

# Land Defense Coalition



**We are....**

... a network for grassroots and popular organizations to strengthen the resilience of the population in the areas targeted by the Israeli occupation forces, and to build grassroots actions and international solidarity in order to confront the Israeli occupation, the settlement project and their implications.

Contact:  
Jamal Juma' (coordinator)  
[Coord.stw@gmail.com](mailto:Coord.stw@gmail.com)  
+970-568921821



## Our Vision

A broad coalition of popular forces and grassroots organizations to defend the land and resources effectively, to influence public policy in favor of small-scale farmers and marginalized social groups and protect their rights, The coalition is recognized and influential in national and international forums, social movement and unions as representative of people resistance and human rights defender.

## Our Aims and Goals

**First:** Build a broad popular social movement for the defense of the land and resource rights of the people

*Goal # 1:* Reinforce joint work and complementarily programs between the members of the coalition members.

*Goal # 2:* Expand the LDC by integrating popular and grassroots organizations that share the LDC's aims and goals.

**Second:** Strengthen the popular steadfastness in the threatened areas in the face of Israeli policies of displacement and confiscation

*Goal #1:* Recruiting resources, mobilize Palestinian public opinion and influence the official policies to support the threatened areas, especially in area "C".

*Goal #2:* Network with international solidarity groups and networks, international social movements, media, political parties and human rights organizations to develop effective solidarity and contribute to joint global action

**Third:** Strengthen the institutional structure of the LDC and its members to meet the challenges of their work with effectiveness and efficiency.

*Goal # 1:* Raise the efficiency and capabilities of the staff and volunteers of the Coalition and its members and take advantage of local and international experiences in this field.

*Goal # 2:* Adapt internal regulations of the LDC members to the nature of the coalition, its vision and aims in order to enhance the joint work and coordination and to reach integration and harmony between the coalition and its members.

## Israeli policies

Established in 2013, the Land Defense Coalition is a response of grassroots movements to the urgent need to promote the spirit of cooperation, pool resources and coordinate efforts to face the challenges imposed by Israeli occupying forces and settlers. We agreed to work together to strengthen the ability of the people from the villages which face the threat of forced displacement and confiscation of land through the Wall and settlements – such as South Hebron, the Northern Jordan Valley, the eastern part of Nablus and many other locations in the West Bank, particularly the Bedouin areas, including those in Jerusalem. Today 46 communities in area C are in imminent danger of forced displacement.

In 2013 Israel established the 'Blue Line Committee' tasked to transfer Palestinian land previously confiscated as Israeli state land to the settlement blocks. As part of this process, one million dunum of West Bank land, which had been confiscated as 'military zones' is now being transformed into to state land. In 2014, 46 thousand dunum of state land have already been transferred to the settlements.

Additionally, Israel consolidated the fragmentation of the West Bank systematically transforming strategic roads into 'Israeli-only' roads and making movement between the south, center and north of the West Bank ever more difficult if not impossible.

Finally, the daily threat of the settlers to the inhabitants of the threatened villages continues to increase.

## Our Mission

The Land Defense Coalition is a coalition of popular and grassroots organizations that seeks to join forces and efforts and coordinate their work in order to protect small farmers and marginalized social groups, especially agricultural workers, women and youth.

We want to defend their political, social and economic rights and reinforce international solidarity with their struggles.

We do this by supporting them to organizing themselves, supporting their struggles, strengthening their capacities, reinforcing joint work among the Coalition members and networking globally with social movements.

## Our Programs

### **Programme 1**

National and International lobbying and advocacy

### **Programme 2**

Research, Documentation and Media

### **Programme 3**

Capacity building

### **Programme 4**

Emergency response, especially to demolitions and displacement

### **Programme 5**

Popular work and activities

### **Programme 6**

Protection of farmers and defense of their rights

In  
response  
to

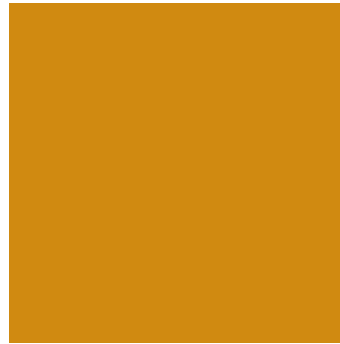
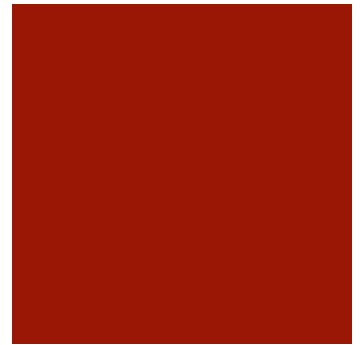
Israeli  
policies

Mobilizing  
communities

Creating  
synergies in  
fieldwork and  
services to the  
communities

# The Palestinian internal conjuncture

Gaza is totally isolated from the West Bank and transformed into a large open air prison. In the West Bank, Israel has solidified its colonial project on the ground and created a military, administrative and infrastructure system of control which dictates every detail of the lives of the Palestinian people.



