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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
DESTRUCTION IN PALESTINE

[02]

THE GLOBAL
ENERGY EMBARGO

No Climate Justice on Occupied Land: Centering Palestine at the UNFCCC SB62

by The Palestinian Institute for
Climate Strategy (PICS), Palestinian Boycott,
Divestment and Sanctions National Committee
(BNC)

[03]

CLIMATE JUSTICE
AND JUST TRANSITION:

WHY FIGHTING FOR CLIMATE
JUSTICE MEANS FIGHTING
FOR PALESTINE

[04]

HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR
PALESTINE AT SB62?



The Palestinian Institute
for Climate Strategy



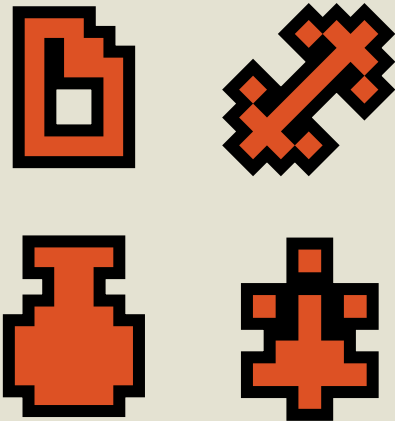
Palestinian Call for Boycott,
Divestment and Sanctions

Executive Summary

For over 20 months, Israel’s genocide in **Gaza** has had devastating consequences

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- more than 60,000 people have been killed, with hundreds of thousands wounded or trapped under rubble.
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- // In the **West Bank**, Israel has continued to **expand its illegal settlements**, killing hundreds of Palestinians and displacing many more. Its genocide is set to **emit over 31 million tonnes of CO2e**. The environmental destruction across Palestine has led to **destroyed croplands, toxic soil and air, and loss of native plants**. Israel has weaponized electricity and energy resources, controls water and other natural resources on Palestinian land, and enables fossil fuel exploration in Palestinian territory.

This briefing document provides
// **climate justice advocates**, // **civil society organizations**, // **delegates**, // **allied movements**
a framework for advocating for and centering Palestine at UN climate negotiations and organizing spaces. It offers allies a comprehensive summary on the intersection of Palestine and climate justice, evidence of climate and environmental harm in Palestine, and actions that different groups can take to support Palestine at SB62 and beyond.



Context

The Palestinian Institute for Climate Strategy urges activists, civil society, delegates, and other participants at the UNFCCC’s SB62 Climate Meetings in Bonn **to prioritize justice for Palestinians, calling for an immediate end to Israel’s genocide in Gaza and an end to Israel’s illegal military occupation and apartheid in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as demanded by the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly.** The need for consistent and concrete pressure is urgent, as Israel openly states its aim to entirely destroy Gaza.

// This year, the SB62 negotiations are expected to focus on just transition financing, adaptation measures, fossil fuel phaseout, and loss and damage funds. All of these discussions are fundamentally incompatible with the ongoing reality of genocide, apartheid, environmental devastation, military occupation, and settler-colonial resource theft in Palestine and across the globe. Despite this, Palestine is often sidelined in climate negotiations, as if militarized environmental destruction is unrelated to just transition efforts.

// This briefing offers climate justice advocates, civil society organizations, delegates, and allied movements a framework for placing Palestine at the center of UN climate negotiations and organizing spaces, recognizing that the ongoing assault on Gaza is not only genocidal, as affirmed by the ICJ, but also includes what UN human rights experts call ecocide that demands urgent intervention.

// The climate justice movement cannot afford to ignore Palestine. As long as Israel continues to weaponize land, energy, water, and food systems, the **international climate community must respond, as a requirement of climate justice.**

Climate & Environmental Destruction in Palestine



Israel's destruction of Palestine's environment and its contributions to the climate catastrophe are clear. Global military emissions account for an estimated 5.5% of total global greenhouse gases, yet these emissions are often excluded from climate treaties and targets as a consequence of aggressive lobbying. In the first 15 months of the genocide, Israel's aerial bombardment and ground invasion of Gaza and the long-term cost of clearing and rebuilding will emit more greenhouse gases than the annual total of more than 100 countries combined.

