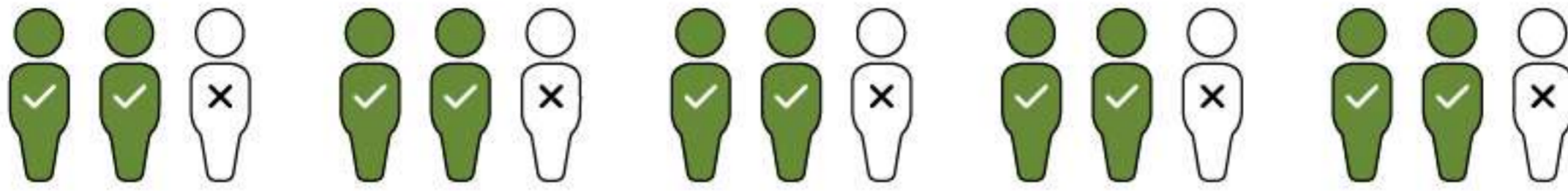


# Using Food as a Weapon

**Palestine food  
insecurity is a strategy  
of submission and  
control**



# 1 out of 3 Palestinians are food insecure including 64.4% of the Gazan population

In Palestine, food insecurity is not a byproduct of conflict. The Israeli settler-colonial state employs a range of tactics to alienate the Indigenous population from their resources of production, severing Palestinians' access to seedlings, land, water, capital and labour, to create food dependency.

*Only through weaponising food dependency can Palestinians be coerced to forgo their rights.*

# Israel carries out routine attacks on Palestinian agricultural infrastructure.

The majority of attacks in the West Bank and Gaza target the agricultural sector, followed by water and energy installations, all of which have a compounded effect on food production.

***Trees are primary victims.***

Since 2006, 70% of the attacks on the agricultural sector in the West Bank have targeted olive and fruit trees, for their high cultural, economic, and political significance to the Palestinian people.

The last four wars on Gaza have levelled orchards vastly. In 2008, Israel's 22-day Operation Cast Lead killed over 1,383 Palestinians, and bombed and uprooted 400,000 fruit trees.

# Since 2000, Israel has destroyed over 3,000,000 fruit trees to displace Palestinian farmers

Trees are systematically **uprooted, poisoned, burnt, and bombed** for their significance in building resilient food systems and livelihoods, and **protecting lands from confiscation.**



*Carried out especially during harvest season, these attacks attempt to demoralise farmers from re-investing in cultivation.*

# The settler-state obstructs Palestinian mobility and access to arable land to hinder cultivation

Palestinian communities, already dispossessed and fragmented between the West Bank, Gaza, and the region colonised in 1948, suffer from **ever-growing ghettoisation** due to hundreds of checkpoints, road-blocks, and Israel's **700 km apartheid wall**. Annexing large swathes of land, the wall **uprooted an estimated 100,000 trees**, and cut off families from local markets.

*Combined with settlement jurisdictions, military zones, and nature reserves catering for Israelis exclusively, Palestinians are banned from 40% of the West Bank.*



# A rigorous blockade on Gaza's land, air and sea

In 2007, Israel turned Gaza into a cramped open-air prison by imposing a blockade on exports and imports, restricting access to food, agricultural inputs, and fuel.



Israel has also enforced a military “buffer zone” on 35% of Gaza’s arable land, and a maritime buffer zone allowing access to barely 15% of the Mediterranean, frequently killing farmers and fisherfolk that seek to secure their livelihoods.

