

Solidarity through sovereignty - connecting our collective liberation

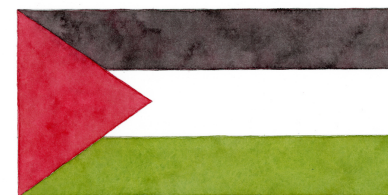
This series – Solidarity through sovereignty: connecting our collective liberation – gives background to the genocide we are witnessing in Palestine.

We speak from sovereign Yagera land in Magandjin/Brisbane, a place of ongoing colonisation, racial violence & Blackfulla resistance. This reality informs our solidarity with Palestine, led by Blackfullas who are also enduring colonial occupation & fighting for Indigenous futures.

We explain why Blackfullas & allies in Magandjin/Brisbane are taking action in solidarity with Palestine, & why Palestinians here are grounding their resistance in Blackfulla sovereignty.

We draw connections between colonial white supremacy oppressing Indigenous people here, in Palestine & across the world.

From Boundary streets to apartheid walls, missions to occupied territories, by naming, explaining & understanding these connections we can cut through colonial fictions to build our collective knowledge for resistance & liberation.



Colonial destruction of land & water



Palestinian Mahfoza Oude, 60, cries after her olive trees were destroyed by Israeli settlers JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP via Getty images

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Colonial destruction of land & water

Colonisation has destroyed natural ecosystems across the globe. **This is a key settler strategy to separate Indigenous people from the land they care for**, in favour of exploiting its resources. There are countless local examples of this: draining of rivers like the Murray-Darling-Barkaa for unsustainable farming, destroying sacred sites like Juukan Gorge for mining & the extinction of one hundred plants & animal species since European colonisation.

75 years since its creation, **Israel has devastated the environment, ecosystems as well as native flora & fauna in order to claim the land, hide its violence & make life unliveable for Palestinians.**

Claiming the land as 'European' not only meant killing & displacing Indigenous Palestinians, but also Indigenous plants & animals.

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Colonial destruction of land & water

Living for thousands of years, the olive tree is the centre of Palestinian social, cultural & economic life, Abu Ali writes “with the olive tree we live, & without it we don’t live”.

Since 1967, Israel has destroyed over 800,000 olive trees, along with other Indigenous plants essential for Palestinian food, trade & culture. Among these are the tens of thousands of olive trees & habitat Israel burnt or uprooted to clear land to build the Apartheid wall. The Israeli Army & settlers routinely burn & uproot olive trees to prevent Palestinians from farming & trading as well as attempting to sever their connection with the land.

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Colonial destruction of land & water

In the place of Indigenous plants, Israel has planted vast forests of non-native pine trees that have devastated local communities & ecosystems. European pine was chosen in an attempt to 'Europeanise' the Palestinian landscape. Pine also grows quickly, which led to Israel mass-planting over the ruins of many of the 400 Palestinian villages Israel ethnically cleansed in 1948. By growing invasive pine forests over the ruins of villages & declaring them national parks, Israel is both erasing its violence & preventing Palestinians from returning to their homes

European pines are so acidic that they kill smaller native plants & the native animals that rely on them for food. By mass planting these fire-prone trees in their non-native climate, Israel has caused some of the largest wildfires in its history.

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Water as a tool of colonial control

Denying Indigenous people water is a key feature of settler-colonial states worldwide. On this continent, poisoning waterholes was a key strategy to kill Indigenous people & take the land. Today, Australian governments deny safe drinking water to over 500 remote Indigenous communities. Water sources these communities relied on for millennia are often contaminated by nearby mining, fracking & unsustainable farming.

Israel also uses water as a form of colonial control. During the Nakba, Israel had a strategy of poisoning Palestinian water wells to cause sickness, death & force Palestinians away from their villages. Today, Israelis pouring concrete into wells, springs & other water sources used by Palestinians is commonplace.

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Water as a tool of colonial control

To claim & control the land, **Israel has drained native wetlands & diverted key waterways**, destroying habitat for local animals & plants, drying the seas & rivers until they are unrecognisable.

Controlling all major waterways allows Israel to systematically deprive Palestinian people & land of water. This inequality is stark in the West Bank & Gaza, where Israel distributes more than 4 times as much water to Israeli settlers than to Palestinians in the West Bank. Israel also controls water access in Gaza, where 97% of water is undrinkable & slowly poisoning Palestinians (figure prior to the current genocide).

