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Israel's Wall of Shame

Providing a Voice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Friday November 16 in Melbourne, a rally will be held between 12 noon & 2:00pm in the Bourke Street Mall in front of the old GPO to protest Israel's defiance of the United Nations in building its Separation Wall through Palestinian land in the Occupied West Bank.

A mock wall will also be constructed.

According to a recent report(1), Israel has now confiscated 713km² of land to complete its "security barrier". Incredibly this equates to over 35,000 Melbourne Cricket Ground's - almost one third of Canberra.

Once complete, the wall will stretch some 770km. The irony of this is that the official "border" that separates Israel from the occupied West Bank is a mere 315km.

In 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the wall was "...contrary to international law". Further, that "Israel is under obligation... to dismantle forthwith the structure... [and] make reparation for all damage caused". Israel continues to ignore repeated calls to comply with this ruling.

Millions of innocent Palestinian lives have been destroyed as a result of this blatantly racist structure which is being constructed in an effort to forcibly segregate not just Israelis and Palestinians, but more importantly, Palestinians from their farms, schools, relatives and neighboring villages. Life has become almost impossible for Palestinians as Israel continues its illegal actions and constructs the wall on stolen Palestinian land costing in excess of US1.5 billion dollars.

Earlier this year, the British Embassy made the following statement after the conclusion of a study on the implications of the wall: "We recognize Israel's need and right to defend itself, but we believe the route of the separation fence should follow the Green Line.(2) This clearly demonstrates that Israel is breaching it's international obligations as an occupying force as it continues to defy international calls to once and for all declare its borders.

Demonstrations will take place in more than 25 cities across 15 countries around the world to mark the fifth "week against the wall" campaign. In Australia, there will be rallies in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Canberra.

1 http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=1154

2 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/822170.html>

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