

Epcor's Supplier

The Arad Group

Overview

- The Arad Group designs, develops, and manufactures water meters and meter reading systems.
- It has been involved in both **historic** and **contemporary, ongoing** North America is currently its main target market, where it distributes products through Master Meter.
- All info about Arad in this presentation is adapted from a November 2024 report to the UN: <https://www.justpeaceadvocates.ca/epcor-violates-human-rights-in-palestine>
- human rights abuses in Palestine.
- Arad supplies Israeli West Bank settlements with water infrastructure (violating international law) and provides technology used to criminalize Palestinians for accessing their own water.
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THE origins of the arad group

- Many peoples have lived in Palestine. Since at least the 12th century it has been primarily Muslim.
- In the late 1800s mass Jewish migration to Palestine began, influenced by Zionism and anti-Jewish violence.
- Kibbutz Dalia was created by the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association in 1939, on land belonging to the Palestinian village Daliyat al-Rawha' (دالية الرّوحاء – “the fragrant vine”), south of the village.
- In 1941 the Arad Group moved from Haifa to Kibbutz Dalia, to provide income to fund the kibbutz’s expansion over more Palestinian land. A blacksmith’s shop became a water meter factory.

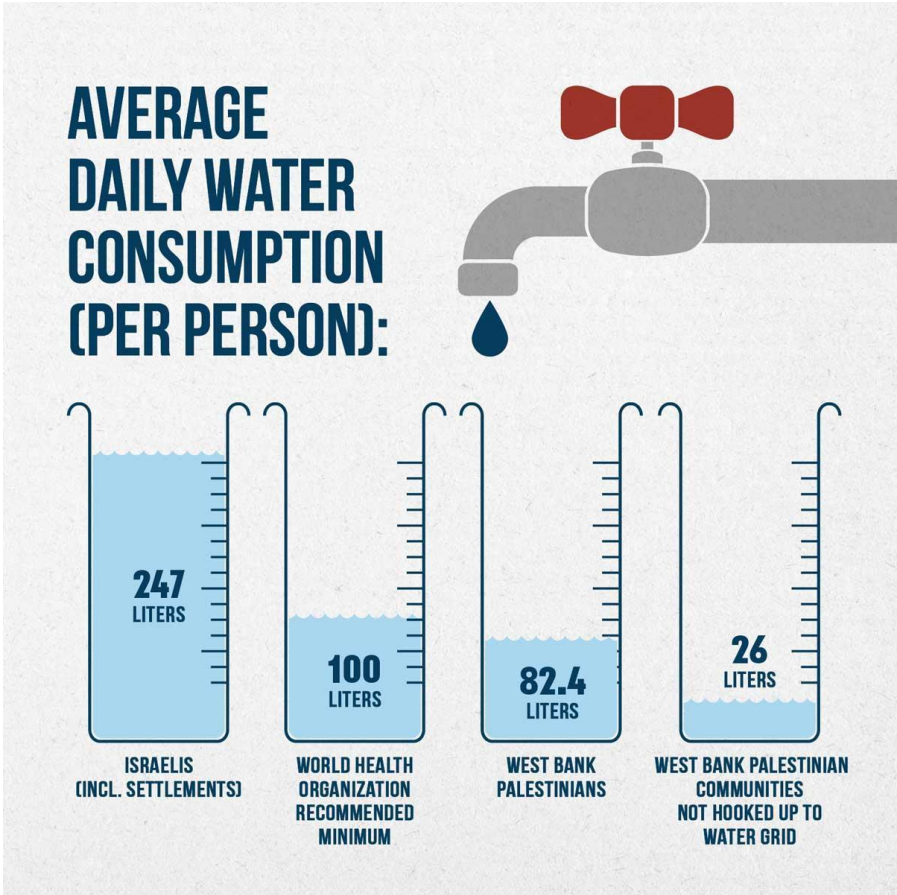
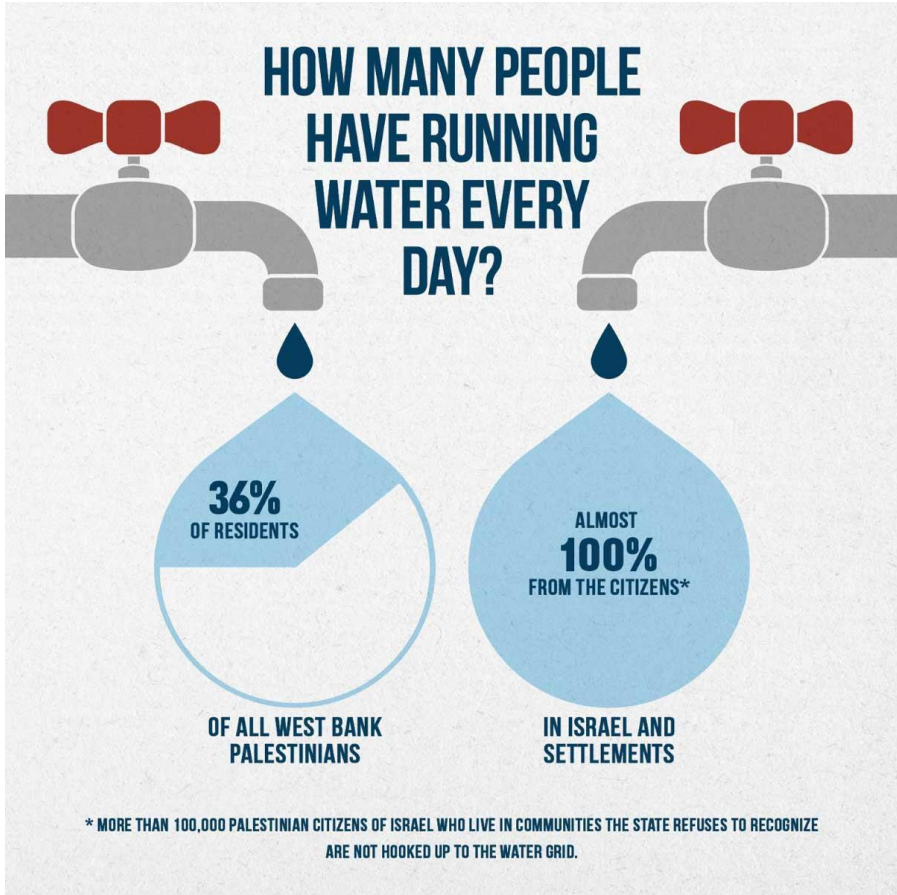
Kibbutz Dalia and the NAKBA

