

Palestinians: ruled by Israeli apartheid



On 11 May 2022 the respected Al-Jazeera journalist **Shireen Abu Akleh** was shot in the head by an Israeli soldier. Over the next two days the Israeli authorities lied about her shooting, raided her home, summoned her brother 'for questioning' and violently attacked her Christian funeral in Jerusalem.

Israel is an apartheid state. The Palestinians have been saying this for years. Now Amnesty International and other human rights bodies agree.

Amnesty's report, *Israel's apartheid against Palestinians*, was published in February and is based on four years of research. It calls for action by the International Criminal Court, stating clearly that Israel's treatment of the Palestinians amounts to apartheid.

What is apartheid?

Apartheid is defined by international law as *"inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group over any other racial group and systematically oppressing them"*.

A state is guilty of practising apartheid when its policies and practices meet this definition.

That's what Amnesty have found.

What Palestinians must endure:

Attacks on the Al-Aqsa mosque
Bombings and permanent siege in Gaza
Evictions in East Jerusalem and the West Bank
Racism and discrimination in Israel

Apartheid in practice

Israel controls all of Palestine from the river Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea. In all areas Palestinians lose out and protests are met with lethal force:
**Palestinian citizens of Israel make up about 19% of the population, but the 'nation state law' gives them a different status from Jewish Israelis. They face many forms of discrimination. In Southern Israel, over 68,000 Bedouin live in 'unrecognised villages' cut off from electricity and water supplies and facing eviction at any time.

**Palestinians in annexed East Jerusalem have 'residence' instead of citizenship – but that residency can be revoked at any time. Since 1967 over 14,000 have had to leave the city.

**Palestinians in the West Bank have no citizenship and most are treated as stateless. They are governed by Israeli military law. Their villages and schools are being demolished to make way for army firing ranges or Israeli-only new towns (known as 'settlements').

**Palestinians in Gaza have no citizenship. They live under a siege that restricts food and water and limits electricity to only a few hours a day. They are frequently attacked and bombed by the Israeli armed forces.

**Palestinian refugees and their descendants, who were displaced in the 1947-49 and 1967 conflicts, are denied the right to return home. Their



exclusion is a flagrant violation of international law which leaves millions in a perpetual limbo.

Others tell the same story

In June 2020 the Israeli organisation Yesh Din reported that *'the crime against humanity of apartheid is being committed in the West Bank.'*

In January 2021 the Israeli organisation Btselem reported that *'the Israeli regime's rationale and the measures used to implement it are reminiscent of the South African regime'*.

In April 2021 the influential Human Rights Watch concluded that *'the Israeli Government has pursued an intent to maintain the domination of Jewish-Israelis over Palestinians'*.

Surely it is only a matter of time before the international community wakes up and insists on change.

What you can do

- Urge your MP to speak out in support of the Palestinians
- Ask your trade union, church, mosque or community organisation to join the campaign for boycott, disinvestment and sanctions
- Join the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Liverpool Friends of Palestine.
- Boycott Israeli goods and services. Look for the label on products.

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facebook.com/liverpoolpalestine, twitter @Livfop, website fop.co.uk/