

# « MADE IN ILLEGALITY »/

END ALL ECONOMIC RELATIONS  
BETWEEN DENMARK  
AND THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS!



FACTSHEET/

## THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ARE ILLEGAL/

Israel's settlement policy is illegal and constitutes a serious violation of international law. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an Occupying Power from transferring parts of its own civilian population to the territory it occupies. The settlement policy also undermines the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

## A FLOURISHING SETTLEMENT ECONOMY/

The strong economic life in the Israeli settlements clearly plays a role in their consolidation and expansion. This economic life is made possible by the policies of the Israeli government which encourage industrial activities, agricultural production and the use of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territory.

## THE SETTLEMENTS UNDERMINE THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY/

The undermining of economic life in the so-called Area C (61% of the West Bank) constitutes the most important obstacle to the development of the Palestinian economy. The confiscated Palestinian land contains most of the fertile fields, water and other natural resources. The inability of Palestinians to develop economic activities in this area results in a yearly loss of \$ 3,4 billion or 85% of GDP according to the World Bank. Whereas exports accounted for more than half of Palestinian GDP in the eighties, they currently amount to less than 15%. Many Palestinians are therefore forced to look for jobs in the settlements even though those settlements are responsible for the general lack of perspectives.

## THE SETTLEMENTS ARE REINFORCED THROUGH TRADE WITH THE EU AND DENMARK/

The economic and commercial relations between the EU and Israel are very significant. Many Israeli products that potentially originate from the settlements are traded in Denmark: fruits, vegetables, wine, consumer products, etc. These products are systematically labeled as 'Made in Israel'. Research with importers demonstrated that there is no way for them to verify whether these products do not actually originate from the occupied territories.

## EUROPEAN COMPANIES TAKE PART IN THE SETTLEMENT POLICY/

A number of international companies conduct activities in the settlements, more specifically in the service industry and in infrastructure development. In Belgium, the banking group *Dexia NV*, which is owned in majority by the Belgian state, is directly involved in the financing of Israeli settlements through its Israeli branch *Dexia NV*.

- Since 1967, 250 Israeli settlements have been established in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- Some 530,000 settlers live in the West Bank, including 200,000 in East Jerusalem.
- The settlements take up 80% of the water resources of the occupied Palestinian territory. A settler consumes on average six times more water than a Palestinian.

THE EU AND DENMARK HAVE  
THE OBLIGATION NOT TO SUPPORT  
THE SETTLEMENT POLICY /

A report by François Dubuisson, professor in international law at the *Université libre de Bruxelles*, dated February 2014 outlines three legal obligations for third states:

1. **To ensure respect for international humanitarian law:** the EU and Denmark must take the necessary measures to ensure that Israel respects the prohibition on the establishment of settlements.
2. **To not recognize as legal an illegal situation:** the EU and Denmark cannot develop economic relations with Israel which would recognize Israel's authority over the Palestinian territories or which would give legal effect to the settlements' activities.
3. **To not render aid or assistance in maintaining an illegal situation:** the EU and Denmark cannot maintain commercial and economic relations with the settlements if those relations contribute to their economic prosperity.

In relation to Israel's settlement policy, Denmark must:

- ensure that its policy does not directly or indirectly contribute to the consolidation or expansion of the settlements;
- take measures to sever all ties between its economy and the Israeli settlement economy.

THE ORGANISATIONS THAT RUN  
THE "MADE IN ILLEGALITY"  
CAMPAIGN THEREFORE DEMAND

THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT AND THE EU /

1. prohibit the import of settlement products;
2. exclude the settlements from their bilateral agreements and cooperation with Israel;
3. discourage Danish companies from investing in settlements and from maintaining economic relations with them;
4. exclude companies which are active or located in the settlements from public markets and public procurement procedures;
5. discourage Danish and European citizens from buying real estate in the settlements;
6. develop guidelines for travelers to ensure that they avoid supporting companies and tourist sites that are located in the settlements.

