

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SeaMAC launches print ad campaign about Israel's segregated roads, schools and towns**

"I'M NOT ALLOWED ON ISRAEL'S SEGREGATED ROADS" says a West Bank Palestinian in one of a series of newspaper ads launched this week by Seattle Mideast Awareness Campaign (SeaMAC). The ads are part of SeaMAC's continuing effort to expose the misuse of U.S. taxpayer money to support Israel's system of segregation and discrimination against the Palestinian people. Palestinians are prohibited from driving on segregated Israeli-only settlement roads; Palestinian students inside Israel are channeled into a segregated school system with separate and unequal resources; and Palestinians are not allowed to live in illegal Jewish-only Israeli settlements.

The three ads will run over the next three weeks in *The Seattle Weekly* and *The Stranger*.

**The ads can be seen at [www.stopfundingapartheid.org/press.htm](http://www.stopfundingapartheid.org/press.htm)**

"Segregation was the system of apartheid we rejected in this country, and people of conscience here should refuse to support similar segregation and apartheid in Israel", says SeaMAC volunteer Carla Curio. "Israel's refusal to treat Palestinians as equals is an ongoing obstacle to justice and peace."

According to Human Rights Watch, "Palestinians face systematic discrimination merely because of their race, ethnicity, and national origin, depriving them of electricity, water, schools, and access to roads, while nearby Jewish settlers enjoy all of these state-provided benefits."

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2010/12/18/israelwest-bank-separate-and-unequal>

The US gives several billion dollars of military aid to Israel each year, and has promised \$30 billion of aid over the next ten years.

The print ads continue the campaign begun by SeaMAC's bus ad and billboard campaigns. Last December, SeaMAC's Metro bus ads, "ISRAELI WAR CRIMES: Your Tax Dollars At Work," were first approved, accepted and printed, then suddenly cancelled by King County. A subsequent billboard campaign with the slogan "EQUAL RIGHTS FOR PALESTINIANS – Stop Funding the Israeli Military" was approved and accepted by Clear Channel Outdoor, and three of the four contracted billboards were put up for the first week, but then were taken down by Clear Channel.

The ACLU is representing SeaMAC in a lawsuit against King County for violating SeaMAC's constitutional rights by refusing to honor the contract to run the bus ads. The lawsuit will come to trial starting on October 31 of this year.

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Seattle Mideast Awareness Campaign is an all-volunteer organization incorporated in Washington State. **For more information: [www.StopFundingApartheid.org](http://www.StopFundingApartheid.org)**

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