

## Is *Selling Land* a Crime?

The other day, we asked whether it is a crime to **buy land**. The question was rhetorical, but we were remiss in not mentioning that in Palestinian Authority territory, it is not merely a crime, but a **capital offence**, to **sell land to Jews**.

As **Le Monde Diplomatique** explains:

Since Jordan had made land sales to Israelis a crime punishable by death (from 1973-87 about 100 people were sentenced by Jordanian courts to death in absentia), the PA has imposed its own death penalty for such sales, including land in Jerusalem. This was announced by Freh Abu Meidan, the justice minister, on 6 May 1997. Twenty-two Palestinians have been since arrested and the Palestinian legislative council has begun debating a law to restrict sales.

Le Monde Diplomatique goes on to point out that individual Jews and Jewish charities have sometimes stooped to such shocking tactics as paying "astronomical prices" or finding new homes for the vendors, out of reach of the ~~terrorist overlords~~ Palestinian Authority.

Even **Amnesty International** has found something to complain about, namely that the Palestinian ~~in~~security forces often don't even bother with trials for these offences:

Unlawful killings, including possible extrajudicial executions, continued to occur. Three land-dealers were found dead during May after the Minister of Justice, Freih Abu Middein, announced that the Palestinian Authority would begin applying a Jordanian law which provided for the death penalty for those convicted of selling land to Jews. There were fears that statements by the Minister of Justice and the failure to condemn the killings appeared to constitute permission to security services to carry out extrajudicial executions with impunity. In June the Palestinian Authority made a public statement supporting the death sentence for land-dealers but rejecting any killing without trial and conviction.

## israelis/palestinians

An NGO-type friend recently said that 3 times as many Palestinians as Israelis die through Israeli/Palestinian violence each year, and that Israeli soldiers kill many many innocent civilians (women and children was the phrase) in cross fire, through bulldozing houses etc.

Do you have any advice about where I might be able to verify the non-veracity of these claims?

by [emma](#) on Tue, 06/03/2003 - 21:33 | [reply](#)

## Re: israelis/palestinians

A quick Google search turns up "[The War on Non-Combatants](#)" at *The Village Voice*, & "[Has Israel Used Indiscriminate Force?](#)" at *The Middle East Forum*.

by [Kevin](#) on Tue, 06/03/2003 - 22:48 | [reply](#)

## You imply that the settlement...

You imply that the settlements are just a bunch of dwellings bought by Jews for the purpose of living peaceful lives but in fact the settlements are funded by the Israeli government and their purpose is to grab more territory for the Israeli State. Notice that in the Road Map, Israel is required to stop its settlement activity. If the Israeli State is not engaging in any such activity, why that stipulation? The truth is, the settlements are part of the occupation, and again, Israel needs to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory if it wants peace.

by a reader on Wed, 06/04/2003 - 10:17 | [reply](#)

## Still true?

Is this still true? The links appear to be from 1997, not 2003. Could it be that things have changed since then? What evidence do you have that it is still the case?

by a reader on Wed, 06/04/2003 - 10:29 | [reply](#)

## If both sides continue saying...

If both sides continue saying that they will not stop until the other side stops, where will peace come from? Isn't it the case that for peace to break out, one side or the other has to say enough is enough and that they will stop aggressing against the other?

by a reader on Wed, 06/04/2003 - 12:17 | [reply](#)

## Both sides

See, the problem is that not all violence is aggression. Some of it is self defense. Some examples of self defense are killing terrorist leaders, destroying hostile bomb factories, and destroying the buildings terrorists operate from. On the other hand, not all violence is self defense. Some is aggression. A good example of aggression is going into a public place and blowing yourself up in order to kill as many Jews as possible. Another good example of aggression is building bombs for others to use for this purpose. Another is providing the funds for this activity.

The two sides are not equal, and the Israelis ceasing to defend themselves will not end this conflict.

