



Hate Speech and Apartheid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

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Introduction

Recently, the spread of hate speech has increased in an alarming way. As a result, hate crimes are committed in many regions around the world against a particular group or individuals because of race, gender or belief. Hate speech manifests through verbal violence, contemptuous speech and marginalization in the form of harassment and threats. Hate speech also carries extreme sentiments in any form of expression, including banners, books, songs, films, etc., through which individuals and groups are charged with hatred and enmity and fanning the flames of hatred.

Hate speech not only incites persecution and violence and contributes to spreading sedition, but may result in killings and genocide, leading to mass violations of human rights.

There is no explicit definition of hate speech in international human rights law because the concept is still widely disputed, especially with regard to its relationship to freedom of opinion and expression, non-discrimination and equality. But the United Nations refers to hate speech as “offensive speech that targets a group or individual based on inherent characteristics – such as race, religion or gender – that may threaten social peace.”

The Palestinians are located in the occupied territories in the West Bank and East Jerusalem under the Israeli occupation since 1967, and they have not been able to obtain all their rights guaranteed to them by contemporary international law and its humanitarian branches.

The right of self-determination is at the top of these rights that Israel violates and fragments from and legitimizes the construction of settlements on lands belonging to the Palestinian people in order to settle Jewish immigrants and fulfill the claims of the ancient Hebrew state. As a result of this expansionist policy, the Palestinians came under discriminatory “apartheid” laws in favor of the extraneous groups on the ground.

As a result of this expansionist policy, the Palestinians came under discriminatory “apartheid” laws in favor of the extraneous groups on the ground. Not only that, most of those who live in the settlements are from extremist Jewish groups that advocate the Jewishness of the state and play a role in provoking and arousing the feelings of Jews with open hate speeches and incitement to violence against them, encouraged by Israeli laws and authorities that protect them.

The type of incitement followed depends on the academically accepted definition, such as: collective punishment, legitimizing the use of force, delegitimization, demonization, generalization, racial superiority, racism, and portraying Israel as the victim from the prospect of anti-Semitism.

In the following papers, the report discusses images of hate speech practiced by the residents of Israel and Jewish extremist far-right groups in the occupied territories against the Palestinian people and inside Israel, in addition to discussing Israeli laws that do not condemn hate speech and support the apartheid regime.

First: Hate Speech Against the Palestinian People and Its Repercussions

There is no specific and agreed definition of the term "hate speech", but the meanings of hate can be shortened in a clear context as every speech based on verbal violence that aims to morally kill and exclude it through, slander, insults, ideological fanaticism, arrogance, up to physical violence and murder. Hate speech constitutes an important tool for stimulating feelings and directing them in a specific direction, resulting in behavior and a culture based on racism against those whom the speech is directed, hence the danger of this speech. Intellectual and ideological fanaticism and the arrogant view represented in the unilateral discourse contribute to fueling aggressive behavior and stirring up strife in all its forms.

Moreover, there are many international conventions dealing with hate speech, and despite the prohibition of advocacy of hate in the texts of international human rights law, there is no international instrument to combat and address hate speech.

The hate speech spread in Israel against the Palestinians finds its source in the Israeli education and curricula that implant hatred in the minds since childhood, as Israeli textbooks teach racist discourse that permanently removes Palestine from the map. There are no positive aspects in these books about Palestinian culture and life, such as literature, history, agriculture, engineering, customs and traditions, in addition to all the books showing the Palestinians in a degrading form, either as terrorists, refugees or primitive farmers.



Photo (1): A group of extremist right-wing settlers appear around a Palestinian woman and make fun of her

1- Manifestations of violence and hatred on earth

The occupational reality in Palestine is not far from what was mentioned above. Hate speeches and crimes prevail among its citizens and settlers against all Palestinians and “Arab Israelis”, whether for religious or political reasons, or even without any absolute reason just to show hatred. Israelis feel completely free to incite and advocate violence and hatred, and Israeli extremist groups attack Palestinians in their neighborhoods and homes in several different areas, thus causing real harm and real violence.

