

**Response from Norman Goldstein, founder of the Maccabi Ariel Indoor Football Club, sent via e-mail, September 16, 2016:**

Who exactly is the occupier here? All history books refer to the “period of the Arab occupation.” That is, the Arabs are the ones who occupied! The French come from France, the English come from England, Russians come from Russia, Jews come from Judea and the People of Israel come from the Land of Israel, and the Arabs come from a place called Arabia! All peoples are named for their homelands, the Hungarians come from Hungary, Lithuanians from Lithuania, there is no people in the world whose name isn’t connected to the land where it resides, and so Arabs belong to Arabia, the Arabian Peninsula. That is their place. That is their land.

In the Arabic language, the word Falastin is the name of the geographic region which is called in Hebrew the Land of Israel. In European languages, it is called Palestine, a short for Syria-Palestine, the name originally given by the Roman Empire to the province of Judea, after the suppression of the Bar Kochva uprising, in a bid to sever the connection of the Jews to their land. This name was adopted by some of the Palestinians for the country they aspire to establish. During the British Mandate this was the name of the Mandatory territory in Arabic.

In reference to “The clubs provide services to Israelis but do not and cannot supply services to Palestinians”:

Many Arab (Israeli) clubs come for matches in Ariel. Palestinian clubs do not belong to Israeli leagues, just like French clubs do not play in the Spanish league.

Foreign players must get a permit in order to play, just like in any other country.

In reference to: “Financial documents indicate that the sums transferred in recent years by FIFA and UEFA to the Israel Football Association reach millions of dollars a year, as part of the mutual financial relationship in which FIFA and UEFA make money off regional and international matches in which Israeli clubs participate”:

The Maccabi Ariel club has not received a dime from the Israel Football Association or any other body.