

FACT SHEET ON ISRAELI APARTHEID

A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea

Definition of Apartheid

The term “apartheid,” Afrikaans for “separating” or “setting apart, originally used to refer to the now-dismantled South African political system which explicitly enforced racial segregation and the domination and oppression of one racial group by another. It has since been adopted by the international community to condemn and criminalize such systems and practices wherever they occur. Thus, the crime of apartheid is a legal term that refers to an institutionalized regime of racial or ethnic segregation and oppression whereby one racial/ethnic group dominates another. The Anti-Apartheid Convention of 1976 and the Rome Statute of 1998 made apartheid a crime against humanity, subject to prosecution under international criminal law. The crime of apartheid includes:

- Denial of life and liberty, such as murder, torture, or arbitrary arrest
- Imposing living conditions that cause physical destruction
- Prohibiting mixed marriages
- Restricting movement and access to public spaces
- Banning access to certain meetings and unions

Apartheid Regime in Israel and the Israeli-Occupied Palestinian Territories

Before October 7, 2023 and the ongoing Israeli genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, there were **7.65 million Palestinians** and **7.47 million Israeli Jews** living in all the territory Israel controls: its sovereign territory (within the “Green Line,”) and Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. By law, Israeli Jews dominate Palestinians in every aspect of their lives simply because they are not Jews. Indeed, since its founding in 1948, Zionist Israel was to be a Jewish state, with as few non-Jewish/indigenous people as possible, as evidenced by its expulsion of 80% of the native Christian and Muslim Palestinians during the *Nakba*. In light of anti-colonial 20th and 21st century norms, expulsion and dispossession before 10/7/23 were less dramatic. Yet, they have continued for Palestinians for the past 77 years. In sum, apartheid is the institutionalized organizing principle of Israel: advancing and perpetuating the supremacy of one group, Jews, over another, Palestinians.

Despite Israeli claims to be a democracy, an apartheid regime exists through the accumulation of policies and laws that Israel has devised to entrench its control over Palestinians, **in four main areas**:

***Land** – Israel works to “Judaize” the entire area, treating land as a resource chiefly meant to benefit the Jewish population. Since 1948, Israel has taken over 90% of the land within the Green Line and built hundreds of communities for the Jewish population. Since 1967, Israel has also enacted this policy in the West Bank and East Jerusalem building more than 280 settlements for some 720,000 Jewish Israeli settlers on land stolen from Palestinians. Israel has not built a single community for Palestinians in the entire area stretching between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. Before 10/7/23, Israel had demolished 57, 000 Palestinian homes in OPT, often for lack of permits never issued to Palestinians. By 10/7/24, 150,00+ Gazan homes were destroyed; the destruction continues at this writing (January, 2025).

***Citizenship** – Jews living anywhere in the world, their children and grandchildren – and their spouses – are entitled to Israeli citizenship. By contrast, Palestinians cannot immigrate to Israeli-controlled areas, even if they, their parents or their grandparents were born and lived there. Israel makes it difficult for Palestinians who live in one of the units it controls to obtain status in another, and enacted legislation prohibiting Palestinians who marry Israelis from living with their spouses and/or children.

***Freedom of movement** – Israeli citizens enjoy freedom of movement in the entire area controlled by Israel and may enter and leave the country freely. Palestinian subjects, not only have a separate and dangerous system of roads, but must negotiate hundreds of IDF checkpoints, where passage is often arbitrary and humiliating, and even short trips between towns, become prohibitively long. Travel abroad even for education or medical care requires Israeli approval which is often denied.

***Political participation** – Palestinian citizens of Israel may vote and run for office, but leading politicians consistently undermine the legitimacy of Palestinian political representatives. The roughly five million Palestinians who live in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), including East Jerusalem, cannot vote/ participate in the political system that governs their lives and determines their future; and freedom of speech and association are also denied. There are 2 legal systems of law in the OPT—martial law for Palestinians, Israeli civil law for Jewish settlers. Palestinians, including young children, are constantly and arbitrarily detained, often without charge for months on, and often without access to a lawyer. Torture has been a constant feature of detention/imprisonment since the military occupation began in 1967 and continues.

***Basic Law of 2018 -[Israel--the National State of the Jewish People](#)**, encodes Jewish supremacy over non-Jews explicitly, declaring the distinction between Jews and non-Jews as fundamental and legitimate, and permits institutional discrimination in land management and development, housing, citizenship, language and culture including for non-Jewish Israeli citizens who are educated in segregated schools, who are legally prohibited from commemoration the *Nakba*

Thus, Israel is not a democracy but an apartheid regime in all of historic Palestine--for all those Palestinians and Israelis living between the River Jordan and Mediterranean Sea.

As in South Africa, people created this apartheid regime, and people can change it.

Several human rights groups have extensively investigated and affirmed that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid:

***B'Tselem:** “A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is Apartheid” https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

***Human Rights Watch** [Israeli Apartheid: "A Threshold Crossed:*](#)

***Amnesty International :** [Israel's apartheid against Palestinians: a cruel system of domination and a crime against humanity](#)

***Al-Haq:** [Palestinian, regional, and international groups submit report on Israeli apartheid to UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

***The Israel Apartheid Report Database.pdf**

More extensive reading on Israeli apartheid including its definition and international law on the subject. [file:///C:/Users/Justine/Downloads/The%20Israel%20Apartheid%20Report%20Database%20\(3\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Justine/Downloads/The%20Israel%20Apartheid%20Report%20Database%20(3).pdf)