

# Israeli Annexation of the West Bank

A brief guide



# Situating Annexation



art by @balash\_habal

Zionism's settler colonial project dates back to the beginning of the 20th century. The Nakba (catastrophe) in 1948 marked a historical shift towards an increase in dispossession and ethnic cleansing. Recently, Benjamin Netanyahu's government announced that it will annex large portions of the occupied West Bank. While "annexation" may seem a new threat to Palestinian sovereignty, a form of creeping de facto annexation has taken place in the West Bank since Israel's occupation began following its victory in the 1967 Six Day War or the Naksa (setback). As Israel expanded its settlements into occupied territory, Palestinians were subjected to over 1,000 military orders that implemented an **apartheid regime** that tyrannizes Palestine in the name of democracy.



# The Reality of Apartheid

A photograph showing a town with multi-story buildings on a hillside. A large, curved concrete wall runs across the foreground, separating the town from a lower, more barren area. The wall is made of vertical concrete panels. In the background, there are more buildings and a hazy landscape under a clear sky.

Today, Israeli apartheid is enacted in several ways: Israeli-only highways, settlements, hundreds of checkpoints and the 700km illegal apartheid wall serve as the main mechanisms. They allow Israel to police Palestinians' livelihoods, restrict their freedom of movement, separate families, and appropriate fertile land and water, crippling the crucial agriculture sector of Palestine's economy. Palestinians experience violence meted out by settlers and soldiers, and Israel routinely demolishes their land and homes. Palestinians are tried in Israeli military courts – not civil courts – where there is a **99.7% conviction rate for children as young as 12**. Within Israel, there are **more than 65 discriminatory laws** that marginalize Palestinian citizens of the state. These laws resemble the Jim Crow system and its legacies that have marginalized African Americans.



Israel's tyranny is not new. Palestinians have long been subjected to what the UN's 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid terms "inhuman acts," defined as "crimes against humanity" by the 2002 Rome Statute that established the International Criminal Court.




photo by Emil Salman




Based on this violent reality and history, Israel qualifies as an **apartheid state.**

On June 16, 2020, 47 United Nations human rights experts stated that...



**"human rights violations would only intensify after annexation, [...]. The morning after annexation would be the crystallization of an already unjust reality: two peoples living in the same space, ruled by the same state, but with profoundly unequal rights. This is a vision of a 21st century apartheid."**







# Preparation

Having steadily appropriated and colonized Palestinian territory since its occupation began, Israel has recently been preparing the way for actual or de jure annexation of Palestinian land. In the last few months it has built more 'Israeli-only' roads and other infrastructure in the West Bank, and stepped up its demolition of Palestinian homes and the destruction of wells and buildings owned by Palestinian farmers in the Jordan Valley. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has revealed that **Israeli forces demolished at least 70 Palestinian buildings** in the occupied West Bank and displaced 90 Palestinians between June 2-15 alone. This is an **over 250% increase** compared with the weekly average since the beginning of the year.

# What can you do?



Don't make  
apartheid  
great again

Is it really your homeland  
if you have to colonize it?



&



From Palestine  
to Mexico,  
these border walls  
have got to go!

Free  
Palestine



**We need to urge our elected  
members of Congress to ...**

# **End U.S. complicity in Israel's war crimes**

Each year the U.S. gives Israel at least \$3.8 billion of our tax dollars – some **\$10 million EVERY DAY**. U.S. taxpayer dollars should NOT fund apartheid. Not only does our aid to Israel violate international law but it also **violates our own Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act**, that prohibit assistance to any country that engages in the pattern of human rights violations documented over many years, in the case of Israel, by UN bodies, civil society organizations and the US State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.



This **\$3.8 billion** would be better spent addressing the **racial inequalities** in health, housing, education and employment laid bare by the Covid-19 pandemic, and other urgent needs at home.

Visit [uscpr.org/militaryfunding](https://uscpr.org/militaryfunding) to find out exactly how much your community spends to finance apartheid and the alternatives uses for those funds.

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**\*\*\* The bolded text is meant to highlight useful resources, please visit those websites for more in-depth information**