- In 1944 youth from Kibbutz Dalia formed a militia that joined the Palmach, a Jewish militia.
- In 1947 Kibbutz Dalia hosted a course for Palmach squad leaders. That same year the Palmach led attacks on Palestinian villages, as a precursor to the 1948 war that established Israeli control over 78% of Palestine.
- A Director of the Jewish National Fund dehumanizingly called the Palestinian farmers and herders who lived in Daliyat al-Rawha' "thorns" and asked the Haganah (Zionist paramilitary) to remove them.
- In 1948 the Haganah captured Daliyat al-Rawha', destroyed all of the homes, and forced the Palestinian residents to leave. This repeated across Palestine, with 750,000 people displaced and many killed.

MEKOROT AND WATER APARTHEID

- Mekorot is Israel's national water company. It harvests and distributes water, including in the West Bank.
- Israel practices water apartheid – stealing and hoarding Palestinian water for Israeli use, destroying Palestinian water infrastructure, and refusing water access altogether or selling it at exorbitant prices.
- The UN and the International Court of Justice have named Mekorot as violating Palestinians' rights.
- The Arad Group provides Mekorot with water tech. Arad describes itself as “essentially the only supplier of water-measuring instruments in Israel” and states its tech covers all Mekorot's consumer endpoints.
- Arad meters are used to criminalize Palestinians who have no choice but to access without authorization.

Water apartheid in the west bank



ARAD AND ILLEGAL Israeli WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

- The Arad Group provides water infrastructure for Israeli settlements in the West Bank that Canada recognizes as illegal under international law.
- Arad devices are used in Ma'on, a particularly violent settlement that expanded through daily attacks on Palestinian children walking to school, setting fire to Palestinians' crops, and cutting off road access.
- In the illegal settlement of Ariel, the Arad Group tested its water metering system as a case study to promote its technologies in other locations.

WHY IS EPCOR DOING BUSINESS WITH ARAD?

- The Arad Group's violations of Palestinians' rights and international law are well-documented and readily available online. Any reasonable due diligence would have uncovered this information.
- Even if EPCOR didn't know about the Arad Group before it started the AMI project, community advocates made EPCOR aware of the issues starting in August 2024. Yet EPCOR still forged ahead.
- EPCOR has not acknowledged that it is doing business with a human rights violator, and has not proposed any reasonable remedies. All it has offered is an individual opt-out that keeps the vast majority of its customers unknowingly opted-in to complicity in human rights violations.