

# THE ISRAELI APARTHEID WALL MUST FALL



Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum held a day of action on November 27th against Israel's Apartheid Wall which, if completed, will be far longer and in many places much bigger than the infamous Berlin Wall.

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) writes that *"the Israelis call the Wall a 'security fence' and talk of 'separation'. By using the language of separation, Israel adopts the very language of South African apartheid. Apartheid, a war crime, is defined in international law as 'a system of institutionalised racial segregation and discrimination for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group...over another and systematically oppressing them.'"* The Wall is a monstrous and tangible manifestation of this, dividing people along racial lines by the creation of 'reserves' or ghettos, controlling movement with ID cards, curfews and closures.

The Wall is causing great hardship and suffering to the Palestinian people. It cuts Palestinian farmers off from their land, cuts students off from their education, cuts people off from healthcare services. If the Wall was really just about security, as Israel claims, it would be built along the 'green line', but much of it is being built illegally, well inside Palestinian territory. Some towns are being surrounded by the Wall with all movement in and out of town controlled (and sometimes stopped completely) at a single entry/exit point by Israeli soldiers. People, including children, who have attempted to cross the barrier without permission have been shot and killed.

PSC goes on to explain that *"the Wall will cause many Palestinian villages to lose their only source of water. The first phase of building has had a severe impact, destroying 35 kilometres of water pipes. Thirty wells are listed as lost in the Qalqilya and Tulkarm districts alone. The route of the wall bites deep into Palestinian land to ensure that Israel steals control of the aquifers in the West Bank. Movement restrictions have already led to an 80% increase in the cost of trucked water, an absolute necessity in summer. Israel already controls the entire water supply, rationing it to Palestinians and charging them for their own resources. Meanwhile illegal settler colonies use 80% of the West Bank's renewable water supplies."*

The Wall has attracted worldwide opposition. Many Jewish people also oppose the Israeli government's policy on Palestine, realising that such brutality and injustice will never bring peace, and organisations such as Gush Shalom campaign in Israel for justice for the Palestinian people.

Gush Shalom writes that *"the 'separation wall' is being built at a frantic pace. It does not separate Israel and the Palestinians. It separates the Palestinian villages and their lands. It cuts whole Palestinian villages off from the West Bank. It penetrates deep into the Palestinian territories, in order to attach dozens of settlements to Israel. It surrounds the West Bank on all sides, cuts it into pieces and cuts it off from the world."*

To draw attention to the Wall and the plight of the Palestinian people, we constructed a twenty foot long wall on hoardings around the fire damaged shops next to the Horse and Jockey pub on Hope Street, and decorated this with facts, maps and photographs of the Wall and pictures of some of the Palestinian victims of Israel's Apartheid regime. Passers-by were invited to imagine, with the help of a digitally manipulated photograph (see front page), what it would be like if Wrexham was cut down the middle by an 8 metre high wall. We also gave out 400 leaflets with more information about the Wall and urged shoppers to boycott Israeli and U.S. goods.

In December, members of WPJF also took part in demonstrations in Manchester in support of the Palestinian people, and in protest against the banning of pro-Palestinian demonstrations outside Marks & Spencer in Manchester city centre over the Christmas period.



Passers-by looking at our "wall" display

## QUOTE FROM OUR PRESS RELEASE

"We hope that this visual display of Israel's Apartheid Wall will encourage people to consider boycotting Israeli and US goods. The US is also implicated since the Wall is being financed by billions of dollars of US aid to Israel. The boycott of South African goods helped to end Apartheid there, and we know that a widespread boycott could do the same in Israel and Palestine. There can never be peace while such a wall exists. The racist treatment of the Palestinian people by Israel is a crime against humanity. Justice for the Palestinian people is a prerequisite for peace in the region." Genny Bove

For more information about the Wall and the situation of the Palestinian people, follow these links:

PSC: [www.palestinecampaign.org](http://www.palestinecampaign.org)  
Gush Shalom: <http://gush-shalom.org/thewall>  
Stop the Wall: [www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org)  
Electronic Intifada: [www.electronicintifada.net](http://www.electronicintifada.net)

# JUSTIFICATION FOR THE INVASION (OF BRITAIN)



*Wrexham under Army occupation - 13th Nov 04*

Each time he is confronted with the awkward truth about his role in starting the illegal and immoral war in Iraq, the Prime Minister tells us to "move on", to forget about his past crimes and look forward to the bright democratic future he promises for Iraq. But we won't "move on", we won't forget that the invasion of Iraq, which has led to the present disastrous state of the country and was based on lies and deceptions. The biggest deception of all is the pretence that Britain can assume the moral high ground and join the US as the policeman of the world. Let's apply the accusations that Blair made against Saddam Hussein to Britain:

## **Possesses Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Britain has far more, bigger and more powerful WMD than Iraq ever had, and they are not even hidden. At the naval bases of Coulport and Faslane in the West of Scotland there are about 200 submarine-launched Trident warheads. The nuclear warheads are maintained at Burghfield in Berkshire and convoys carrying nuclear materials frequently make the journey to and from Scotland. No need for a Colin Powell style presentation of fuzzy air photos; these trucks are there on our public roads. Each warhead has the force of 100,000 tons of conventional high explosive.

## **Presents a Clear and Present Danger**

We were told Iraq was a threat to Britain, despite the fact that Saddam Hussein never threatened to invade this country. Blair's Britain was clearly a threat to Iraq, following years of warlike talk and a bombing campaign that started as early as 1998.

## **Supports Terrorists**

The British government charged Saddam Hussein with aiding, supporting and consorting with known terrorists. Well, here's proof of Mr Blair meeting a known terrorist...



The British government gives aid to this terrorist too... below is a photograph of one of Bush's bombers preparing to leave British soil to attack Iraq in March 2003. Britain is an important centre for the US military, with 11 bases including USAF Fairford, the wartime home of the bomber pictured, and the massive communications monitoring stations at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales.



*A B-52 bomber being loaded with bombs at USAF Fairford, Gloucestershire.*

## **Flouts International Law**

*"Britain under New Labour is a systematic violator of international law and ethical standards in its foreign policy – in effect, an outlaw state. It is a key ally of some of the world's most repressive regimes that is consistently condoning, and sometimes actively aiding, human rights abuses"* (Mark Curtis, "Web of Deceit", Vintage 2003). Apart from pursuing an illegal war in Iraq, New Labour has supported and sold arms to regimes with poor human rights records such as Indonesia and Saudi Arabia, prevented the Chagossians from returning to their home on Diego Garcia and is allied to the repressive regimes of Turkey, Russia and Israel. Certainly Saddam Hussein committed abuses in Iraq but what about the detainees in Belmarsh Prison, the asylum seekers locked up, and the forced deportation of refugees that happens in Britain under New Labour?

Applying the reasoning of the Prime Minister, Saddam Hussein would have had plenty of reasons to invade and occupy Britain, all of them, by that reasoning, legal and moral.

Mr Blair, just for a minute abandon your smug certainties and look at the world from a different perspective. Now do you see why so many of us condemn you as a liar and hypocrite?

## **NEW WEB SITE FOR CYNEFIN Y WERIN [www.cynefinywerin.org.uk](http://www.cynefinywerin.org.uk)**

Cynefin y Werin (Common Ground) is an all Wales network of organisations which promotes equality, peace, justice, human rights and co-operation. CyW has just launched a new web site to promote its aims and support campaigns and actions throughout Wales. The site features a diary, areas for campaigns and actions, and most importantly a forum where users can post news of actions and events and engage in discussion. Please support this important new resource for the Peace movement in Wales. The site is bi-lingual.