

# David Friedman: Ambassador for Settlers

Candidate Trump's May 2016 <u>statements</u> urging the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank did not come out of nowhere: less than a month earlier, Trump had <u>appointed</u> his bankruptcy lawyer, David Friedman, to advise him on Israel policy. Now Trump's nominee for U.S. ambassador to Israel, Friedman is poised to act – with official U.S. government sanction – on his longstanding commitment to the forced displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank. Friedman <u>funnels</u> millions of tax-deductible U.S. dollars to facilitate Israel's illegal settlement enterprise, <u>supports</u> Israeli annexation of the West Bank, <u>denies</u> the existence of Palestinian rights to Jerusalem, and <u>zealously attacks</u> anyone who takes issue with his far-right agenda. **More than 600 U.S.-based rabbis and cantors have** <u>signed a letter opposing Friedman's appointment.</u>



The Israeli settlement of Hashmonaim behind the Wall.

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### WHAT WE KNOW:

## Close ties to the far-right Israeli settler movement:

- Through his nonprofit organization, Friedman <u>raises</u> <u>millions</u> in tax-exempt U.S. funds to support the illegal Israeli settlement of Beit El in the West Bank
- Friedman's organization is <u>currently funding</u> construction of a new, five-story residential settlement building on privately-owned Palestinian land
- Friedman <u>defends</u> Israeli annexation of the West Bank and does not view an independent Palestinian state as "an American imperative"

"[The two-state solution is] an illusion that serves the worst intentions of both the United States and the Palestinian Arabs. It has never been a solution, only a narrative. But even the narrative itself now needs to end."

David Friedman August 2, 2016

## Refusal to acknowledge Palestinian rights to Jerusalem:

- Friedman is committed to moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, notwithstanding Jerusalem's corpus separatum status (i.e. placement under a special international regime) under UN resolutions 181 and 194
- If implemented, a U.S. embassy transplant to Jerusalem would represent an <u>alarming departure</u> from longstanding U.S. presidential policy

"The U.S. will recognize Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state and Mr. Trump's Administration will move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem."

Jason Greenblatt and David Friedman November 2, 2016

#### Contempt for dissent:

- Friedman <u>advocates</u> stripping "disloyal" Palestinian citizens of Israel those who do not "support the state" of the benefits of citizenship
- Friedman <u>characterizes</u> boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaigns against Israel as "inherently anti-Semitic" and promotes "strong measures, both diplomatic and legislative, to thwart" such campaigns – a thinly veiled attempt to stifle constitutionally protected activities critical of Israel

"[J Street supporters] are far worse than Kapos.... They are just smug advocates of Israel's destruction delivered from the comfort of their secure American sofas – it's hard to imagine anyone worse."

David Friedman June 5, 2016

For more information on CCR's work in support of Palestinian rights: <a href="http://ccrjustice.org/home/what-we-do/">http://ccrjustice.org/home/what-we-do/</a> issues/palestinian-solidarity