



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S NEW REPORT ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL'S APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS

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For decades, Israel's government has entrenched a regime of legal discrimination against Palestinians in both the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and Israel, and against Palestinian refugees. Amnesty's new report documents how this system amounts to the crime against humanity of apartheid as established under the Apartheid Convention and Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

DISCRIMINATORY AND TARGETED ACTIONS TO DEPRIVE PALESTINIANS OF HUMAN RIGHTS SPANNING DECADES

Based on years of research, our report documents Israeli officials' intent and commission of systemic acts to discriminate against and prevent Palestinians from enjoying equal rights to Jewish Israelis within Israel and the OPT. This has been, and continues to be, carried out by Israel's leaders via targeted actions including the fragmentation of Palestinian territory and legal jurisdiction into controlled, separated enclaves; forced displacement of Palestinians, dispossession, and destruction of land and property; segregation from Jewish Israelis; repression of Palestinian civil society; and institutionalized deprivation of social and economic rights, key public services and resources.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO CALL THE SITUATION APARTHEID?

This report is above all a call for change. For more than seven decades, the international community has stood by and given the government of Israel free rein to dispossess, segregate, control and oppress Palestinians without fear of repercussions. This approach has failed to tackle the root causes of the conflict, and it has failed to deliver any form of justice to Palestinians. Apartheid is a crime against humanity. When a crime against humanity is committed, the international community has an obligation to hold those responsible to account.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES FUELED BY U.S. ARMS AND SUPPORT, IN VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW

- Since President Biden took office, Israeli authorities have forcibly displaced at least 1176 Palestinians via 884 unlawful demolitions in occupied East Jerusalem and the OPT.
- In 2021, Israeli officials issued over 4,000 tenders for unlawful settlement units in the OPT.
- Israeli forces killed at least 222 Palestinian civilians, including 70 children in 2021, most in the May siege of Gaza; and regularly crackdown with unlawful force on protests.
- Israeli authorities in October 2021 imposed an abusive "terrorist" designation against six Palestinian NGOs that monitor Israeli forces' human rights abuses and provide community services in the OPT.
- There is credible evidence of Israeli forces' use of U.S.-made weapons in grave violations and war crimes. Yet, the U.S. military continues to provide the Israeli government with aid totaling over \$3.3 billion annually. This violates U.S. law, which bars security aid to gross rights violators – let alone the U.S.'s obligations under international law.

For further info and advice, contact the Israel/OPT/Palestine Country Specialists

MANY OTHER NGOS HAVE USED THE TERM APARTHEID TO DESCRIBE ISRAEL'S TREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS. HOW IS AMNESTY'S REPORT DIFFERENT? HOW DID YOU REACH SUCH A DIFFERENT CONCLUSION TO HRW?

Amnesty's conclusion is that Israeli authorities are committing the crime of apartheid against all Palestinians living under their effective control - whether they live in Israel, the OPT, or in other countries as refugees. Other organizations used different approaches, including Human Rights Watch, and found that apartheid is taking place in the OPT, but not all reached the conclusion about the practice inside Israel. Our report provides new evidence of the institutionalized nature of the government of Israel's oppression of Palestinians, and of how Israeli laws and policies are designed specifically to deprive Palestinians of their rights. We also have bolder calls, notably for the UN Security Council to impose a comprehensive arms embargo on the government of Israel. Amnesty considers that the full extent of the government of Israel's domination of Palestinians is only evident when looking at the treatment of Palestinians across all areas where the government of Israel has control over their rights. For this reason we examined the government of Israel's treatment of Palestinians as a whole.

HAS AMNESTY CONCLUDED THAT APARTHEID IS TAKING PLACE ANYWHERE ELSE?

Yes - in 2017 Amnesty released a report which found that the Myanmar government subjects the Rohingya people to the crime of apartheid. However, our report does not seek to draw comparisons or analogies between the treatment of Palestinians and the Rohingya people. Similarly, our report does not argue that the system of apartheid enforced by Israel is the same to the situation in South Africa between 1948 and the mid-1990s.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR AIUSA MEMBER LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS

- Ensure you and your network of activists fully understand Amnesty International's findings. For this, complete the Human Rights Education Module on Apartheid and encourage others to be well-informed on (and skilled to discuss) the report.
- Share the report's Landing Page and AI-created resources found in the report's Action Toolkit with your social media and other networks Remember to use @Amnesty when appropriate and #EndApartheid
- Sign the petition to ask Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to stop forced displacement, evictions, and home demolitions against Palestinians. Add the Amnesty report link to your email signature
- Organize events that enable community conversation: workshops, panel discussions, Q&A and more (be creative and stay in touch with AIUSA's Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories Country Specialists)
- Write letters to the Editor to highlight report findings and call for wider recognition of apartheid
- Check the Government Relations HANDOUT by AIUSA for more information on approaches to U.S. government lobbying work.

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO THE CLAIM THAT AMNESTY IS AN ANTISEMITIC ORGANIZATION?

The accusation is false and baseless. Amnesty stands against antisemitism in the strongest possible terms. Amnesty criticizes the Israeli government, not the Israeli people or the Jewish people. As an anti-racist organization, Amnesty staunchly oppose discrimination, racism, and hate crimes in all forms. We condemn anyone who might try to use this report to criticize or denounce Israelis or Jewish people. Conflating legitimate concern about violations committed by the government of Israel with antisemitism dismisses and simplifies the experiences of both Jewish people and Palestinians. Antisemitism is a serious allegation which has frequently been weaponized as a means of stifling criticism of the Israeli government's human rights violations. This is both a distraction from genuine antisemitism, and a means of evading scrutiny of the the Israeli government's human rights record and accountability for crimes under international law, and thus maintaining the devastating status quo.

WHY IS AMNESTY CALLING FOR SANCTIONS? ISN'T THIS AGAINST YOUR STATED NO-POSITION STANCE ON BDS?

Amnesty is calling on the UN Security Council to impose targeted sanctions, such as travel bans and asset freezes against Israeli officials most implicated in the crime of apartheid, and to impose a comprehensive arms embargo on the government of Israel. This is in order to prevent the government of Israel from committing war crimes and other serious violations. We are not calling for the imposition of wide-ranging economic sanctions, or any sanctions that are not targeted. We have in the past, as per our policy, called for these types of sanctions on other countries, including Syria, Libya, Sudan, Myanmar and Nepal.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTIVISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

- Pressure Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to immediately cancel all orders for forced evictions and home demolitions against Palestinians in Israel/OPT, and to end the forced displacement of Palestinians
- Call on President Biden to press Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to end the practice of forced evictions and home demolitions, forced displacement, unlawful settlement expansion, and all discriminatory and segregation policies imposed in IOPT
- Call on Biden to push for the lifting of the Israeli government's unlawful blockade in Gaza, including movement restrictions and the release of arbitrarily detained Palestinians
- Call on the U.S. to support international investigations and accountability measures for crimes under international law in Israel and OPT by all parties
- Call on the U.S. to formally and publicly end all U.S. support for and enablement of the Israeli government's rights violations and crimes against humanity against Palestinians - respecting U.S. law in regards to aid to Israel
- Increase public consciousness of the crime of apartheid against Palestinians in Israel and the OPT and its impact on the lives of Palestinian refugees

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