



Why environmentalists should be concerned about the Jewish National Fund (JNF)

What is the Jewish National Fund?

*"The environmental arm of the Jewish people" *?*

*"Global environmental leaders" *?*

**claims made on JNF websites*

or Greenwash for racism and ethnic cleansing

What does the JNF do?

The JNF was established by the world Zionist Federation in 1901 to acquire land in Palestine 'in perpetuity' for the exclusive use of 'persons of Jewish faith, race or ancestry'. It has exercised that function by driving Palestinians from their homes.

As the Zionist project has taken more and more of the land of Palestine, displacing its non-Jewish inhabitants, the JNF has played a central role

Disappearing Palestine 1946 - 2008



The 'village files'

Prior to the establishment of the state of Israel, the JNF provided research on Palestinian villages for the purposes of ethnic cleansing by Zionist militia.

The spoils of war

After each military expansion of Israel – in 1948 and 1967 - Palestinians were driven from their homes, their villages destroyed and the land handed over to the JNF for exclusive use by Jewish settlers. Refugees remain unable to return to the sites of their homes.



'Making the desert bloom'

Israel is 'developing' the Negev desert through the JNF's work of planting forests, establishing Jewish settlements and driving out the Bedouin who have lived there for generations.

Green Patrols

The JNF has a paramilitary wing for policing its exclusionary policies – by confiscating livestock, spraying crops with toxins and destroying homes. The Green Patrols have been subject of legal censure due to their brutality.

The remains of the village of El-Araqib, destroyed in 2010 to make way for forest plantation. Attempts to rebuild have been destroyed seven times.

The JNF now owns 13% of Israel's land and controls a further 80% through statutory representation on the Israel Land Authority. Almost all of Israel is therefore subject to its ethnic exclusion policy.



A bulldozed Palestinian home in the destroyed village of 'Imwas', now in 'Canada Park', illegally annexed by Israel in 1967.

How green is the JNF?

The JNF has always planted trees, to create boundaries, to reclaim sand dunes and swamps, for parks and as a means of occupying land and concealing the destroyed Palestinian villages. Its pine forests recreated the European landscape familiar to the colonisers, separating it from the Middle Eastern environment. Its favoured tree is the Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), renamed 'Jerusalem pine', which never formed more than sparse stands naturally in Palestine, and is ecologically ill suited to the JNF's dense plantations. In the desert the species of choice are the fast-growing, water guzzling, Australian Eucalyptus.

The JNF drained the Hula swamp in 1965, destroying a unique wetland and, according to an IUCN/WWF/Plantlife report, causing the extinction of five plant species.

In recent times, the JNF has recognised the propaganda value of going green and has rebranded itself as an environmental NGO. It attended the Johannesburg Earth Summit and the Climate summit in Cancun. It is expected to participate in Rio+20 in 2012, promoting its greenwash to conceal its human rights abuses.

All this is in Israel. What can we do in Britain?

The JNF was first registered in Britain and continues to raise funds for land acquisition and Zionist propaganda. It is registered as a charity in Britain so its ethnic cleansing activities benefit from tax exemption. There are moves to challenge its charitable status, supported by MPs through EDM 1677.

Zionism and anti-Semitism

Zionists claim to speak on behalf of all Jews and therefore accuse opponents of Zionist organisations like the JNF of anti-Semitism. This is nonsense. Zionists want an ethnically pure Jewish state and believe that Palestine should belong to the Jews alone. Many Jews resent this and campaign against Zionism.



The remains of the village of Ajjur. Residents were evicted in 1948 and today live in refugee camps. With funding from JNF UK, this land became 'British Park', with Jewish-only settlements.



Stop the JNF

The call to stop the JNF came from Palestinian civil society, the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network and solidarity organisations. They have especially called on environmental groups to distance themselves from this racist organisation which is claiming to be green.

"As is starkly clear, the JNF is an organisation with explicitly racist aims of conquest. We call upon all those committed to environmental justice to cease and refrain from working with the Jewish National Fund".

PENGON / Friends of the Earth Palestine