



All about the **Jewish National Fund**

THE PRINCIPAL ZIONIST TOOL FOR COLONISATION

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) was founded in 1901 by the World Zionist Congress as one of several institutions essential to the Zionist settler-colonial project to establish a Jewish supremacist state in Palestine.

The JNF (also known by its Hebrew name Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, or KKL) was the primary agency for acquiring land in Palestine for Jewish settlement. According to its Articles of Association, whenever the JNF acquired land, it would not own it outright but rather act as ‘custodian’ of the land on behalf of ‘the Jewish people’ in perpetuity. What this means is that, once the JNF obtained land, it could only be settled or worked by Jews (from anywhere in the world), and indigenous Palestinians would be evicted. This land can never be sold, only leased to Jews or Jewish-owned companies.

“the JNF was the principal Zionist tool for the colonization of Palestine”
Ilan Pappé

**STOP THE
JNF**
stopthejnf.org

In the early twentieth century, the small amounts of land that the JNF acquired were primarily bought from absentee landowners.

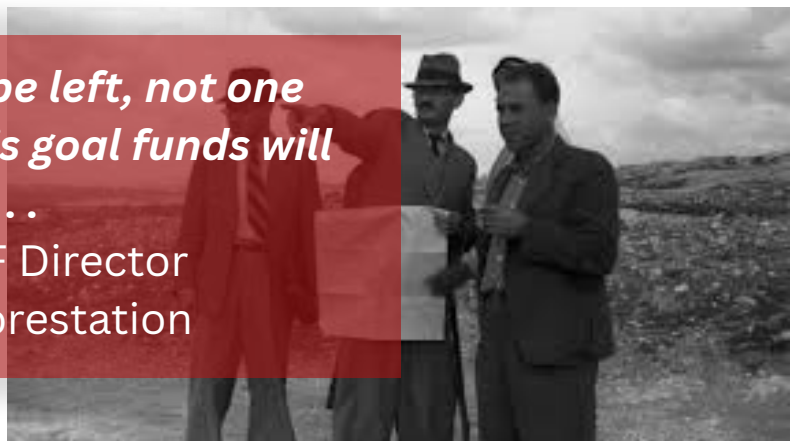
In preparation for the end of the British Mandate, from 1947 until 1949, Zionist militias began attacking Palestinian cities, destroying some 530 villages, carrying out massacres and expelling over 750,000 Palestinians. The JNF facilitated these atrocities by providing these militias with their 'village files', information and intelligence they had gathered on Palestinian families and communities in villages across Palestine.

Following the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, the Israeli government handed over large swathes of land under the destroyed villages to the JNF. This was in part to counter UN Resolution 194, which stated that Palestinian refugees wishing to return should be permitted to do so and receive compensation for property. In addition to the 13% of land they now directly own, the JNF also has significant influence over another 80% of 'public land' in Israel. The Israel Land Council sets land policy for all 93% of 'Israel lands', acting under laws that prioritise Jewish settlement. The JNF has six out of the thirteen representatives on the Council.

In 1967, Israel occupied the remainder of Palestine. The JNF already owned land in the West Bank and Gaza, but started acquiring more land in the Occupied Palestinian Territories for the illegal settlements. Initially, this activity was more covert through its subsidiary Himnuta, but in 2021, the JNF formally adopted an open policy of land acquisition in the West Bank.

Not one village must be left, not one [Bedouin] tribe. For this goal funds will be found . .

Yosef Weitz, JNF Director of Land and Afforestation



Trees and greenwashing

From the beginning, the JNF established branches in different parts of the world in order to raise funds from Jewish communities and to promote Zionist propaganda. The JNF Blue Box was introduced in 1901 and helped fund the Zionist colonisation and Jewish settlement in Palestine to the present day. Trees were planted in the early Jewish settlements to mark boundaries and maintain the exclusion of indigenous Palestinians. During the British Mandate (1922-4, forests were planted. Although there was some commercial forestry, these forests were largely designed to 'Judaize' the landscape, to make it appear like northern Europe from which the settlers had come. After the Nakba, a network of JNF forests and parks was created to conceal the remains of Palestinian villages and deny the rights and existence of the indigenous Palestinian people.

The focus on trees, forests and parks provided a propaganda opportunity for the JNF to present itself as an environmental organisation. In fact, even its environmental record is dubious, as many of the trees, such as the Aleppo pine and eucalyptus species, were planted in ecologically inappropriate settings, and the organisation was responsible for draining the unique Hula wetlands, with environmentally devastating impacts. This greenwashing has been used to conceal the JNF's primary purpose of ethnic cleansing.

As early as 1905, the JNF was advised that it did not meet the criteria for charitable status in Britain since its purposes were political.

JNF branches operate in more than 50 countries worldwide, and most are registered as charities or with equivalent tax-exempt status.

In 2024, after years of work, campaigners succeeded in revoking JNF Canada's tax-exempt status.

The JNF in the UK

In the UK, the JNF is registered as a Scottish charity under the name *JNF KKL Scotland* and, in England and Wales as the *JNF Charitable Trust*.

Both have been the subject of multiple complaints to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) and the Charity Commission.

JNF / KKL continues to act as a key pillar of Israel's settler colonialism in Palestine.

The Stop the JNF Campaign aims to expose the JNF and revoke its charity/tax-exempt status.

Get involved in the Stop the JNF Campaign:

- Ask your organisation, trade union, branch to **endorse the Call for Action**: www.stopthejnf.org/call-for-action/
- Donate and fundraise for the **Plant a Tree in Palestine project**: www.stopthejnf.org/plant-a-tree-in-palestine/
- **Host a speaker** from the Stop the JNF Campaign: email info@stopthejnf.org
- **Join the Stop the JNF mailing list** to receive latest news and actions - email info@stopthejnf.org



stopthejnf.org



Subscribe to the Stop the JNF mailing list: <https://qrco.de/stjnf>

SUBSCRIBE TO MAILING LIST