// In Gaza, over 82% of croplands have been destroyed after more than 18 months of Israeli bombardment. Soil and water are laden with toxic heavy metals, explosives, and chemicals from Israeli

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GAZA STRIP

2
WEST BANK

bombs and missiles. Israel is starving millions of Palestinians in Gaza, blocking the entry of aid and hampering the possibility of using its own land for sustenance. Israel's deliberate targeting of solar panels – the only energy source after fuel and electricity were cut – has forced Palestinians to rely on old batteries leaking acid and harmful chemicals. Israeli bombardments are decimating infrastructure, including Gaza's sewage system and wells, enabling the spread of waterborne diseases as waste mixes with water sources.

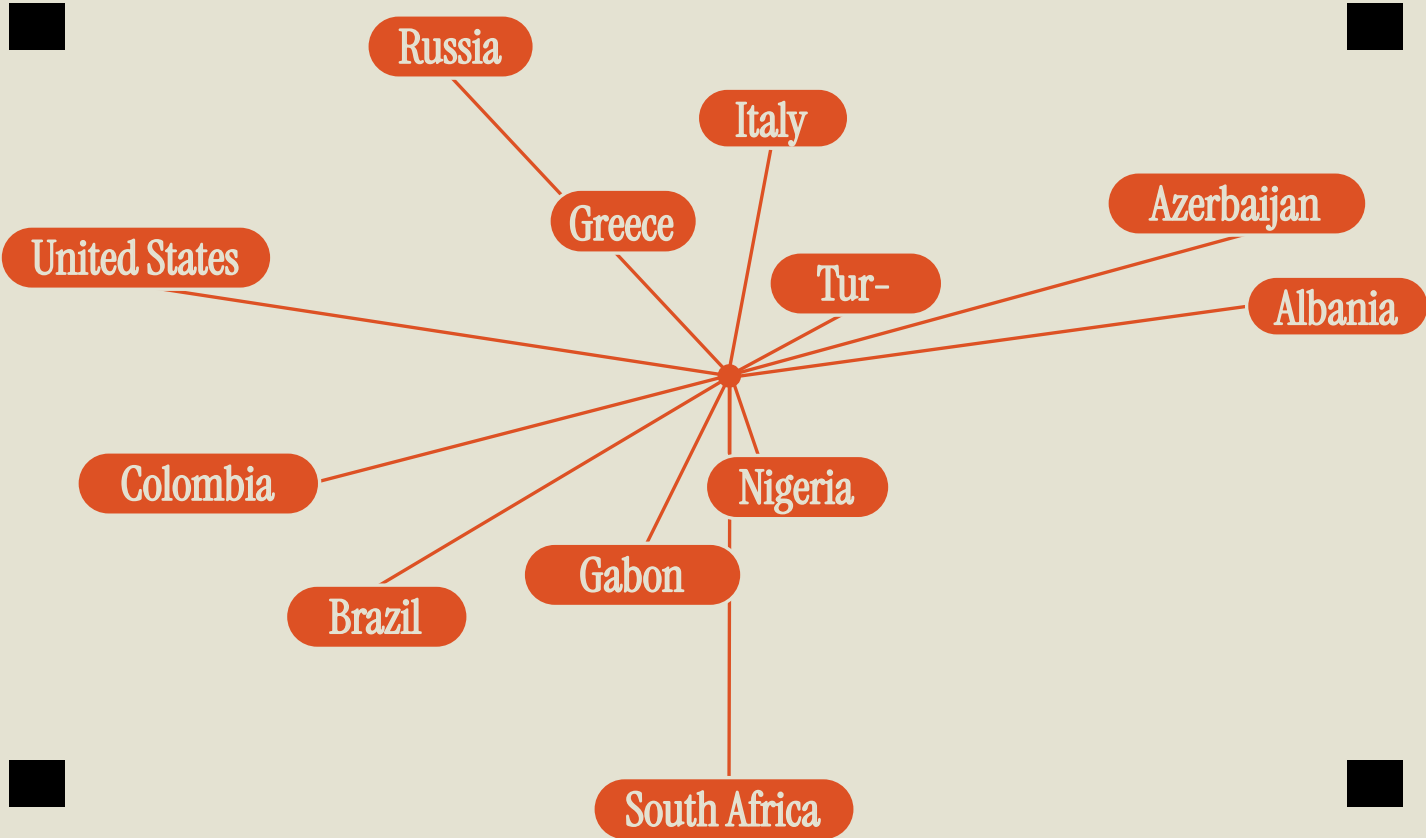
// In the illegally occupied West Bank, Israel maintains full control over water, land, and infrastructure through a regime of environmental apartheid. Palestinians are allowed to access less than 20% of their own water resources, while 80–90% is diverted to illegal Israeli colonial settlements via Mekorot, Israel's national water company. It uses international "green" partnerships to normalize and export water apartheid, including water cooperation agreements with at least nine countries, including Argentina, Azerbaijan, and Morocco, which allow Mekorot to present itself as a "sustainability" leader.

