



[Israel Allocates Over \\$830 Million to Expand Illegal West Bank Settlements](#)

Israeli officials have announced a government plan to allocate around 2.7 billion shekels – the equivalent of more than \$830 million – for both the establishment and expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank over the coming years. The move has been highlighted as a blatant attempt by Israeli authorities to entrench occupation in complete defiance of international law. The global community universally regards these settlements as unlawful due to their construction on illegally occupied Palestinian territory. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and other international bodies have repeatedly condemned Israel's actions. In fact, just last week, the UNGA overwhelmingly adopted a resolution demanding an end to the illegal occupation and settlement activities. Yet, instead of complying, Israel has again decided to continue accelerating its unlawful policies as it glaringly seeks to undermine prospects for peace.

This year has marked an unprecedented one for illegal Israeli settlement plans and approvals in the occupied West Bank. Israeli authorities advanced or approved more than 20,000 housing units between June and September of 2025 alone, while the number of units green-lighted by April of this year during the first several months of 2025 (an excess of 14,000) had already surpassed the total number of approvals for the entirety of 2024. Human rights groups estimate that the current Israeli government is on pace to approve over 50,000 housing units by the end of this year – a figure which would amount to more than the previous five years combined. Furthermore, the number of housing units for which tenders have been published reached an all-time high of approximately 5,600 units this year – a whopping nearly 50% increase compared to the previous record of around 3,800 units back in 2018. Now, with the new government plan to allocate more than \$830 million, Israeli authorities are intent on establishing 17 new paramilitary settlements and expanding dozens more through infrastructure development and financial incentives like tax breaks.

The significant uptick in illegal Israeli settlement expansion actions and initiatives has been driven by a desire to undermine the potential for genuine advancements in the peace process. High-level Israeli ministers like Bezalel Smotrich have blatantly expressed their intention to obstruct the prospect of Palestinian statehood, with further settlement expansion serving as a means for them to hinder the establishment of a contiguous Palestinian state. The plans to push new unlawful settlements, such as the widely condemned E1 project, are rightly seen by

the international community as an overt attempt to sever the territorial link of Palestinian lands – making a state unviable. Analysts have pointed to policies and actions under the current Israeli government which demonstrate an increasing alignment with the settler movement. The government has expedited the settlement approval process, holding more frequent meetings that have resulted in the aforementioned record number of approvals over the past year. They have also enacted legislation to enable Israeli citizens to purchase land in the occupied West Bank and facilitate construction – efforts openly aimed at “integrating” the illegally occupied territory into the framework of Israel. Lastly, observers have outlined that the coinciding rise in settler violence is not a mere happenstance. This has been enabled by authorities as well as a state-sponsored mechanism for illegal settlement expansion and the attempted displacement of Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank.

Despite widespread global condemnation regarding the illegality of Israeli settlements, a lack of accountability and impactful punitive measures has allowed Israel to continue defying international law. The general absence of decisive action has effectively fostered a climate of impunity whereby Israeli authorities feel emboldened to push plans like the recent massive financial allocation for illegal settlement expansion. This persistent lack of accountability for unlawful actions has meant that denunciation, while nearly unanimous, has largely remained symbolic and failed to deter Israel from creating circumstances on the ground that further entrench its illegal occupation. In the face of continuing and deepening violations, meaningful actions like sanctions, embargoes, and the suspension of ties and agreements are needed that would actually affect Israel’s ability to sustain its unlawful occupation and settlement enterprise.