

The repeated Israeli claim that these projects will cause harm to current Israeli utilization was a major obstacle for the successful implementation of the agreement. It will require prodigious efforts by the Palestinians and international mediators to engage the Israelis in the negotiations over water. Israel has continuously practiced a unilateral control over all water resources in the WBGs, not fulfilling its obligations as a belligerent occupier under International Law. Furthermore, the current utilization of the international water resources does not comply with International Law, specifically the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization. The continuation of the status quo is a clear and persistent violation of the principles of International Law.

It is strongly recommended that the Palestinians and the Israelis abide by the principles of International Law. The 1997 UN Convention serves as a guideline for a future agreement. This framework agreement is believed to ensure the utilization, development, conservation, management and protection of the international watercourse, and the promotion of the optimal and sustainable utilization for the present and future generations. The final agreement on water should include solutions and mechanisms for co-operation on the various international water resources. Neither Israel nor Palestine can afford the consequences of the continuing conflict over water as it is a major threat to peace.

Further Research Sources:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/mideast/cuvlm/water.html>
<http://www.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/80859e/80859E00.htm>
<http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/Bibliography/IWL-general.htm>
<http://www.yale.edu/environment/publications/bulletin/103pdfs/103shamir.pdf>
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http://water.usgs.gov/exact/publications_pal.htm
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Wouters, Patricia, *An Assessment of Recent Development in International Water Courses Law through the Prism of Substantive Rules Governing Use Allocation.* *Natural Resources Journal,* 1996 (special issue)

For full text documents of agreements, understandings and peace treaties see:

<http://www.mideastweb.org/history.htm>

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/mideast/mideast.htm>

<http://www.miftah.org/Documents.cfm>



Water

THE BLUE GOLD OF THE MIDDLE EAST

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