The environmental and human consequences of military occupation and apartheid in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are devastating: forced evictions, demolitions, de-development, and restricted movement are severing Palestinians from their land, disrupting local ecological balance, and accelerating environmental degradation. Palestinians are pushed into overcrowded, resource-poor areas, while illegal Israeli settlers, with full military protection, displace Indigenous communities and extract their resources.

// None of this is new. For more than seven decades, Israel has relentlessly dispossessed Palestinians of their land and access to natural resources. This is environmental collapse as policy, it must be addressed as part of the global climate response.

The Global Energy Embargo

The Palestinian civil society and grassroots movements have come out with a direct call to boycott the energy systems that fuel Israel’s war machine. In 2023, Israel imported fossil fuels from at least 13 countries—including



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// Brazil and South Africa have each publicly recognized that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. Brazil’s president Lula has called it “premeditated genocide”, while South Africa has led the charge at the Hague since December 2023. Yet, despite these declarations, these two countries continue to export oil, coal, and

fuels to Israel. This disconnect between rhetorical solidarity and material complicity must be named, exposed, and confronted. Chevron and Energean currently operate Israel’s claimed fossil gas fields of Tamar, Leviathan, and Karish, which supply over 90% of Israel’s domestic gas and generated \$581 million in royalties in 2023. BP, SOCAR, and NewMed Energy hold licenses for new offshore gas extraction. Some of these developments — including Zone G — lie in Palestinian maritime territory, in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which affirms

Palestinian sovereignty over its Exclusive Economic Zone. Companies such as Eni (Italy) and Dana Petroleum (UK) hold exploration licenses in Zone G, of which over 62% is within Palestinian waters, without consent or compensation. Legal filings by Al-Haq, Adalah, Al Mezan, and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) describe these activities as pillage — a war crime under the Rome Statute and a violation of the Hague Regulations. Valero Energy refines and ships JP-8 fuel to Israel using tankers such as the Overseas Santorini, directly fueling genocidal airstrikes on Palestinians in Gaza. Coal companies like Glencore and Drummond export coal from Colombia and South Africa to Israel, fueling both its national grid and military industries. Elbit Systems, Israel’s largest arms manufacturer, provides the militarized security architecture for offshore gas infrastructure, embedding fossil operations in a permanent war economy.

The energy system is not only a battlefield —it is a weapon.