In separate areas, Palestinians are subjected to many forms of hate crimes by settlers, including (beating, assault, dragging, and punches with rifle butts, handles, sticks, the use of firearms, killing, threatening to shoot, throwing stones, shooting stray dogs, attempts to run over, destroying agricultural equipment, stealing and killing beasts that are used in land and agricultural work, requesting identity cards and tearing them up without authority, and other things, vandalizing property such as cars, looting land and forcibly expelling them from the land and their homes.

These insults and abuses fall under the watchful eye of the Israeli authorities, who protect them and often join them. Police also closes the roads leading to the lands adjacent to the settlements, and expels Palestinian farmers from the agricultural lands for the purpose of annexing them to the settlements, until the number of what Israel has acquired about five million sources of livelihood and lives until the present time.

The phenomenon of Jewish settlers' violence towards Palestinians and their property is not new, but it is found in the roots of Zionism based on hatred of Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims - even if it goes beyond that and is also directed against black-skinned Israelis.

It is noted that Israeli hate crimes have increased in frequency and violence in the last ten years, but it is necessary to note that this violence against Palestinians also characterized the nineties of the last century. The end of the eighties and the beginning of the nineties witnessed the killing of 119 Palestinians, including 23 children, at the hands of settlers and Israeli citizens.

The height of settler violence reached its climax in 1994 when the "Ibrahim massacre" occurred when the extremist "Baruch Goldstein" attacked the Ibrahimi Mosque during the dawn prayer in Ramadan and shot the worshipers. This resulted in the death of 29 Palestinians and the injury of 15 others. Likewise, Palestinian mosques, churches, graves and homes were not spared the phrases "we will burn you all". Indeed, some mosques were burned by them. In 2011, settlers attacked a mosque in the village of Yasuf, and another mosque in the

village of Tuba al-Zangaria, in addition to repeated violations against Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Recently, the true face of the intruders of Al-Aqsa Mosque appeared in the "Flags March" that was held at the end of last May (2022). Where the Israelis provoked and assaulted the Palestinians with insults, slander, vile and obscene words, and used the phrases "death to you," "we will expel you," "you are our slaves," "Shirin died" (in reference to journalist Shirin Abu Aqila), and other expressions, as they gathered to beat women and children. The police and soldiers attacked Jerusalemites without distinction between old and young, as they assaulted an elderly man and drove him out of the mosque, and a woman sustained bruises and fractures as a result of an attack on her in the mosque's courtyards. In addition, a woman sustained bruises and fractures as a result of an attack on her in the courtyards of the mosque, which caused a rise in the injuries of the confrontations in Jerusalem and the West Bank, with rubber bullets from the Israeli occupation soldiers, beatings and pepper gas, to 199 injuries. Dozens of the injured were taken to the hospital for treatment, while the rest of the injured were treated on the field. During the events of the flags march in occupied Jerusalem, and during the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Israeli forces arrested more than fifty detainees, including 4 Palestinian women, and ten minors.

Palestinian children and women were also not spared the of Israeli hate practices. They were insulted, beaten and pelted with stones in the streets while on their way to school, or even if they were working in the fields or tending sheep, and other instances of repeated run-overs and shootings.

Consequently, Palestinians suffer disproportionately from psychological and physical violence, as the failure to achieve justice and hold those responsible for hate crimes accountable is the primary characteristic and an integral part of the occupation's legitimization of violence against Palestinians.

2- Letters of Incitement in the Media and Newspapers

Israel relies on the development of media technology and the press to fight the media war. Psychological propaganda campaigns against the Palestinians have increased and are used to promote psychological warfare and create an ideal image of Israel, in addition to falsifying facts and spreading misleading ideas. At the same time, spreading hatred and violating the rights of Palestinians through the media and the press is always permissible.

The Palestinian News and Information Agency (WAFA) monitored incitement and racism in the Israeli media last May (2022), and the report reviewed a number of inciting articles on the subject of the Nakba, and the denial of crimes committed by Zionist gangs against the Palestinian people, and others attacking the citizens of Jerusalem and describing them as rioters. The report stated the following:

In "Yediot Aharonot," the right-wing writer Bani Dror, who writes an article every year on the anniversary of the Nakba, tries to deny it and the events that took place in it. He said that the "Palestinian narrative" dominates the academic world, they promote the idea of the Nakba, in light of a complete distortion of the historical truth. Pain can be understood. there was expulsion. There were few acts of slaughter. Such is the history of wars in those years, when the exchange of populations, in general, involved atrocities. This also happened during the expulsion of the Jews from Arab countries, in the context of the Jewish catastrophe, but the Arabs of Palestine had an added value." He continued "Whoever develops the Palestinian narrative provides fuel for the flame of hatred, incitement and bloodshed."