## **Politically:**

- Israel is ending any possibility for a solution based on agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.
  - The independence of the PA and its decision-making processes has been eroded by the influence of international aid and its conditionalities. This undermines the PA's ability to confront the settlements.
  - Despite the existence of some 80 thousand Palestinian security personnel the PA is unable to protect its people from attacks by settlers and the Occupation Forces.
  - The paralysis and marginalization of the PLO structures have led to a loss of consensus and the absence of a united Palestinian strategy to face the occupation.
  - The fragmentation imposed by the occupation has created great difficulties for a unified Palestinian strategy for confronting the Israeli occupation.
- border crossings and trade routes.
  - The PA strategy of developing state institutions and a corresponding economy has therefore failed.
  - Fiscal austerity and PA salaries have been prioritized throughout the ongoing economic and fiscal crisis, which has become an additional burden on the Palestinian people. As a result, a debt crisis has been created that keeps people's lives hostage to the banks.

## **Economically:**

- The Palestinian economy remains dependent on the Israeli one. Israel has full control over water, land resources, agriculture, marketing, tourism, gas and
- The economic policies, high levels of poverty, unemployment and marginalization, have strengthened negative impact of individualism and tribal loyalty disintegrating our social fabric.
  - The social and class gap is widening, with the middle classes joining the Palestinian poor. A small extremely wealthy and powerful elite has emerged.
  - Social solidarity, the backbone for Palestinian resistance, has been disintegrating over the last two decades.
  - Disillusionment with the PA/PLO has grown and people feel excluded from political decisions.

# LDC Operational Structure

The Land Defense Coalition has been registered officially in 2014 as a coalition.

The LDC unites the members in common programs to strengthen their capacity for grassroots mobilization, international outreach, sociopolitical and economic analysis and finance.

The LDC therefore forms:

1. a coordinating mechanism of its members to pursue joint projects and activities, whether field-based or administrative, and to promote and strengthen relations between the members.
2. a basic joint action framework to strengthen the coalition's performance and raise and manage funds, including: Popular and voluntary work, international relations, media, research and finance departments.

Each of its members may keep their own administrative structure and financial system. The LDC will host the bodies without official registration like Stop the Wall, the Jordan Valley Council and the Palestinian Youth Forum by opening sub-bank accounts for these members and taking responsibility for budgeting, reporting and financial auditing.



## Executive Committee

The LDC is administrated by an executive committee composed of representatives of its members. It meets once a month. The executive committee is responsible for policies, long-term strategies, planning and coordinating relations and work between member organizations.

## General Coordinator

The LDC coordinator is appointed by the executive committee to manage and coordinate day to day work, oversee the employees' work plans and supervise the implementation of the LDC's strategies and work plans.

## Managerial Committee

This committee oversees the efforts of the main joint departments: popular mobilization, international outreach, policies and research, finance. The managerial committee is formed of the heads of these departments. It is led by the general coordinator.

**The Popular Council to Protect the Jordan Valley:** The Jordan Valley Council has been created by LDC. It works as an independent body that aims to coordinate action and unite the voices of the Jordan Valley.



## Our Members

### Stop the Wall Campaign – [www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org)



Stop the Wall was launched in 2002 to unite the struggle of the popular committees in the villages, refugee camps and cities struggling against the Wall and the settlements and the efforts of Palestinian civil society. It consists of 10 regional popular committees, which together represent up to 100 communities throughout the West Bank.

### Palestinian Farmers Union – [www.pafu.ps](http://www.pafu.ps)



Founded in 1993 as a mass based voluntary union for Palestinian farmers, it represents farmers, organizes them and defends their interests and rights throughout the entire agricultural process, including production, marketing and resource mobilization. It represents up to 6,000 individual farmers and 56 cooperatives (total of 4,000 members) in the West Bank and Gaza.

### Palestinian New Federation of Trade Unions (New Unions)



Founded in 2012, the New Unions represent workers in all West Bank districts. Its main aims are to build an independent trade union movement that promotes democracy and human rights and defends workers rights in front of factory owners and the Israeli occupation.

### Palestine Youth Forum

The youth have been organizing anti-normalization activities, protests against Israeli policies, support for the prisoners and many initiatives of voluntary work, especially in areas where land or water resources are under threat of confiscation by the Israeli authorities.

### Women Center for Social Development

This women's group was established in 2002 and is working to support and empower women and protect their rights in all areas of their life, and to build their capacities to take a more proactive role in politics and in the economic and social sphere.

### Association for Farmers' Rights and for the Preservation of the environment

Founded in 2011, the Association is based in Nablus and operates in the northern West Bank in order to defend farmers' rights in the court systems, it promotes the role of women farmers in society and promotes modern and sustainable agricultural methods.

### The Popular Council to Protect the Jordan Valley

The Jordan Valley Popular Council works as an independent body that aims to unite the voices of the Jordan Valley, express their demands to governmental, nongovernmental, national and international organizations.