



[An Amnesty International Report Details Israel's Subjecting of Palestinians to a System of Apartheid](#)

A recent report released by human rights group Amnesty International has labeled Israel as an apartheid state, and detailed the oppression of Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli government. The prominent global rights watchdog reached its findings through close examinations of exclusionary and discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, as well as the aimed intent behind these. Amnesty International determined that these laws and practices were put into effect by the Israeli government in an attempt to establish a Jewish demographic hegemony across Israel and illegally-occupied Palestine. Some of the Israeli methods outlined in the report include “territorial fragmentation, segregation through the denial of equal status, restrictions on movement, discriminatory family reunification laws, and the dispossession of land and property,” among others. Amnesty International emphasized that the intent is equally as important as the discriminatory actions themselves, with clear evidence of the behavior being a systematic effort. In the preceding years, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations, B’Tselem, and others have denounced and shed light on Israel’s system of apartheid and Amnesty International is just the latest to echo this sentiment.

This is not the first time that Israel has been called an apartheid state. The Amnesty International report echoed previous ones by the United Nations in 2017 and others in recent years that have drawn similar conclusions. Amnesty International conducted a review of relevant Israeli legislation, regulations, military orders, government directives and statements, planning and zoning documents, and court judgements. In doing so, they found a stark contrast between the treatment of Jewish Israelis when compared to Arab Israelis and Palestinians. This is a blatant breach of international law, violating the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has even gone as far as saying “Israel is not a state of all its citizens (but rather) the nation-state of the Jewish people and only them.” Jewish Israelis possess a privileged legal status that is extended to them regardless of where they reside, while Arab Israelis and Palestinians do not. This discriminatory intent can be seen in statements by Israeli government officials that point to the desire for a separate and unequal citizenship status for non-Jewish Israelis.

Many Palestinians live under illegal and oppressive Israeli military rule, with their basic human rights under constant threat through Israeli policies of forced displacements and wholesale destructions of Palestinian villages to make way for unlawful and universally-condemned Israeli settlements. At the end of 2020, 441,600 Israeli settlers were living in the illegally-occupied West Bank and by July of the next year, there were an additional 225,178 that displaced land where 358,800 Palestinians once lived. Furthermore, between 2012 and 2014, an astounding 97% of administrative demolition orders were issued in Palestinian-majority areas. It is also near impossible for Palestinians to get permits to build new homes or even rebuild homes that have been destroyed by Israeli bombings.

Palestinians continue to face brutal oppression at the hands of Israeli authorities. The discriminatory policies and practices have been in place for decades and are sustained in a systematic nature. Social justice activists are at least glad that well-respected rights groups like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and others have published thorough and detailed reports in recent years that attempt to shed light on this behavior. It is paramount that the global human rights community pushes for increased accountability and equal treatment for Israelis and Palestinians alike.