In "Israel Hayom", Eyal Zisar wrote an incendiary article on the issue of the Nakba, and proceeds with the same idea in denying this crime against the Palestinian people. He even turns the facts by saying that "the British Mandate ended in 1948 for the land of Israel," and that "the Arab armies entered Israel and sowed havoc and destruction," and that these armies were destroyed and "every Jewish town occupied by Arab armies was destroyed."

He said: "The Nakba Day celebrations are a blatant expression of the Palestinian decision and some of the Israeli Arabs to stick to the past. These are provocations, incitement and manifestations of hatred, spreading the saying that they are not ready to accept the existence of the State of Israel."

In Israel Hayom, Nadav Sharjai attacked the "demonstrates of Jerusalemites" who receive privileges from Israel, saying: "When police and border guards comply with orders to contain terrorism and violence that endangers life, they become prey to rioters."

The writer claims: "It should be clear to some of the Arabs in eastern Medina who participate in this framework, that they have something to lose. They cannot rebel against Israeli sovereignty and symbols of government, harm the Jews, and make the Temple Mount every Monday and Thursday a battlefield. In return, they enjoy a series of Israeli privileges: advanced health services, freedom of movement, work, social rights, and national insurance allocations."

He continues: "There is no reason for the residents of Silwan or Issawiya to declare publicly that the Jews must die or return to their countries of origin, and we continue to sit idly by and accept terrorism and violence aimed at expelling us from here and re-dividing Jerusalem."

On social media, Israeli politicians continued their incitement, and in this regard, Likud MK Ofir Akunis wrote, "In Israel 2022 the flag of Israel cannot be raised... the state is over, we have lost Israel... the saboteurs are victorious."

While his colleague Avi Dichter wrote, "The movie (Jenin Jenin) is a false Palestinian provocation. We must stop it. They will not defeat us with terrorism or through false films."

In Makor Rishon, the report monitored an article by writer Noam Amir, who became an essential part of the permanent incitement, as he joined the voices calling for imposing sanctions on the Arab community in the Negev, recalling the privileges granted to them by the "state", and dealing with every Arab citizen as a security threat. The judiciary is accused of leniency with every Arab detainee

on security grounds, and he interprets the developments as the product of Palestinian hatred and ideology, ignoring that the source of this hatred is the occupation itself.

The report monitored part of a program for Channel 14 on Israeli television, inciting the establishment of a militia of Jewish citizens in order to enter Hoorah in the Negev to avenge and kill the Abu Al-Qia'an family, and his recommendation to the police not to arrest them.

3- Hate Speech Statistics on Social Media

Israel tolerates social media companies in cases of incitement and racism against Palestinians. Examples of incitement against Palestinians focus on pages that publish news about Israel, in addition to the pages of extremist right-wing groups. Social media sites focus on incitement and hatred against Palestinian politicians and Arab members of the Knesset, and their political parties, as well as Palestinians living in Israel. Social media sites that incite against "Arabs" - the word Israel uses to blur the identity of Palestinians- contain hate speech and calls for violence against Palestinians, such as rape and murder.

According to the Arab Center for the Development of Social Media "7amleh", Which fights for Palestinian digital rights, online hate speech against Arabs and Palestinians on Israeli social media rose significantly in 2021. It observed that the overlapping of racist rhetoric on the Internet and acts of violence against Arabs and Palestinians over the course of 2021, has a threefold increase in incitement compared to 2020. The report monitored 620,000 conversations that included violence and incitement against Arabs and Palestinians, an increase of eight percent since 2020.

