

My name is Maria Baroody. I am a retired social studies teacher and mother and grandmother of American Palestinians having married a Palestinian immigrant, now citizen, who was born in Jerusalem while it was under Jordanian annexation following the 1948 War creating the State of Israel. I have visited East Jerusalem many times since 1985 and have witnessed and experienced living under Israeli occupation.

I strongly believe that non profit agencies here in Maryland should be prohibited from aiding and abetting Israel from committing illegal occupation of disputed territory seized in 1967, apartheid in Israel and the occupied territories , ethnic cleansing, and genocide. The settlements in particular violate Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Conventions on Rules of War, "the occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population in the territory it occupies." The Geneva Conventions exist in response to the Nazi atrocities committed during WW2. Israel does not abide by them. Since the 4th Geneva Conventions was signed in 1949 there have been 4 emergency meetings of the Convention signatories (of which we are one), each emergency meeting was about Israel.

It is time that Israel be held accountable for the war crimes it has and is committing. It is time for Maryland to take a stand prohibiting non-profit agencies from aiding and abetting these crimes.

I am in Favor of HB1184.