



Summer 2021

## United Nations Climate Change Conference Comes to Glasgow

In November, the **26th Conference of Parties** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) will be held in Glasgow.

Governments around the world will meet to report on the progress made on the Paris Agreement and the nationally determined contributions they committed to in the 2015 Paris COP. They will, in addition, attempt to negotiate how to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, thereby avoiding the runaway climate catastrophe we are otherwise heading towards.

This annual major climate summit is accompanied by activities run by a vast range of NGOs, campaigning groups and elements of civil society, some with observer status to access the negotiations and lobby the parties. Many more groups will hold street protests and parallel events to keep the pressure on. One organisation with observer status is the Jewish National Fund, which regularly accompanies the Israeli delegation to promote the greenwash of its ethnic cleansing operations via tree-planting and water conservation measures.

The JNF's presence at COP summits is regularly met with protests from Palestine solidarity activists and anti-colonial environmentalists, who understand that an indigenous people is being expelled under the banner of environmentalism.



The JNF's racist purpose and apartheid practices make it, in our view, ineligible for membership of the two main NGO alliances: the Climate Action Network and the Global Campaign for Climate Justice. Its presence at COP makes no contribution to tackling climate change - on the contrary, its purpose there is to normalise the Zionist settler colonisation of Palestine.

*Stop the JNF is calling on civil society to keep the JNF out of COP26. Organisations and individuals are adding their names to a petition initiated jointly by the Palestine COP26 Coalition and Stop the JNF UK, to tell the JNF that they are not welcome in Glasgow in November. The dispossession of Palestinian land, expropriation of Palestinian water and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people have no place in COP26. See below to "sign the pledge".*



This picture from COP 17 shows that the fight to prevent the JNF from masquerading as "green" is not new.

## What is "Greenwashing"?

"This behaviour, also known as greenwashing, refers to the tools a given firm [or organisation] may use to deliberately send a message that its products, services and processes are environmentally friendly when in fact they are not." Pascual Berrone. **Green Lies** (2016. Createspace.)

The JNF claims that it is the "oldest green organisation in the world". It has planted 25 million trees, mostly, Aleppo Pine, whose dense cover has had adverse consequences in damaging ground-level plant life.

## The size of the JNF/KKL Operation

A recent edition of Haaretz told us that the yearly income of the JNF for 2020 was 2.8 billion shekels (£620 million). Most of this revenue came from selling and leasing land. It estimates that the land still in its possession is worth about 10.3 billion shekels (£2.2 billion.)

It was not revealed what percentage of this land was the property of Palestinians ethnically cleansed from their properties from late 1947 to the present day.

It does make it plain to see, however, why Israel does not accept the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

One other thing the Haaretz article mentions is that the revenue from donations fell from 95 million shekels in 2019 to 55 million in 2020 - less than its fundraising apparatus actually cost. This last assertion was denied by the JNF who claimed that the figure for outgoings represented more than the "direct expenses" involved in raising funds.

What else were they up to?

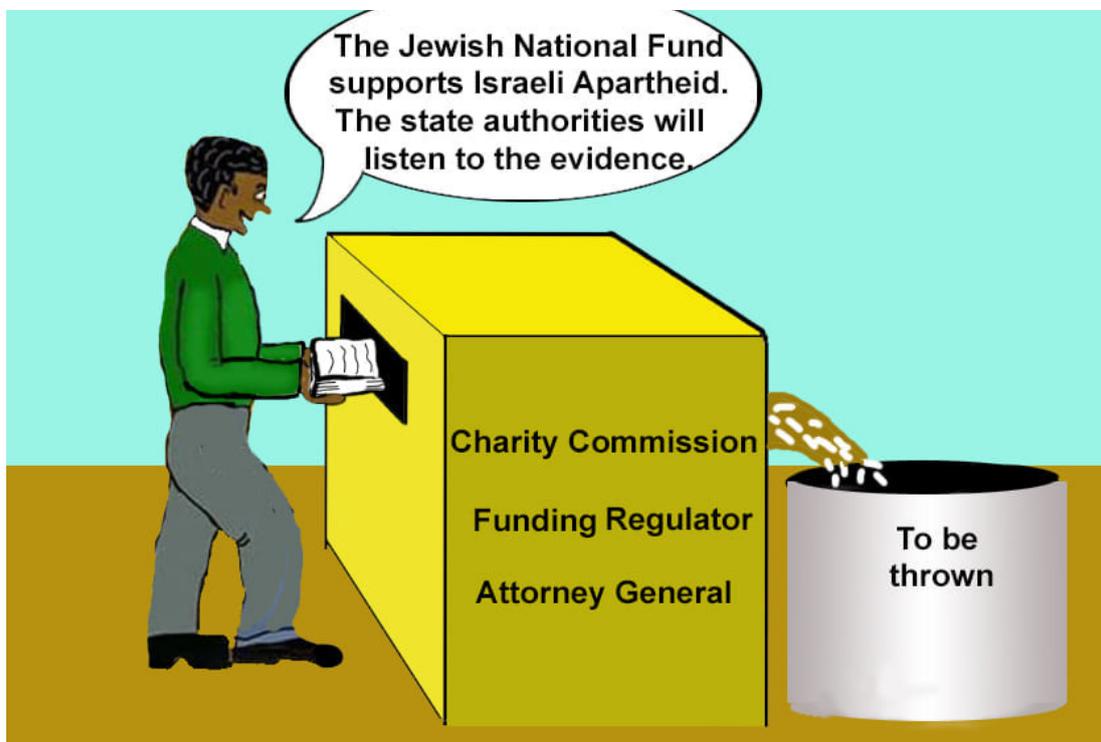
## Sign the pledge - no observer status for "[the Jewish National Fund for apartheid](#)".