Violent discourse against Palestinians, Arabs and their representatives constituted 11% of the total discourse within Israeli networks, an unprecedented rate since 2017. According to the report, most of the violent rhetoric took place on Twitter, where 58 percent of the incitement recorded on the platform was found. Meanwhile, Facebook hosted about 19% of recorded hate speech.

In addition, a study from the “Berl Katznelson” Foundation set record numbers of hate speech incidents against Arabs across Israel in the past year (2021) since the inauguration of the new government headed by Naftali Bennett. The Foundation created a technology platform that monitors hate speech in Hebrew online, the “Hate Report” project monitored more than half a million individuals every hour from every segment of social media, and included in-depth analyzes of Hebrew incitement and hate, and quantitative and qualitative analysis. The study reached a general conclusion that 32% of hate speech in Israel is directed against Israeli Arabs, making them the most targeted population in Israel for hate speech. This figure represents an increase of 9% over the previous year.

Second: The Israeli Apartheid Regime

Discriminatory and racist dealings with the hate speeches and crimes carried out by the Israelis against the Palestinian people inside Israel and the occupied territories. What proves this on the ground are the roots laid by the system of laws and transactions that differentiate between what is Israeli and what is Palestinian and Arab, where there is a belief prevailing in the public, judicial, political and media fields that two systems are separated; the first is a steady, democratic Israeli; the second is in areas under military occupation and military emergency laws. That is, the Palestinians are under the rule of a state that achieves its goal with the superiority of the Israeli-Jewish element from the river to the sea.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in condemnation (within the international political discourse) of the apartheid regime, which was associated with the settlement regime in South Africa and ended in 1994. The difference between the two cases is that the apartheid in South Africa separated the whites from the brown, while the Israeli case separated the Jews and the less. As a result of the control tools used by Israel in the occupied territories of 1967, there has been a political and geographical reality based on ethnic and hierarchical segregation in parallel with the ongoing Judaization.

The system of Israeli laws separates the Jew from the non-Jew, and Israel relies on that demographic change and the appropriation of the largest possible amount of Palestinian lands, until it came under its control 93% of the historical lands of Palestine (before 1947). Examples are the Right of Return Law (1950), the Present Absentee Law (1950), the Absentee Property Law (1950), and international Jewish and Zionist organizations laws such as the Histadrut World Zionist Status Law/Jewish Agency for Land of Israel (1954), and the Israel Lands Law (1960), and the Weapons Law, which facilitates the issuance of permits to carry weapons for settlers.

Above all, the Nation-State Law (2018) embodies key elements of apartheid and by passing it Israel has made discrimination a constitutional value and recognized its obligation to favor Jewish supremacy as the bedrock of its institutions.

Israel applies laws and procedures in all lands that seek to sustain the Jewish element, which manages its life as if it were a single space, as the Green Line (which distinguishes the borders of the West Bank in 1967) hardly represents an obstacle to them in moving from west to east from the borders of Israeli sovereignty or from east to west, as settlements built on Palestinian lands. While Palestinian residency in the West Bank is a crucial issue that requires permanent security approval from the Israeli authorities, Israel acts in it as if it were part of its lands, despite not announcing its official annexation.

In order to implement a comprehensive siege on the West Bank, as in the Gaza Strip, Israel built a separation wall on Palestinian lands along the Green Line and controls the security of its crossings and the difference in gates for the passage of Jews from Arabs. This has resulted in severe damages to the daily and social life of the Palestinian citizen, freedom of movement and movement, as well as to Palestinian education and water.



Picture (2): A map shows the borders of the Palestinian state in 1967, including the West Bank in green. Source: United Nations Humanitarian Agency (OCHA)

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, put the state of apartheid applied by Israel in a clear picture when he stated last March (2022):

“Today in the Palestinian Territory, occupied by Israel since 1967, there is a dual legal and political system, which is extremely discriminatory, granting concessions to the 700,000 Jewish Israeli settlers, who live in the 300 illegal Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.” He added that: “In the same geographical space, more than three million Palestinians—but separated by walls, checkpoints, streets and an entrenched military presence—live under repressive rule of institutionalized discrimination, and with no way to (establish) a true Palestinian state, the world had already It was promised, long ago, that it was their right.”

