



# The NATIONAL INTEREST FOUNDATION

## [New Entry Rules Will Further Isolate Palestinians in the West Bank](#)

Israel has implemented a new set of restrictions that continue to rob the Palestinians of their human rights. The Palestinian people face further isolation as more restrictions are placed on the West Bank by the Israeli government on Palestinians. Israel has implemented a policy that fragments Palestinian people across multiple isolated pockets of land. These new policies are purposefully designed to weaken the connection that the community can create socially, culturally, and intellectually. The laws impose heavy restrictions on the resident conditions of foreigners, affecting the ability of humanitarian actors to work in the West Bank. Human Rights Watch has warned Israel that these targeted policies of isolation will only further isolate Palestinians and deter development. The effects of these new restrictions are already evident. At Bethlehem University, one of the school's programs consists of 70% foreign staff and students. They are fearing significant losses in enrolment and a decrease in the number of educational programs they can offer due to these new restrictions. A graduate student born in Europe with a Palestinian father and European mother was also been denied an ID card under the new rules, even though his family has lived there for 3 generations. An HRW Middle East director disclosed that Israel is "making it harder for people to spend time in the West Bank" and is "taking yet another step toward turning the West bank into another Gaza, where 2 million Palestinians have lived virtually sealed off from the outside world for over 15 years." This is a targeted effort from the Israeli government to weaken the Palestinian developmental ties with the rest of the world.

There have been clear examples of Israel using tools of colonialism and repression to isolate the Palestinian people. Since its occupation of the West Bank began in 1967, Israel has forcibly evicted and displaced entire communities and demolished more than 50,000 Palestinian homes and structures, according to Amnesty International. Much of the West Bank is under Israeli rule. This has already stifled opportunities for the Palestinian people to grow and sustain academic, cultural, and social connections with one another and the outside world. Israeli restrictions have increased from a 3-page long document to a staggering 61 pages. These new rules are a violation of the freedom of movement and will greatly stifle economic and academic activity in Palestine. Israel has imposed a system of checkpoints, roadblocks, and barriers that make it difficult for Palestinian students, faculty, and researchers to travel within the West Bank and to access universities and research institutions outside of the West Bank. It also limits Palestinian students' ability to attend classes and collaborate with academics outside of Palestine. Import restrictions on books and other resources further complicate any attempt to conduct research and provide education. Israel has also imposed restrictions on the movement of goods and people, which has made it hard for Palestinian businesses to combat high levels of unemployment in the West Bank.

These actions in the West Bank by Israel echo strategies used by colonial powers in the past. The goal of these new policies control, divide, and dominate the Palestinian people. The policies and practices implemented by the Israeli government intended to seize control over the land and resources of the West Bank and in tandem limit Palestine's ability to govern and grow. Being stripped of access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities clearly demonstrates the intent of hindering growth in Palestine. Israel is trying to take over Palestinian land, water, and other resources, and give them to the Israeli settlers at the expense of the people who have lived there for generations. These inhumane acts administered by the Israeli government are egregiously impacting the well-being of Palestinian people, isolating them from development socially, culturally, and intellectually, and are clearly an effort to continue to force Palestinians from their homes. Israel needs to reverse the policies as they are cruel and an obvious attempt to displace, incapacitate, and control more Palestinian people.