Gideon Levy, Israeli writer and journalist, has firmly linked the KKL/JNF to apartheid. This is no mere exaggerated slogan, useful for a headline or two. The organisation proclaims that its responsibility is to Jewish people only, inside Israel and in the the world outside. Palestinians can go hang.

Yet this is an organisation that has a unique role in the Israeli state apparatus - arguably a state within a state, with enormous powers over land ownership and rent, a useful device for the government, distancing state bodies from clearly racist policies.

How can such a body present itself at a conference dealing with the future of the planet? How can it be acceptable for the JNF to be granted observer status among those organisations shaping our future?

**Sign** the petition: to deny apartheid a seat at the table. The climate will require concerted action for the benefit of all, not ethnic exclusivity overseen by the race police of the KKL/JNF.



Above: we reveal the forensically stringent nature of the work of the office of the Funding Regulator.

## How does the JNF UK get away with it?

Another chapter in the "Would you believe it?" section.

The Fundraising Regulator\* has rejected a set of complaints that was lodged against the JNF UK with the support of 63 Jewish signatories. The complainants had argued that the JNF UK's activities were incompatible with their professed "charitable purposes" in at least three respects:

1. The JNF UK is complicit in the primary goal of the Israeli parent organization, JNF/KKL, to place Palestinian land under exclusive Jewish ownership.
2. The JNF UK's fundraising is grossly misleading in claiming to be 'greening the desert' and 'helping the poorest communities'.
3. The disclaiming by the JNF UK of its support for projects with military content is belied by the publicity material of the military training programmes it funds.

None of these arguments prevailed with the Regulator despite the copious documentation presented to her. To give an idea of the quality of the Regulator's appraisal of the evidence, two illustrations suffice: despite extensive JNF publicity material vaunting jointly run projects by KKL-JNF(Israel) and the JNF UK and despite the fact that a 2008 agreement between the two has locked them into legally binding collaboration, the Regulator concludes: "We have no reason to doubt, from the information we have seen, that the charity [JNF UK] is independent of JNF/KKL".

It thereby underwrites the long-practised subterfuge of the JNF UK to distance itself from JNF-KKL land grabs, such as those in East Jerusalem and elsewhere in the West Bank, which infringe international law and are, therefore, contrary to the professed policy of the British government and the international community.

[Read more](#)

*\*In its own words* - The office of the Funding Regulator is " ...the voluntary, independent regulator of charitable fundraising in the UK (and) aims to ensure that fundraising remains respectful, open, honest and accountable to the public.

Its establishment is part-funded by 45 of the largest charities in the UK, out of a total of 160,000+ charities."

Stop the JNF asks: how can an organisation funded by the largest charities in the country be in charge of policing the activities of those and other charities?



*Pictured above is Sebastiaan Ader, Dutch rescuer of many Jewish people from the Nazis in the Second World War. To the right, a sign proclaims the generous donation of the land of three Palestinian villages given by the JNF UK to establish a park. Beyond Chutzpah! as Norman Finkelstein might say.*

## A Tale of Four Parks

The JNF is a pillar of Israeli apartheid and a militant component of the Zionist coalition hell bent on the ethnic cleansing of the entire land surface of Palestine. A key part of this project involves building forests to cover scenes of crimes past - massacres and expulsions of Palestinians from their homes and villages - within the greater ethnic cleansing crime-scene that is the State of Israel.

But JNF parks and forests do more than conceal this ethnic cleansing; for additional reasons, many deserve the attention of all those committed to justice, or, at least, who want to avoid being thought to be complicit in the JNF's crimes.

By calling one park "British Park" the JNF seeks to suggest that, somehow, British people endorse the massacre and dispossession of the Palestinians whose land was taken to provide it.

The JNF Coretta Scott King Forest appropriates the anti-racist legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the service of Israeli state-driven racism.

The JNF Rev. Bastiaan Ader Forest similarly dishonours the memory of one who made the ultimate sacrifice to fight state-enforced racial segregation in Europe.

The JNF names its parks and forests to send a message to Palestinians as well - that Israel violates them not only with the active support of our governments, which is generally true, but that this is with the agreement of their populations - although the pro-Israel lobby knows this is very far from the truth.

### JNF British Park

The policy of naming scores of JNF parks after countries from South Africa to Canada is psychological warfare, a part of the Israeli campaign to crush and disperse the Palestinian people. Stop the JNF campaigns with those whose once-thriving communities were destroyed by Zionist militias that used execution squads and rape to drive out Palestinians, then employed fire and dynamite to burn and destroy homes to prevent them returning.

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