

# West Bank Annexation plan

Last summer, the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel's occupation since 1967, the creation of Israeli settlements and exploitation of natural resources, are illegal and must end. The UN General Assembly told Israel to comply by this September.

Twenty-two new illegal settlements were announced in late May, the biggest expansion in decades. Maps suggest the new settlements will be dotted across the entire West Bank. Defense Minister Israel Katz said the move *"prevents the establishment of a Palestinian state that would endanger Israel"*.

Now the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) has voted 71-13 to annex the entire West Bank. The motion called on the Government to *"apply Israeli sovereignty, law, judgment and administration to all the areas of Jewish settlement of all kinds in Judea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley,"* Israel's term for the West Bank.

## Settlers obsessed with 2005

The plans include rebuilding former unofficial sites at Sa-Nur and Homesh, dismantled in 2005 when Israel also evacuated its Gaza settlements. Its Zionist leaders call that "expulsion" and still dream of return.

Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich, who heads the coalition's far-right Religious Zionism party and

The Israeli government is planning to construct over 3,000 additional housing units in E1, the narrow strip of land between Jerusalem and the huge illegal West Bank settlement Ma'ale Adumim.

Led by Finance Minister Bezael Smotrich, the E1 plan cuts the West Bank in half – displacing nearly 4,000 Palestinians and making a connected Palestinian state essentially impossible.

In May, Smotrich said the E1 plan *"is how you kill the Palestinian state de facto... God willing, there'll be [Israeli] sovereignty during this term."*

## Endgame

Netanyahu's Coalition partners Religious Zionism seek to **end Palestinian self-determination everywhere**. Even the Palestinian Authority, which served Israel for decades, will be discarded. Netanyahu now insists it will play no role in Gaza's future. **It's the same policy for the West Bank.**

describes himself as a fascist homophobe, turned up on 7 August at Sa-Nur and declared *"We are correcting the mistake of the expulsion. Even back then, we knew that... we would one day return to all the places we were driven out of... That applies to Gaza, and it's even more true here."*

## What You Can Do

- Tell your MP to call out genocide, condemn the Gaza invasion, demand full access for the UN and aid agencies, comprehensive sanctions, a total arms embargo on Israel
- Demand the proscription of Palestine Action is reversed immediately
- Email David Lammy [tinyurl.com/dlammy2](mailto:tinyurl.com/dlammy2)
- Demos Sundays 2pm Catholic Cathedral
- Tell Merseyside Pension Fund to divest from arms firms supplying Israel and Israeli banks: [tinyurl.com/mpfform1](https://tinyurl.com/mpfform1)
- Boycott Barclays. Join us outside the bank Mondays 1:30pm. Tell the City Council to switch its account, like LJMU
- Boycott Israeli pharmaceutical TEVA. Give your pharmacist a letter [tinyurl.com/tevalet1](https://tinyurl.com/tevalet1)

**The illegal occupation of Palestinian Territories, including the siege of Gaza, began long before 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Under international law, an occupied people have the right to resist the occupation, including by the use of force. Targeted attacks on civilians (by both Palestinian and Israeli forces on 7<sup>th</sup> October) are forbidden, but nothing that happened on 7<sup>th</sup> October justifies Israel's continued genocide of the Palestinians.**



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