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Killing land & people with waste & warfare

Colonialism makes Indigenous people & their land sick with toxic waste & warfare. Indigenous people in 'Australia' are consistently fighting toxic dumping of materials like asbestos & nuclear waste on their Country. The Maralinga Tjarutja people, animals & land still suffer the radioactive effects of the atomic bombs Britain dropped on their Country for 'testing' during the Cold War.

Israel uses toxic waste to systematically damage the health of Palestinians & their land by:

- Concentrating hazardous industries near Palestinian villages;
- Transporting Israel's toxic waste to the West Bank for 'processing' by Palestinians and;
- Dumping sewerage from Israeli settlements on Palestinian farms, killing crops & soil.

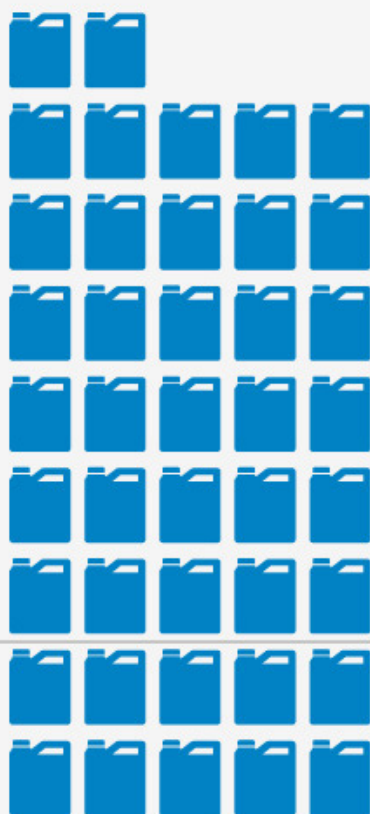
Israel's toxic munitions like depleted uranium & white phosphorus have not only killed & injured Palestinians, but irreparably poisoned air, land & water for generations to come.

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ISRAEL EXPLOITS PALESTINIAN NATURAL RESOURCES

Israel controls all major water resources and distributes more than four times as much water to Israeli settlers on Palestinian land than to Palestinians themselves.

**369 LITRES/DAY
ISRAELI SETTLER**





**73 LITRES/DAY
PALESTINIAN**



**90 LITRES/DAY
PALESTINIAN**



 10 litres/day
 contaminated water

WEST BANK
Israel controls all major water resources

GAZA STRIP
Israel blocks access to shared water resources and desalination

More from our community

*links in caption

Frontier War Stories, Boe Spearim

Let's Talk: Blackfulla-Palestinian Solidarity, Triple A Murri

Justice for Palestine Magandjin Podcast, Radio Reversal

The Continuation of Zionist Settler Colonialism, Dr Jamal Nabulsi

Blackfulla-Palestinian Solidarity Symposium Film

Sources

- [Visualising Palestine](#)
- [Triple A Let's Talk Palestine Solidarity Series](#)
- [Radio Reversal Justice for Palestine podcast](#)
- [The Continuation of Zionist Settler-Colonialism](#)
- [Reclaiming Palestinian Indigenous Sovereignty](#)
- [Righting the history of Palestine](#)
- [Boe Spearim's Frontier War Stories](#)
- [Israeli forces poisoned Palestinian wells during the Nakba](#)
- [Israel pours concrete into well](#)
- [The occupation of water](#)
- [The myth of a tolerant, open society](#)
- [Anti-colonial solidarities in this moment](#)
- [Palestine, colonialism & global climate justice](#)
- [The Iron Wall](#)
- [Water undrinkable in many Indigenous communities](#)
- [Australia's legacy of denying water rights to Indigenous people](#)
- [Gaza's undrinkable water slowly poisoning people](#)
- [Australia's most toxic site](#)
- [Lesser known history of the Maralinga nuclear tests](#)
- [The environmental Nakba](#)
- [Scorched Earth policies in Palestine & the great plains](#)
- [Destruction of olive trees in the West Bank is an attack on Palestinian Sovereignty](#)

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Sources

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- The no-state solution: a conversation with Daniel Boyarin
- How the Kimberley nearly became the Jewish homeland
- The Palestinian cause & Argentina's equidistant policy.
- Exploring the forgotten Uganda Scheme
- Sovereignty statement from Still Here
- Let's Talk Blackfulla-Palestinian Solidarity Archive
- Invention of the Mizrahim

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