In this context, “Haaretz” published the result of an Israeli public opinion poll conducted by “Israel Goldblum” agency and the initiative of the New Israel Fund. The responses revealed that the majority of Jews openly and explicitly support racial discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel. %74 supported preventing Palestinians from walking in the streets where Jews walk in the West Bank, with 24% saying that this is a "good situation" and 50% saying this separation in the streets is "necessary."

For East Jerusalem, over which the United States has recognized Israel's sovereignty, contrary to the rules of international law and United Nations resolutions, Palestinian Jerusalemites obtain the status of "permanent residents" and are entitled to housing, social security, health insurance, work, as well as to participate in municipal elections in Israel without the need for special permits. But in fact, he does not have the status of a "citizen", and the Minister of Interior or the Israeli Minister of Security can, for personal considerations, withdraw the status of "permanent resident" from any Palestinian, or revoke it in certain circumstances and expel him from East Jerusalem.

At the same time, Palestinians with Israeli citizenship (the so-called "Arabs of 48") residing in the pre-1948 borders annexed by Israel in its sovereignty, face some discrimination in social status and rights compared to those enjoyed by Jewish citizens. For example, national insurance allocations for Jews and Arabs increase by 20% in favor of the first category. Despite this, the Public Prosecution Office claimed before the High Court of Justice in Israel that this distinction is reasonable discrimination! And that the decision of the National Insurance Institute is a reasonable decision, while if the gap, for example, exceeds 40%, then the discrimination is not reasonable.

In the judiciary and the courts, there is a clear distinction for the Jewish element. The High Court of Justice decided in December 2006 that the crimes of assassination are "legal", and that there is a "right" for Israel to use them; "To protect the security of its citizens, but the acquittal of the Israelis from the crimes of killing Palestinians preceded the issuance of this law. For example, Rabbi Moshe Levinger was convicted in 1990 of the charge of "negligent killing, and causing serious injuries in an attack on Arab citizens." At the beginning, Levinger stated that: ("He did not have the honor of killing that Arab"), then admitted that he fired his pistol after Palestinian youths threw some stones at him, killing a Palestinian merchant who was standing in front of his shop. Despite his rich criminal history; however, the Israeli court sentenced him to 12 months

in prison, including 7 months suspended. He was released from prison after only three months; Because he was "convicted of a secondary charge".

An Israeli court also acquitted a soldier named "Omari" of the crime of killing the 10-year-old Palestinian child Ahmed Musa during a demonstration that took place in July 2008 in the village of Ni'lin in the northern West Bank against the separation wall and the apartheid that devoured the village's lands.

The crime occurred when the soldier opened the door of the military car and fired two bullets from his weapon, one of which hit the Palestinian child directly in the forehead. But the prosecution, according to what Israeli Court Judge Lior Shefman wrote in her decision, did not succeed in proving that the bullet fired by the soldier killed the child. Therefore, the soldier was acquitted of the murder charge. It is known that the aforementioned soldier's order was exposed through a video film filmed by activists and posted on YouTube, showing the soldier firing through the back door of the jeep, without being exposed to any danger.

In addition, Palestinians are subjected to administrative detention without existing charges or without reason before the military courts. But, on the other hand, the Israelis do not know the meaning of administrative detention.

With regard to the right to health, the Public Health Insurance Law considers every Jew living in the occupied territories to be part of the state's population, and he is entitled to his rights according to the law, but the same law does not include his Palestinian neighbor, as he is under the care of another health system that is more financially and logistically weak.

According to a report published by Amnesty International last February (2022), "Israel intentionally dominates and controls the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories through policies characterized by unfair discrimination in terms of land, planning and housing, in addition to preventing any agricultural or industrial development for the benefit of the Palestinians."

Third: The Consequences of Hate Speech and Apartheid

What links hate speech and apartheid towards Palestinians is the common "racial incitement" among the Jewish public and settlers. The Penal Code (Article 144a) defines racial incitement as including "stalking, insulting, humiliating, showing hatred, hostility, violence, or causing conflict towards a society or sectors of the population, on the basis of color, race, or national origin." The penalty for this is double the applicable penalty for the same violation, and the penalty for anyone who engages in racial incitement is severe. According to the law, "Whoever publishes something with the aim of racial incitement is sentenced to five years- regardless of whether the publication caused racism or not, or whether the publication was real or not."

