

Signatories

1. Paula Abrams-Hourani, Vienna, Austria
2. Widad Albassam, Chicago, USA
3. May Al-Issa, London, UK
4. Nazhat Al-Issa, London, UK
5. Anwa Aziz, New York, NY, USA
6. Maie Ayoub Vonkhol, NY, USA
7. Najah Barsoum, NY, USA
8. Georgina Bedrossian, NY, USA
9. Marcia Bernstein, Brooklyn, NY, USA
10. Didi Beydoun, NY, USA
11. Monique Blin, Paris, France
12. Elizabeth Block, Toronto, Canada
13. Rima Bordacosh, NY, USA
14. Leila Bordacosh, NY, USA
15. Claude Boucherot, Paris, France
16. Madeleine Bullock, Canberra, Australia
17. Paola Canarutto, Italy
18. Kathleen Christison, Santa Fe, NM, USA
19. Ruth Clark, Edinburgh, Scotland
20. Ron and Maria De Stefano, New Jersey, USA
21. Afifa Dirani, Beirut, Lebanon
22. Rania Elias, Jerusalem, Palestine
23. Hedy Epstein, St. Louis, MO, USA
24. Simone Fattal, Paris, France
25. Lily Farhoud, Menton, France
26. Eileen Fleming, New York, NY, USA
27. Marcey Gayer, New York, USA
28. Emmaia Gelman, Bronx, New York, USA
29. Felice Gelman, Tarrytown, NY, USA
30. Irene Gendzier, Boston, USA
31. Mirene Ghossein, New Rochelle, NY, USA
32. Neta Golan, Ramallah, Palestine
33. Susan Goldstein, Toronto, Canada
34. Sherry Gorelick, NY, USA
35. Suzy Habashi, NY, USA
36. Eman Hamad, Clifton, NJ, USA (originally from Lifta, Palestine)
37. Lubna Hamad, New York, NY, USA
38. Jawaher Hammad, Auja, Palestine
39. Rusayla Hammad, Auja, Palestine
40. Enas Hammad, CA, USA
41. Touran Hamidi, Westbury New York, USA
42. Yasim Hamidi, Westbury, New York, USA
43. Louis de Hauteville, Paris, France
44. Jacqueline Hazi, NY, USA
45. Jenny Heinz, New York, NY, USA
46. Maryse Helal, Cairo, Egypt
47. Jeannette Herzberg, Raanana, Israel
48. Majida Hilmi, NY, USA
49. Suzanne Hoyt, NY, USA
50. Houda El-Hourra, NY, USA
51. Katherine-Hughes-Fraitekh, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
52. Virginia Ivarra, Washington, USA
53. Nada Khader, Chappaqua, NY, USA
54. May Khalil, Clifton, NJ, USA (originally from Lifta, Palestine)
55. Rebekah Levin, Chicago, IL, USA
56. A.Loikow, Washington, DC, USA
57. Aleksandra Martinovic, Varazdin, Croatia
58. May Makki, NY, USA
59. Laurel Marx, NY, USA
60. Susan Masters, NY, USA
61. Eileen Measey, Leamington Spa, England
62. Hilda Meers, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK
63. Jeannine Melly, NY, USA
64. Gail Miller, Woodstock, NY, USA
65. Dorinda Moreno, Central Coast, CA, USA
66. Susanne Moses, Tel Aviv, Israel
67. Elana Nachman, Oakland, CA, USA
68. Dorothy Naor, Herzliyah, Israel
69. Denise Nassar, NY, USA
70. Inaam Nassar, Austin Texas, USA
71. Hiam Nassar, Austin Texas, USA
72. Rouba Nassar, Austin Texas, USA
73. Ibtissam Nassar, Queens, NY, USA
74. Arwa Nasser, Westchester, NY, USA
75. Marlene Newesri, New York, NY, USA
76. Josiane Oiff-Nathan, Strasbourg, France
77. Fatima Otifat, Ramallah, Palestine
78. Nujood Otifat, Auja, Palestine
79. Tharwa Otifat, Ramallah, Palestine
80. Odile Pascalides, Paris, France
81. Tamar Pelleg-Snyck, Tel Aviv, Israel
82. Ann Petter, New York, NY, USA
83. Gillian Potter, Cairo, Egypt
84. Lysander Puccio, New York, NY, USA
85. Cheryl Oamar, Woodstock, NY, USA
86. Yvette Raby, NY, USA
87. Michelle Raccagni, NY, USA
88. Susan Ravitz, Easton, PA, USA
89. Miriam M. Reik, New York, NY, USA
90. Joanne Robinson, Yonkers, NY, USA
91. Roberta Robinson, NY, USA
92. Julia Barnett Toronto, Canada
93. Constancia Dinky Romilly, New York, NY, USA
94. Suzanne Ross, New York, NY, USA
95. Claude-Marie Safar, Paris, France
96. Mariam Said, NY, USA
97. Nidal Said, NY, USA
98. Sumayyah Samaha, NY, USA
99. Annmarie Sauer, Antwerp, Belgium
100. Lee Sharkey, Farmington, Maine, USA
101. Ann Shirazi, New York, NY, USA
102. Karam Shuman, Chicago, USA
103. Nayla Sleiman, Cal, USA
104. Eustacia Smith, Bronx, NY, USA
105. Kathy Sommers, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
106. Alexis Stern, New York, NY, USA
107. Diana Takiyeddine, Washington, USA
108. Leila Tourny, Beirut, Lebanon
109. Zeina Toutounji-Gauvard, Paris, France
110. Nicole Trad, Paris, France
111. Carol Weinshenker, New York, NY, USA
112. Dorothy Zellner, New York, NY, USA