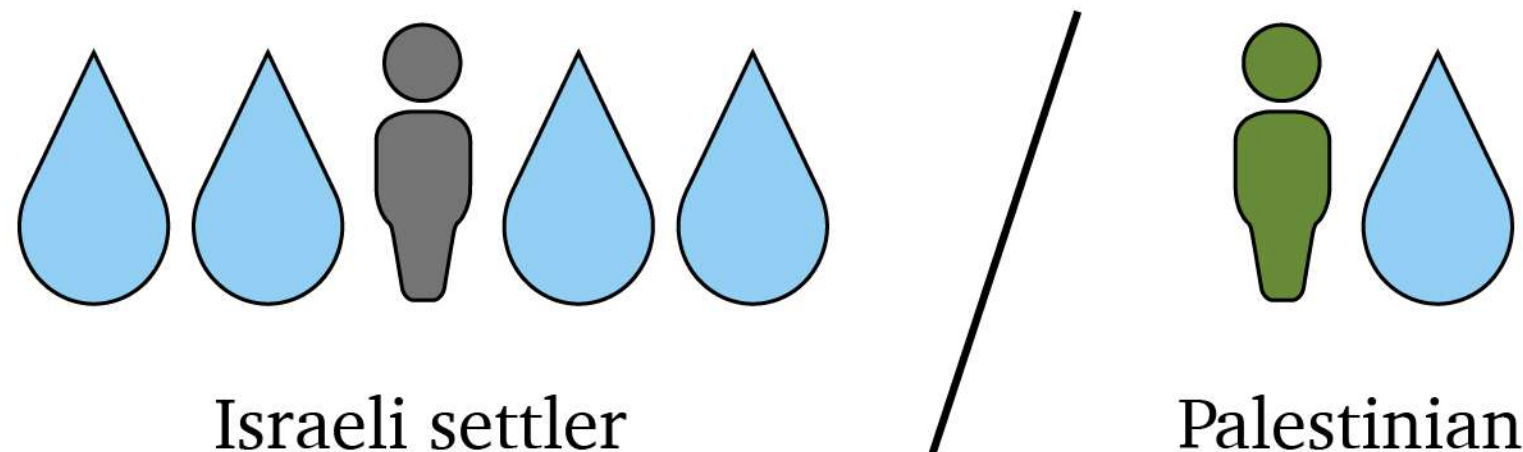
*“The idea is to put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger” - Dov Weisglass, advisor to former Israeli PM Ehud Olmert.*

# All Palestinian surface, ground, and rain water is under Israeli occupation



Israel blocks access to the Jordan river, and **usurps more than 80% of the aquifers' flow**, prohibiting the construction of wells and **destroying Palestinian water infrastructure, including rainwater collection facilities.** Palestinians are forced to purchase their stolen water at inflated prices.

*Settlers receive four times more water than Indigenous Palestinians, who receive less than the minimum standard set by the WHO.*



# Systematically poisoning Palestinian lands and people

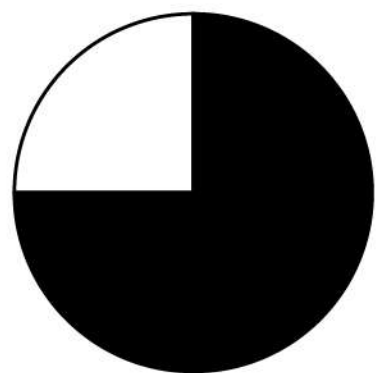
Israel degrades Palestinian water and soil through frequent herbicide spraying, razing and stealing fertile soil. Moreover, it incentivises the dumping and processing of untreated hazardous wastes within the West Bank, causing serious health problems to Palestinians.

Israel's systematic bombing of Gaza's water and food production infrastructure has also left substantial contamination from sewage and lethal military ammunition. Rehabilitation is nearly impossible with the sanctions on construction materials.



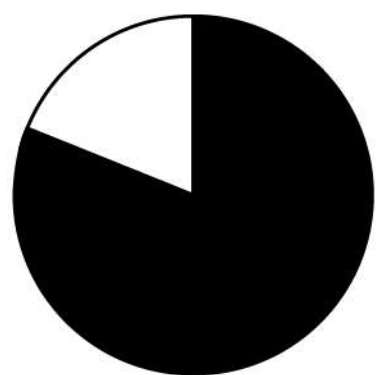
# Creating a marketplace for settler-colonialism

Palestinians have been forced into a customs union with their colonisers where they must compete with Israeli government-subsidised crops dumped into the market.



*75% of Palestinian imports are from Israel*

Palestinians have also been pushed by Israel and various donors into export production of unnecessary crops for the benefit of exploitative Israeli trading companies. Many of these exports are inputs for Israeli produce that exploit cheap Palestinian labour, only to sell these goods back to Palestinian markets at inflated rates.



*80% of Palestinian exports serve the Israeli economy*

Moreover, Israel routinely confiscates Palestinian taxes and restricts Palestinian investment in farming.



# They uproot one, we plant ten.

The Million Tree Campaign was launched in 2001 to build a 'resistance' food system and economy in Palestine. The campaign planted over **2.6 million fruit trees** supporting **30,000 farmers**, among numerous projects bolstering food systems.

Go to [www.apnature.org/en/mtc](http://www.apnature.org/en/mtc) to plant trees in Palestine.

## 1 Tree = 7 USD

Join the movement and spread the word.

**Let us together plant trees, dignity,  
and freedom.**



 @apnorg

 @APNorg

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#TreesforPalestine  
#أشجار\_فلسطين