Palestine is Here

March 22, 2016

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Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD)  
http://icahdusa.org/palestine-is-here/

After years of working on Palestinian displacement through home demolitions, ICAHD-USA is now focusing on the connections between resistance against displacement in Palestine and resistance against gentrification in American cities– in particular the ways in which the American and Israeli governments suppress this resistance. While the policing of American neighborhoods pushes residents of color out of their homes every day, Israeli military policies of Judaization force Palestinians off their lands decade after decade.

Over the years, Director Eran Efrati’s many interviews with IDF soldiers, Israeli police officers, and American security officials, together revealed a disturbing picture of a systemic collaboration on “security matters”. This collaboration is both methodological and ideological, and manifests in resource sharing and joint training geared towards suppression of any form of civil unrest. The fact that police departments around the world increasingly look and act like occupying armies, and that technologies and weapons tested on Palestinians make their way into American cities, is no coincidence.

American military aid has long enabled Israel to suppress Palestinian resistance as they secure American interests in the region, and American police departments today seek Israeli expertise in militarizing the policing of protest. When trained in Israeli warfare and surveillance methods, American police learn to track, isolate and investigate activists, as though they are foreign combatants. This process of police militarization culminates in tanks rolling through Baltimore. These collaborations are dangerous and have to be exposed.

This year, we plan to expose these connections, and with your help we hope to forge cross-community cooperation against this state repression. We invite you to participate in the launching of two major Campaigns. The first, “Palestine is Here,” will work to expose the connections between the repression and disintegration that communities face in both Palestine and the US. We will assist communities across the United States in collecting data about their city’s connections to the Israeli occupation, working with them to formulate BDS campaigns against the effects of the Israeli military on their communities. Our other primary campaign, “The Judaization of Palestine,” will provide data, analysis and a systematic mapping of the evictions and demolitions faced by communities in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel. In addition to continuing to map Israeli control of the entire region, we will begin to point to a more just redistribution of land in the one state to come.

Beyond highlighting countless instances of brutal repression, or merely shaming Israel, we seek to fortify people of all backgrounds in their fight for freedom from displacement, to assist them in remaining undistracted and undeterred in the midst of an atmosphere of unchecked surveillance.