A Special Mother's Day Greeting about the Lev Leviev Group of Companies



Photo by Neil Cassidy, Jayyous, October 17, 2002

Women of Jayyous and an international activist protesting to stop the bulldozing of their olive groves for the construction of Israel's wall and Leviev's Zufim settlement

Mothers call for Mother's Day boycott of Israeli settlement-builder Leviev

M'azuza Abu Rahmeh, a mother from Bil'in explains, "I hope that on this important day for mothers that no women in the world will have to live through this type of experience and that instead they will live with their families and homes, in security and peace." Halima Husain a mother from Jayyous adds, "I hope that free people around the world will boycott Israel's occupation and will not support businesses of wealthy Israelis like Leviev who is building the settlement of Zufim, and that they will stand with us to lift this shadow and darkness that hangs over the Palestinian people."

With our governments failing to act, the only way to end the suffering of Palestinian mothers and their families is to boycott Israeli companies like Leviev's that profit from the illegal activities of land confiscation and settlement construction. No diamond is worth the destruction of people's lives. This Mother's Day support mothers like Halima Husain, and M'azuza Abu Rahmeh from Bil'in, and their children. Boycott Leviev.

As mothers from New York City and from around the world, we stand with Palestinian mothers from villages like Jayyous and Bil'in and call on New Yorkers to boycott Lev Leviev's Madison Avenue jewelry store every day, but especially on Mother's Day. Leviev is exploiting this holiday to honor mothers, the second biggest jewelry shopping period annually, to sell his jewelry, even as his companies ruin the lives of mothers in Palestine.

Leviev's companies have built homes for Israelis in the settlements of Zufim on the land of the West Bank village of Jayyous, Mattityahu East on Bil'in's land, and homes in the Maale Adumim and Har Homa settlements, which are cutting off Palestinian East Jerusalem from the West Bank.

While all Israeli settlements violate international law and destroy hopes for peace, Leviev's settlements also exact a heavy human toll on mothers and families. Halima Husain, a mother of seven from Jayyous, explains, "The settlement of Zufim was established directly on our land which was planted with olive, almond and fig trees. We registered complaints repeatedly with the Israelis with no results." Now Israel has built its wall through Jayyous in order to annex 70% of the village's farmland for Zufim's expansion. Villagers need Israeli permits to pass through the wall and reach their farmland. Halima continues, "I don't have a permit and my husband Hosni has been denied a permit for 10 months. One of my children has been held for 14

months in an Israeli prison and I haven't been able to visit him for three months with the Israeli excuse of 'security reasons.' And now my husband's income is insufficient to cover my son's university education, the costs of my other son in prison and our household expenses, all because we can't reach our land."

Halima's story is similar to many in Jayyous. The once-prosperous farming village of 3,400 residents is impoverished because families can't access their land. 70% of Jayyous' families are now in great need of food aid. 103 out of a total of 195 students in grades 7-12 have dropped out of school because parents can't cover school expenses. In 2002, before Israel began the wall's construction, 180 students from Jayyous were in universities. That number has now dropped to 50.

In Bil'in, M'azuza Abu Rahmeh, a mother of five boys and four girls, explains, "Our land was seized for the construction of Mattityahu East settlement. And our olive trees were cut down during the construction of the apartheid wall. These trees hold memories for each of my children that are impossible to forget. This pushed us to confront the bulldozers when they uprooted the trees during the wall's construction." M'azuza and her children, including her 23 year-old son Hamza, participated in Bil'in's three-year nonviolent community campaign against the construction of the Mattityahu East and the apartheid wall which was intended to annex the settlement to Israel. M'azuza says that during the protests, "Hamza was gravely injured in the head when he was hit with a rubber-coated steel bullet, and he spent two weeks in the hospital. One month after he left the hospital the Israeli military came to our house at night and, after sowing fear in me and in my small children and turning our house upside down, they arrested Hamza. I felt as if my heart had been ripped from my body. I am pained when I remember our uprooted olive trees, and Hamza's injury and arrest."

During more than 200 demonstrations aiming to prevent the seizure of 50% of Bil'in's land, the Israeli military has injured around 1,000 civilian protesters, including Israelis and internationals, and arrested 50. Around 300 of those injured and 13 of those jailed were children from Bil'in.



*Israeli Army enforcing Leviev/
Israeli land theft in Jayyous
Photo: Michael McGrath, Oct 2002*

**For more information on the campaign to boycott Leviev's companies see:
www.adalahny.org**