

Israeli Apartheid in the Occupied Territories

What is Apartheid?

In 1973, the UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, a crime against humanity. The word 'Apartheid' means separation., 'Apartheid' is defined by the UN as **"...a system of institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group ... over another ... and systematically oppressing them..."** by: creating ghettos; land confiscation; bans on freedom of movement, speech assemblies and mixed marriages; illegal arrest and detention. 1



Two Systems: Separate and Unequal

Palestinians are under **Military Law** and face the constant threat of arrest and detention without charge and can be held indefinitely. They have no right to representation or trial. **Israelis** living in illegal settlements on Palestinian land have all the privileges of Israeli **Civil Law**. As citizens of Israel, they can vote, seek redress in court, and have freedom of speech and assembly. 2

•**Palestinian** villages and towns face **collective punishment** in the form of bulldozing of family houses, extended 24 hour curfews, closures, military raids, violence and harassment. **Israeli** settlers face **no** such **collective punishment**. 3

•**Palestinian land** ownership (agricultural and residential) is subject to military and economic **confiscation**. The purpose is to establish Jewish only settlements, take water resources and confine the Palestinian population into smaller and smaller cantons. **Israelis** face **no land confiscation**. 4

•Over **17,000 Palestinian houses** have been **demolished**, creating 100,000 of thousands homeless. Over a million **Palestinian olive** and fruit **trees** have been **uprooted**. A few Israeli outposts have been dismantled, but there has been **no** widespread **destruction** of **Israeli homes** and **trees**. 5

Nelson Mandela said in 1997: *"...injustice and gross human rights violations were being perpetrated in Palestine. In the same period the UN took a strong stand against apartheid; ...which helped to bring an end to this iniquitous system. But we know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."* 6



Desmond Tutu said in 1989: *"If you change the names, the description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank would be a description of what is happening in South Africa."* 7

Two Systems: Separate and Unequal

• **Palestinians** are **prohibited** from using the extensive network of settler only **highways** that connect the settlements to Israel. ⁸

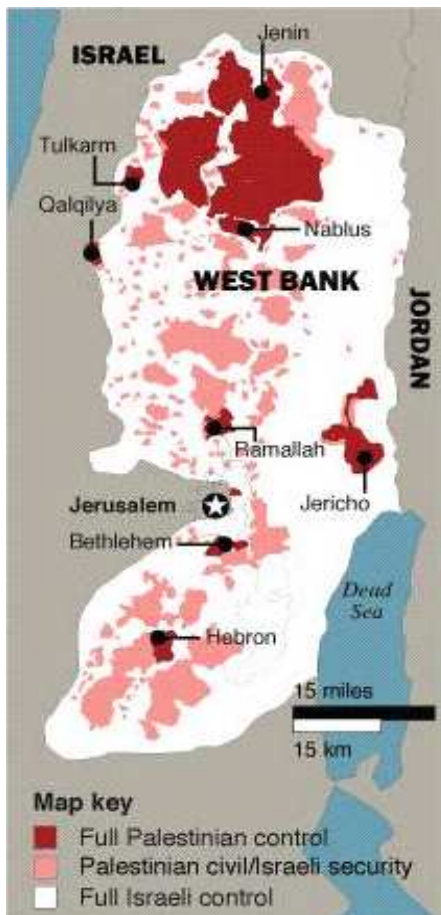
• **Palestinian** workers employed in settlement industrial zones **receive** only the **sweatshop-like minimum wage** mandated by Jordanian law in 1967. In the settlements, **Israeli** workers **receive** all the rights and benefits of Israeli employment law including a **much larger minimum-wage**. ⁹

• The **Israeli** military authority **controls virtually all the water in the West Bank** 73% of West Bank water is piped back to Israel. Illegal Jewish settlers use 10% of West Bank water. **Palestinians have access to only 17% of their own water** and must buy it from Israel at 4 times the price Israelis pay. ¹⁰

• **The wall fragments Palestinian communities** it separates families from their land, their livelihood, health care and schools. The wall also divides communities and families from each other. **The wall does not fragment Israeli** settlements; it is built in such a way to as to annex them to Israel proper. ¹¹

“The permit system for the Closed Zone is administered in an arbitrary and humiliating manner... This system, which subjects Palestinian freedom of movement to the whim of the Occupying Power, creates anger, anxiety and humiliation among the population.”
(UNHCHR) ¹²

Bantustans in the West Bank



Palestinians are ghettoized within 12 percent of the original territory in the West Bank. ¹³

The West Bank is divided up into 70 isolated cantons with no physical movement without Israeli permission. ¹³

There are over 500 military check points where Palestinians often wait hours, and must have ID cards and passes just to travel short distances. Israeli settlers can travel easily. ¹⁴

This dispossession is reminiscent of apartheid which set aside 13% of the lands as “Bantustan” homelands for black South Africans.

Bantustans in South Africa



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