// In 2022, the European Union signed a gas deal with Egypt and Israel, allowing Israeli fossil gas to reach European markets through Egyptian LNG terminals. Israeli gas has arrived at ports in Milford Haven, Marseille, Bruges, Tuscany, and Rotterdam. These flows are small in volume, but politically significant: they entrench Israeli apartheid in European climate infrastructure. The Arish–Ashkelon pipeline, co-owned by Israel and Chevron, runs illegally through Palestinian waters to make this trade possible.

// This fossil-backed architecture of apartheid is legally indefensible. In January 2024, the International Court of Justice found a plausible case that Israel is committing genocide and instructed states to halt any support that could contribute to these crimes. According to SOMO’s legal analysis, corporations materially enabling the Israeli gas sector during this genocide may face international criminal liability. This is not just a climate issue. It is a matter of international law, human dignity, and life. The embargo is not symbolic — it is necessary.

Even so, the energy embargo is not just a response to genocide but part of a longer struggle to dismantle extractive power. This call builds on centuries of resistance by indigenous and oppressed peoples whose lands have been exploited by extractive capitalism.

Climate justice and Just Transition:

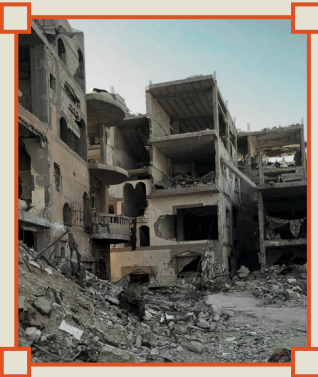
Why fighting for climate justice means fighting for Palestine

Underlying the emissions and the human and environmental consequences of displacement and genocide are the global systems of colonialism and fossil capitalism that have allowed it to continue. A truly just transition requires the dismantling of these systems.

// These global systems, which put profit over people and planet, have one set of rules for the global North and another for the global majority. They strive for 'business as usual' in the face of the destruction of Earth. These same global systems that European, white supremacist colonisers constructed for their benefit above others are destroying Palestine and our world.

// The climate justice movement calls for reparations from the states and corporations that gained the most out of two centuries of extraction and exploitation of the world's natural resources to those who are suffering the brunt of climate and environmental catastrophe. It calls for Indigenous stewardship of the world's ecosystems and for a safe, dignified life for all. Those fighting for Palestine want the exact same things: for Palestinians to live on their own land in justice, safety and dignity.

The IPCC and CBD have emphasized the centrality of land rights and agroecology in confronting



the climate crisis. Yet Palestinians remain denied access to their own lands and seas, under a military regime that criminalizes acts of Palestinian sovereignty.

// Climate justice further demands an end to the current domination of fossil fuel companies and states that put profit first, see the energy transition as another money-making opportunity, and whose concern about the effects of climate catastrophe does not extend beyond their own borders. Those fighting for Palestinian rights are calling for that too: to move power away from the very same actors that continue to

fund, abet, and obfuscate Israel's crimes in order to win Palestinian liberation.

// When advocating for sustainable energy for all, clean water and soil, reparations, loss and damage funding, climate finance, a fossil fuel phaseout, and greater responsibility from the world's biggest emitters, **you are also advocating for Palestine.** You are advocating for Palestinians' right to life in a safer, more just, more sustainable world. And that's impossible when living under genocide, apartheid, or occupation.



How to advocate for Palestine at SB62?

Climate justice is a verb.
20 years ago, Palestinians have given people worldwide a powerful tool of concrete and effective solidarity by initiating the global BDS movement. Today, strengthening its impact is more important and urgent than ever.

// We echo the demands of the Palestinian COP30 Coalition to join the call for a Global Energy Embargo for Palestine, build the global coalition to end water apartheid, and unite against the role of agribusiness in Israel’s genocide, apartheid and illegal occupation.

Commit to action, accountability, and disruption.

