

DEAR SENATOR:

The disruption of the 2002 Palestinian olive harvest by Israeli settlers and armed forces in the occupied territories has been devastating to an already suffering Palestinian economy. American taxpayers are funding the Jewish-only settlements and bypass roads used to justify the uprooting of 200,000 Palestinian olive trees, and the bulldozers used to uproot them.

Even worse are revelations in Israeli news reports that some of these uprooted Palestinian trees, many of them hundreds of years old, are being sold illegally to rich Israelis and town councils for thousands of dollars each. These sales are being conducted with the complicity of officials in the "civil administration," the Israeli occupation government.

The United States should not be complicit in the destruction of Palestinian society. Until Israel agrees to abide by international law by dismantling its illegal settlements, ending its illegal occupation, and allowing Palestinians the right to harvest their crops, please vote to freeze all U.S. aid to Israel.

FROM: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

TO:

SENATOR _____
(name of your Senator)

**U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510**

PLACE
23¢
STAMP
HERE

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Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

TO:

REPRESENTATIVE _____
(name of your Representative)

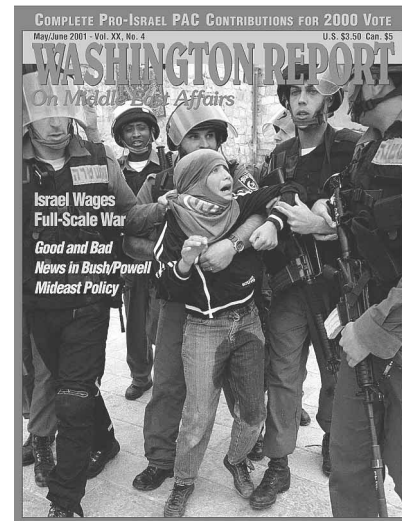
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

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**You may wish
to send these
cards to the
two Senators
and one
Representative
in whose
constituencies
you vote.**

**If you can make
copies you may wish
to send one to:**

**President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500**



You may wish to send these cards as addressed on the reverse side. If you can make copies, you may also wish to send them to President Bush, other members of Congress, talk show hosts and editors of the publications you read. Or you can download these post-cards into an e-mail message to recipients of your choice from our Web site at www.wrmea.com

By October 2002, two years of fighting exacerbated by Israeli military closures and curfews had forced 50 percent of the Palestinian workforce into unemployment, and two-thirds of Palestinians below the poverty line. This dire situation made the 2002 olive harvest particularly important, since olives are not only a source of food but also account for 15 to 20 percent of the total agricultural output of the occupied territories. However, Israeli settler attacks—including theft of olives grown and harvested by Palestinians, burning and chopping down trees, and even killing Palestinian farmers—made the 2002 harvest an impossible task.

Noted the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, "the lack of [Israeli] law enforcement creates an atmosphere of disregard for the lives and property of Palestinians and encourages the continuation of such phenomena." The Israeli army has prohibited Palestinians from harvesting their crops, and has uprooted over 200,000 olive trees since October 2000, leading to \$10 million in direct losses and the uncountable loss of future generations of olive harvests.

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AFP PHOTO/HOSSAM ABU ALAN
A Palestinian farmer is pulled out of the way as an Israeli bulldozer, enacting long-standing Israeli policy, uproots his olive trees to make way for a new settlers' road near Hebron, March 20, 2001.



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Barak's "Generous Offer"

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