~Woty

<http://woty.blogspot.com>

"Violence?" is not the question.

by **Woty** on Wed, 06/04/2003 - 13:48 | [reply](#)

## AI Criticisms

Interestingly critical article about Amnesty International [here](#).

by a reader on Wed, 06/04/2003 - 15:09 | [reply](#)

## 'Innocent' civilians?

In a [survey](#) released yesterday, 80% of people in the P.A. territories supported the statement: "The rights and needs of the Palestinian people cannot be taken care of as long as the state of Israel exists."

Here's one for American readers: "Now I'm going to read a list of political leaders. For each one, tell me how much confidence you have in each leader to do the right thing regarding world affairs". In the P.A., 71% had "a lot of confidence" or "some confidence" in Osama bin Laden - the highest figure of any place surveyed. They want **you** dead, too.

by a reader on Wed, 06/04/2003 - 16:14 | [reply](#)

## Re: You imply that the settlement...

There are predominantly Arab towns in Israel; what's the problem with having predominantly Jewish towns in a prospective Palestine?

A couple of questions for you: How many Jewish refugees were expelled from Muslim countries? How many fled Europe in/around WWII? Why aren't those Jewish refugees all now in UN-sponsored towns on the fringes of those various Muslim and European countries, blowing up *their* innocent civilians?

by a reader on Wed, 06/04/2003 - 16:29 | [reply](#)

**"A [different] reader" wrote:...**

"A [different] reader" wrote: "Israel needs to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory if it wants peace."

You think?

Sharon: "Israel is a society governed by the rule of law, thus we will immediately begin to remove unauthorized outposts".

Hamas: "We will never be ready to lay down arms until the liberation of the last centimeter of the land of Palestine" - i.e. Israel.

Please tell me who wants peace, and who doesn't.

by a reader on Wed, 06/04/2003 - 16:48 | [reply](#)

## Homesteading or Buying?

Is your argument that the land was purchased on the free market from whoever owned it? Or is your argument that Jews have gone to remote locations and homesteaded land without permission from anyone (except the Israeli government)? If the former, you have a good case, if the latter, no State would allow such illegal immigrants.

by a reader on Thu, 06/05/2003 - 14:40 | [reply](#)

## Intifada stats

Regarding the first post on this thread, I have exactly what you are looking for.

<http://www.ict.org.il/articles/articledet.cfm?articleid=440>

A complete statistical breakdown of casualties in the intifada. I think you may be shocked at what \*hasn't\* been told to you by the media.

by [Daniel Strimpel](#) on Thu, 06/05/2003 - 17:36 | [reply](#)

## Settlements again

Does this (WSJ/AP) support your case? :

*Palestinians consider the outposts on West Bank hilltops efforts to further expand Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and create new obstacles to a Palestinian state. They say all Israeli settlements are illegal encroachment on their land.*

*In what was perhaps an effort to strike a balance between the two sides, Mr. Sharon announced at the summit that an undisclosed number of outposts would be dismantled. Signaling that it may avoid full compliance, Israel has said some of the outposts serve a security function -- overlooking roads, for example -- and should stay. However, an adviser to Mr. Sharon, said if the Palestinians rein in militant groups that have attacked Israelis, then the security*

*outposts could become unnecessary and would be removed down the line.*

*Palestinian leaders said that was not good enough. "When the time for implementation of the road map comes, we expect that they will take down all the outposts ," Palestinian Culture Minister Ziad Abu Amr said. Information Minister Nabil Amr said that even if Mr. Sharon were to dismantle all outposts , it still would leave a more significant requirement of the road map unfulfilled: Israel's obligation in the plan's first phase to freeze all Jewish settlement construction.*

*The Peace Now group, which opposes settlement in the West Bank, says 117 unauthorized outposts have been created since 1998. Some are uninhabited while others consist of a few trailers with less than a dozen inhabitants.*

by a reader on Fri, 06/06/2003 - 09:30 | [reply](#)

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