Although this Israeli law is described as strict in combating racism and racial incitement, as long as it comes to incitement against "Arabs" and Palestinians, the Israeli authorities find it difficult to implement laws that punish the perpetrator. It is not surprising that the police adopt a policy of light hand on the trigger when dealing with Arab citizens, not to mention the use of street wars against the defenseless Palestinian population.

Phrases such as: (This is the state of the Jews...death to the Arabs), (Loss that they did not expel all the Palestinians to Jordan and Syria in the Six-Day War. If they did, we would have been freed from this headache for 53 years), "Not every Arab is a saboteur, but every saboteur is an Arab, and (All Arab Knesset members support terrorism). That without an account!

In light of the complete conviction of the ultra-Orthodox Jews that they do not fear punishment as long as it is always on their side, and as long as they are convinced of obscuring Palestinian facts and rights, violence flows from one direction, driven by Zionist greed and expansionist dreams on the ruins and blood of Palestine. Thus, eliminating United Nations resolutions (181, 212, 194, 242, and 2334) that support the Palestinian cause and support the two-state solution.

It is noted that the occupation is deepening, represented by the annexation process. Neither the government does care about the dangerous political and moral effects of the settlements project, nor the systematic violations of human rights of the Palestinians who have been under Israeli military rule for fifty years. Moreover, the leadership of the State of Israel is not interested in the presence of two judicial bodies and two systems of laws in the occupied territories; one for the Palestinians and the other for the Israelis. Rather, it is concerned with deepening their presence. This trend has led to a flood of bills proposing direct or indirect annexation, culminating in the enactment of the “Settlements Settlement” Law in 2016.

The law permits the confiscation of vast areas of private Palestinian land, giving absolute preference to the political interests of Israel as the occupying power, and to the Israeli settlers residing in the occupied Palestinian territories. This violates the property rights of Palestinian citizens and refugees alike. The main objective of this law is to legalize more illegal settlements in the West Bank, in direct contradiction to Security Council Resolution (2334) issued in December 2016. The resolution reaffirmed the illegality of Israeli settlements. In addition, the transfer of citizens of the occupying state to reside in the occupied territories is a war crime according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the application of this Israeli law in the occupied Palestinian territories is a violation of international law.

As Israel rejects and fights anti-Semitism, it must respect the dignity of the Palestinian people and not take advantage of their weak conditions by opening attacks on them from extremist groups and protecting them by all legal means.

Israel's legalization of the articles of apartheid as the "historic national home of the Jewish people" and that the right to self-determination in it belongs to the Jewish people only along the denial of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, immigration to it from Jews leads only to direct citizenship, and next to Greater and united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and the Hebrew language is its official language In exchange for dropping from the

Arabic language the adjective "the official language beside Hebrew", it has been excluded from the international democratic forums.

There is no democratic state that legalizes hatred and racial segregation and makes itself a system of racial discrimination by law, and thus it consolidates the racist colonial legacy that is based on ethnic cleansing, the abolition of the other, and the deliberate denial of the rights of the indigenous people on their historical land, which is a serious targeting of the existence of the Palestinians and their historical right to Their land, the obvious theft of their property.

Conclusion

Day by day Israel, with all its apparatus, proves itself to be a racist state and encourages hatred and violence towards Palestinians. Dismantling this system is essential for millions of Palestinians and refugees in neighboring countries so that they can enjoy their rights that were taken away by Jewish gangs in 1948. Israel must also grant and apply equal law to Israelis and for the Palestinians. Perhaps the failure of the current government, led by Bennett, to pass the emergency law recently in the West Bank is an entry point to stop the application of military laws in the occupied territories.

The international community must bear its responsibility to closely monitor and combat the phenomenon of racist incitement in Israel, based on resisting hate speech and preserving human dignity, which is the essence of human rights. Likewise, the international community must provide mechanisms to monitor Israel's commitment to combating this phenomenon, treating its victims and punishing its perpetrators.

If change will only come from Israel, the international community can take concrete measures to pressure Israel to dismantle the apartheid regime.