Human Rights Organizations Condemn Israeli Apartheid

In its 2022 report, Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians, Amnesty International stresses that the entire country – Israel and the Palestinian territory – intends to permanently rule – constitutes an apartheid regime.

Israel has imposed a system of oppression and domination over Palestinians wherever it exercises control over the enjoyment of their rights – across Israel and the OPT and with regard to Palestinian refugees. The segregation is conducted in a systematic and highly institutionalized manner... intended to oppress and dominate the Palestinian people.

[The key components of this system of oppression and domination are]: territorial fragmentation; segregation and control through the denial of equal nationality and status; restrictions on movement; discriminatory family reunification laws; the use of military rule and restrictions on the right to political participation and popular resistance; dispossession of land and property; and the suppression of Palestinians’ human development and denial of their economic and social rights, inhuman and inhumane acts, serious human rights violations and crimes under international law, committed against the Palestinian population with the intent to maintain this system of oppression and domination.

The organization has concluded that Israel has perpetrated the international wrong of apartheid.

B’Tselem, the premier Israeli human rights organization, agrees. In its 2021 report This Is Apartheid, it writes:

In the entire area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, the Israeli regime implements laws, practices and state violence designed to cement the supremacy of one group – Jews – over another – Palestinians.

Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, noted in his 2022 report to the Human Right Council that:

For more than 40 years, the UN Security Council and General Assembly have stated in hundreds of resolutions that Israel’s annexation of occupied territory is unlawful, its construction of hundreds of Jewish settlements are illegal, and its denial of Palestinian self-determination breaches international law... But no accountability has ever followed. If the international community had truly, acted on its resolutions 40 or 30 years ago, we would not be talking about apartheid today.

The Only Way Out: An Inclusive Yet Pluralistic Democracy

Resistance, activism and protest alone will not end Israeli apartheid, and ending Israeli apartheid by itself will not dismantle Zionist settler colonialism, or restore to the Palestinians their national rights in their historic homeland. Only a clear political program can do that. Joining with the Palestinian-led One Democratic State Campaign (ODSC), ICAHD has played a key role in forging the only program of liberation, justice, inclusiveness and equality possible: that calls for a single democracy over historic Palestine, yet which also acknowledges the presence of two national groups, Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews.

The program advocated by ICAHD in tandem with the ODSC is based on the following principles:

- Replacing Israel’s apartheid regime with a constitutional democracy between the River and the Sea, based on common citizenship and equal civil rights;
- Implementing the Right of Return for the Palestinian refugees and their descendants, followed by effective policies for reintegrating this traumatized population into society;
- Providing constitutional guarantees protecting the rights of the country’s national, ethnic and religious communities to their collective identities, associations, cultures and institutions;
- Enabling and fostering the emergence of a new, shared civil society; and
- Engaging in creating new regional and global structures of equality and sustainability upon which the success of local decolonization ultimately depends.

You will find the complete ODSC program at: <https://onestatecampaign.org/all/en-manifesto>.

No political program can succeed without effective political organization, leadership and a strategy of summoning the power to prevail. In this effort, ICAHD works closely with the ODSC. Our ability to mount a successful anti-colonial struggle depends, however, on mobilizing you, the peoples of the world, the peoples of the world, the Palestinians’ only genuine allies. Supporting ICAHD is an important step in that direction.

Support Our Work

ICAHD in all its branches – its headquarters in Jerusalem and its active chapters in the UK, the USA, Germany and Finland – plays a crucial role in the struggle for justice in Palestine/Israel. Inserting a critical Israeli voice into the political discourse is crucial for ensuring a truly inclusive and therefore liberatory anti-colonial movement. It also contributes to the struggle in concrete ways deserving of your support:

- ICAHD equips you with a wide range of campaign materials: maps and other visuals, PowerPoint presentations and films. Obstacles to Peace, ICAHD’s manual for activists, gives you critical analysis that empowers you to become an effective advocate for justice in Palestine, as will Decolonizing Israel, Liberating Palestine, ICAHD Director Jeff Halper’s latest book. Check out the wide range of resources downloadable on our collective ICAHD website: <www.icahd.org>;
- ICAHD conducts international campaigns to end house demolitions, to call for divesting from Caterpillar and JCB whose builders are used to demolish Palestinian homes and – the ultimate campaign, launched with our Palestinian partners – for a democratic state shared equally by both peoples;
- ICAHD engages with Israeli and Palestinian partners in legal proceedings to prevent massive demolition and displacement in the West Bank;
- ICAHD advocates for Palestinian rights throughout the world through speaking tours, webinars, participation in conferences and lobbying as it endeavors to mobilize activists and engage with decision-makers;
- ICAHD persists in its resistance to the demolition of Palestinian homes and, with its Palestinian and Israeli partners, confronting Israeli repression in all its many forms;
- ICAHD conducts in-depth study tours of Israel and the OPT for internationals seeking to understand Israeli colonialism and how to decolonize it – tours our participants have called life-changing.

Contact Us:

ICAHD Israel  •  ICAHD UK  •  ICAHD USA
info@icahd.org  •  info@icahdik.org  •  info@icahdusa.org

ICAHD Germany  •  ICAHD Finland
cavalisch@online.de  •  icahd@icahd.fi

Support our important political endeavors by donating to ICAHD via the links on the website: <www.icahd.org>