

OCCUPATION REALITIES

AFSC Middle East Resource Series

Middle East Task Force | Spring 2004

An overview

A Brief Occupation Timeline

Israel–Palestine

1967 The Israeli army occupies Gaza (which had been administered by Egypt), the West Bank including East Jerusalem (which had been governed by Jordan), the Golan Heights (Syrian territory), and the Sinai (Egyptian territory).

1978 Israel invades and occupies southern Lebanon.

1979 Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat sign the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty in Washington, D.C. As part of this agreement, Israel withdraws from the Sinai, abandoning and dismantling several Jewish settlements in the Sinai in the process.

1982 Israel stages a full scale invasion of south Lebanon and a siege of Beirut.

1993 Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin sign the Declaration of Principles (Oslo Accords) in Washington, D.C., on interim self-government for the Palestinians in parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).

1993 – 2000 Parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are turned over to the new Palestinian Authority (PA), which exercises civil authority in those areas pending final status negotiations.

2000 Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon in May, except from the disputed Sheba Farms.

2000 – present Israel reoccupies the parts of the OPT that had been turned over to the PA. The Israeli military regularly enters those areas that had been under nominal Palestinian civil control.

Iraq

1990 Iraq invades and occupies Kuwait. The United Nations imposes sanctions on Iraq to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

1991 UN/U.S.-led Gulf War drives Iraq from Kuwait. The UN/U.S.-led sanctions on Iraq continue.

1998 UN pulls weapons inspectors in advance of the “Operation Desert Fox” bombing campaign.

2003 U.S./UK forces invade and occupy Iraq.

What is Occupation Realities?

Occupation Realities is a series of fact sheets designed to contribute to a greater understanding about life under military occupation in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Iraq. Each resource provides readers with glimpses into one aspect of the daily lives of people living under occupation – under siege, without access to health care, lacking protection, and confined by separation barriers, roadblocks or expanding settlements. We also include a resource on nonviolent efforts in the region that are working for a society free from military occupation. To supplement the human stories and key facts about each topic, we have provided resources for further learning and inquiry, and suggestions on how to educate new constituencies, policymakers, and the media on these critical issues of military occupation and the U.S. role.

Occupation Realities is produced by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Middle East Task Force, which includes staff working on these issues in the United States.

What is the American Friends Service Committee?

The AFSC, a Quaker peace and social justice organization established in 1917, has a long history of working in the Middle East and on Middle East issues in the United States. This work is based on the Quaker belief that there is that of God in each person and a commitment to nonviolent action for social change. Based on these beliefs and within the framework of human rights and international law, the AFSC strives for a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians and for freedom from occupation and self-determination for all people living in the region. We believe that people can live in peace and security if there is respect for human rights – social, economic, cultural, national, and political.

Our work currently focuses on Israel-Palestine and Iraq. As an organization based in the United States, AFSC approaches its Middle East work through addressing U.S. policy related to Israel-Palestine and Iraq. Current U.S. policy towards the region is destructive due to its militaristic approach and disregard for international law. We work for a United States policy in the Middle East that helps create the conditions for peace and security for all in the region. Such conditions require the protection of human rights and respect of international law.



**American Friends
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