We call for mobilization and pressure to ensure that:

For civil society and climate justice movements

(01) <u>Demand a full global energy embargo on Israel.</u> Push for a ban on fossil fuel exports, LNG trade, and energy investments tied to Israeli or settler-affiliated companies. Demand that the next COP hosts end fossil fuel exports to Israel. Mobilize against other complicit countries and corporations.	(02) <u>Build a global coalition to end water apartheid.</u> Mobilize to terminate all agreements and collaboration on water projects with Mekorot. Include water apartheid in your advocacy as an issue of water justice.	(03) <u>Unite behind a global call to end the enabling of Israel’s crimes.</u> Build Palestine into your movements. Food sovereignty movements must call to end agribusiness complicity in illegal ethnic cleansing and occupation of Palestinian lands. Include Palestine in global climate finance, Loss and Damage, adaptation, and reparations demands.	(04) <u>Divest</u> Divest from corporations involved in fossil fuel extraction, arms, surveillance, agribusiness and agrotoxics that profit from, enable, and greenwash genocide and settler-colonial occupation, and apartheid.	(05) <u>Reject normalization.</u> Publicly oppose or withdraw from events featuring Israeli institutions or corporations complicit in occupation or greenwashing. Do not share panels, delegations, or partnerships with them.
(06) <u>Make Palestine visible at every moment.</u> Speak about it in plenaries, panels, and informal spaces. Use signs, stickers, banners, and flyers to ensure it cannot be ignored..	(07) <u>Use accurate language.</u> Frame this as genocide, occupation, apartheid, settler colonialism, and ecocide—not "conflict." Avoid euphemisms that depoliticize Israel’s actions.	(08) <u>Organize real-time interventions.</u> Coordinate disruptions, solidarity actions, or public statements if Palestine is silenced or erased.	(09) <u>Hold institutions accountable.</u> Ask your NGOs, academic centers, and governments where they stand on Palestine. Demand transparency on partnerships and funding.	(10) <u>Document and publish.</u> Collect quotes, photos, and summaries from inside sessions to expose complicity or silence on Palestine.

For State Delegates and Negotiators	(01) <u>Name the occupation.</u> Reference Israel’s military control, environmental destruction, and denial of Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination and return, in formal statements and side events.	(02) <u>Insert Palestine into every agenda.</u> Ensure climate finance, just transition, and Loss and Damage discussions include occupied peoples. Demand language that links military occupation and apartheid to climate vulnerability.	(03) <u>Protect Palestinian participation.</u> Support inclusion of Palestinian civil society and ensure safety for Palestinian environmental defenders.	(04) <u>Challenge Israel’s green and blue washing.</u> Do not allow Israel to portray its energy or environmental policies as peaceful or sustainable while it bombs ecosystems.	(05) <u>Back International Legal Efforts and Sanctions.</u> Support The Hague Group and other efforts by individual states or multilateral initiatives to hold Israel accountable, comply with international law, impose sanctions, including a military and energy embargo.
For Media and Communications	(01) <u>Center Palestinian voices and evidence.</u> Prioritize direct testimony from Palestinian farmers, medics, environmental defenders, and civil society actors. Use verified local sources and avoid relying solely on international agencies or Israeli institutions for climate-related coverage.	(02) <u>Expose greenwashing and complicity.</u> Investigate and report on how Israeli fossil fuel and tech companies present themselves as “sustainable” or “innovative” while directly enabling apartheid, military occupation, and ecosystem destruction.	(03) <u>Frame ecocide as climate violence.</u> Report Gaza’s destruction not just as war damage but as deliberate environmental targeting—bombed solar panels, poisoned farmland, destroyed water networks are environmental crimes with long-term impacts.	(04) <u>Avoid depoliticizing language.</u> Do not refer to this as a “conflict” or “cycle of violence.” Use precise terms — military occupation, apartheid, forced displacement, ecocide — that reflect the legal and political reality.	(05) <u>Trace the fossil flows.</u> Investigate the global energy routes that enable Israeli militarism — from Chevron’s role in gas extraction to EU gas imports and JP-8 jet fuel shipments. Link these systems to their downstream impacts in Gaza and the West Bank.