

# *caravan for democracy*

or



# *caravan for apartheid?*

## **Is destroyed Jenin really the symbol of American democracy?**

### **What does occupation democracy mean?**

It means a "democracy" where the millions of Palestinians living under occupation lack the most basic of rights under the Israeli system, while continually subject to Israeli military rule. It means an "autonomy" subject to constant military invasion and brutality. It means a system of "autonomous" Bantustans scattered throughout the West Bank and Gaza. It means "democracy" for some, but not for all. In short, it means Israeli democracy, and apartheid democracy. ***And that's no democracy at all.***

### **Is dispossession, settlement and oppression really in "our common interest"? Are these the words of a "man of peace"? *You decide:***

"Everybody has to move, run and grab as many hilltops as they can to enlarge the settlements because everything we take now will stay ours... Everything we don't grab will go to them." Ariel Sharon, then Israeli Foreign Minister, addressing a meeting of militants from the extreme right-wing Tsomet Party, Agence France Presse, November 15, 1998.

### **But what about terrorism?**

A people subject to military occupation and severe oppression will carry within them a great deal of rage. If you want to stop terrorism--end the occupation. And when defining terrorism--don't forget the state terrorism that has left thousands of Palestinian civilians dead, injured and dispossessed in a constant assault against their existence.

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### **What is the right of return, and why is it denied to Palestinians?**

When the state of Israel was created in 1948, nearly a million Palestinians were displaced from their land. Many went to the now-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Others went into the diaspora overseas. All of these refugees have an inalienable right of return to their land or compensation, as repeatedly affirmed by the United Nations. While providing a homeland for all people of Jewish identity, the state of Israel refuses to accept these refugees' right to return--as it could damage "demographic character." In other words, it could create the "threat" of an Arab citizen majority. At the same time, Israelis continue to "settle" on Palestinian land. ***Or, in other words, it's a right guaranteed by international law. And its denial--pure racism.***

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