palestinians now live under Israeli Occupation resulting in a complete denial of the indigenous population's inalienable human rights.

A further 4.6 million Palestinians live in exile, with 2.2 million in refugee camps because of the Israeli Occupation.

Commenting on the 40 years of occupation spokesperson, Mr. Taimor Hazou said, "Numerous independent organisations and journalists have documented the horrifying day to day lives of Palestinians under occupation."

"Palestinians have lived the life of exiles in their own land for 40 years."

During this time, human rights abuses and breaches of internal law have been widely recorded by independent organisations such as Amnesty International, Red Cross, and the United Nations.

Israel remains in breach of over 65 UN Resolutions including UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 – the legal basis for the Oslo Agreements – which calls for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories based on the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war.

"While Bush, Blair and Howard argue for the Rule of Law and the entitlement of democracy for Iraq they completely ignore Israel's blatant disregard of international law," said Mr Hazou.

"There is only one question Australian's need to be asking: Is Israel above the law?"

International law and the Geneva Conventions explicitly forbid an occupying power to transfer its own population into occupied territory and a range of UN Resolutions have detailed Israel's breach of these international standards and articles.

"Since 1967, 200 Jewish-only settlements with a population of 383,000 have been built on confiscated Palestinian land, separated from the indigenous population through bypass roads and physical barriers," added Mr. Hazou.

For further information regarding Australian activities on the 5th of June, we encourage visitors to our special website www.67.com.au.

In Melbourne, a vigil will take place from 12 noon to 2.00pm in the Bourke Street Mall. Cities across Australia and around the world are organising a range of events and activities to mark the 40 year Occupation. Sydney, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra will join Paris, Washington, London and New York in a call to End the Occupation and demands that Israel be held accountable to universal human rights and international law standards.

"We are only asking for one thing; that the same standard of law is applied to all."

"Nobody should be above the law," concluded Mr Hazou.

For further comments please contact the offices of Australians for Palestine on (03) 9818 5080 or Taimor Hazou on 0432 140 211 or Moammar Mashni on 0419 999 773. Email enquiries to info@australiansforpalestine.com.