

# IS ANTI-ZIONISM ANTI-SEMITIC?



Christmas in Jerusalem, 1921, when Jews, Muslims, and Christians lived peacefully in the Holy City.

Antisemitism is racism against Jews. It is similar to the racial and religious hatred against Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, the indigenous, Muslims, Sikhs and too many others.

Zionism is a form of colonial ethno-nationalism developed in the 1890s. The Zionist government of Israel privileges Jews and does not give equal rights and protections to non-Jews.



*“I’m Jewish and I’ve never hidden that... but in my heart I don’t believe that Israel should have been brought into being because in order for it to be brought into being, other people had their lives and their lands taken away from them.”*

~ Miriam Margolyes

Criticism of Israel or of Zionism is **political speech**; all nations and forms of government receive criticism. It is not racist to make valid criticisms of the policies and government actions of the US. It is not antisemitic (racist) to criticize Israeli **policies and actions**.

**The best way to end antisemitism is to speak out and organize for the eradication of all racism and religious hatred.**



**New Palestine Party**  
**Visit of Menachen Begin and Aims of Political Movement Discussed**  
 TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES: Among the most disturbing political phenomena of our time is the emergence in the newly created state of Israel of the "Freedom Party" (Tnuat Haherut), a political party closely akin in its organization, methods, political philosophy and social appeal to the Nazi and Fascist parties. It was formed out of the membership and following of the former Irgun Zvai Leumi, a terrorist, right-wing, chauvinist organization in Palestine. The current visit of Menachen Begin, leader of this party, to the United States is obviously calculated to give the impression of American support for his party in the coming Israeli elections, and to cement political ties with conservative Zionist elements in the United States. Several Americans of national repute have lent their names to welcome his visit. It is inconceivable that those who oppose fascism throughout the world, if correctly informed as to Mr. Begin's political record and perspectives, could add their names and support to the movement he represents. Before irreparable damage is done by way of financial contributions, public manifestations in Begin's behalf, and the creation in Palestine of the impression that a large segment of America supports Fascist elements in Israel, the American public must be informed as to the record and objectives of Mr. Begin and his movement. The public avowals of Begin's party are no guide whatever to its actual character. Today they speak of freedom, democracy and anti-imperialism whereas until recently they openly preached the doctrine of the Fascist state. It is in its actions that the terrorist party betrays its real character: from its past actions we can judge what it may be expected to do in the future.

**Attack on Arab Village**  
 A shocking example was their behavior in the Arab village of Deir Yassin. This village, off the main roads and surrounded by Jewish lands, had taken no part in the war, and had even fought off Arab bands who wanted to use the village as their base. On April 9 (THE NEW YORK TIMES), terrorist bands attacked this peaceful village, which was not a military objective in the fighting, killed most of its inhabitants—240 men, women and children—and kept a few of them alive to parade as captives through the streets of Jerusalem. Most of the Jewish community was horrified at the deed, and the Jewish Agency sent a telegram of apology to King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan. But the terrorists, far from being ashamed of their act, were proud of this massacre, publicized it widely and invited all the foreign correspondents present in the country to view the heaped corpses and the general havoc at Deir Yassin. The Deir Yassin incident exemplified the character and actions of the Freedom Party. Within the Jewish community they have preached an admixture of ultra-nationalism, religious mysticism, and racial superiority. Like other Fascist parties they have been used to break strikes, and have themselves pressed for the destruction of free trade unions. In their stead they have proposed corporate unions on the Italian Fascist model. During the last years of sporadic anti-British violence, the IZL and Stern groups inaugurated a reign of terror in the Palestine Jewish community. Teachers were beaten up for speaking against them, adults were shot for not letting their children join them. By gangster methods, beatings, window-smashing, and wide-spread robberies, the terrorists intimidated the population and exacted a heavy tribute. The people of the Freedom Party have had no part in the constructive achievements in Palestine. They have reclaimed no land, built no settlements and only detracted from the Jewish defense activity. Their much-publicized immigration endeavors were minute, and devoted mainly to bringing in Fascist compatriots.

**Discrepancies Seen**  
 The discrepancies between the bold claims now being made by Begin and his party, and their record of past performance in Palestine bear the imprint of no ordinary political party. This is the unmistakable stamp of a Fascist party for whom terrorism (against Jews, Arabs, and British alike), and misrepresentation are means, and a "Leader State" is the goal. In the light of the foregoing considerations, it is imperative that the truth about Mr. Begin and his movement be made known in this country. It is all the more tragic that the top leadership of American Zionism has refused to campaign against Begin's efforts, or even to expose to its own constituents the dangers to Israel from support of Begin. The undersigned therefore take this means of publicly presenting a few salient facts concerning Begin and his party; and of urging all concerned not to support this latest manifestation of fascism. ISIDORE ABRAMOWITZ, HANNAH ARENDT, ABRAHAM BRICK, RABBI JESSURUN CARDOZO, ALBERT EINSTEIN, HERMAN EISEN, M. D., HAYIM FINEMAN, M. GALLEN, M. D., H. H. HARRIS, ZELIG S. HARRIS, SIDNEY HOOK, FRED KARUSH, BRURIA KAUFMAN, IRMA L. LINDHEIM, NACHMAN MAJSEL, SEYMOUR MELMAN, MYER D. MENDELSON, M. D., HARRY M. ORLINSKY, SAMUEL PITLICK, FRITZ ROHRLICH, LOUIS P. ROCKEY, RUTH SAGER, ITZHAK SANKOWSKY, I. J. SCHOENBERG, SAMUEL SHUMAN, M. ZNGER, IRMA WOLPE, STEFAN WOLPE. New York, Dec. 2, 1948.

**Jewish opposition to Zionism is older than Israel.**

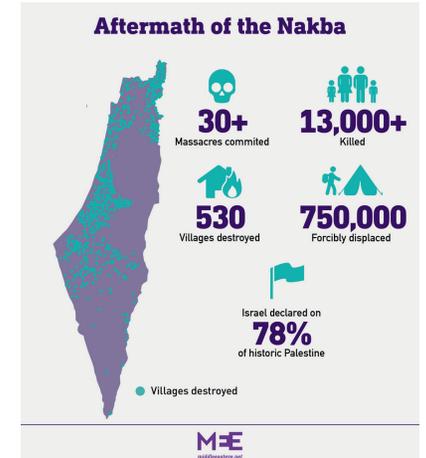
In this Dec 1948 open letter to the New York Times, **Albert Einstein** and other Jewish intellectuals warned Americans and the larger world of the dangers of emergent racism, fascism, terrorism and religious fanaticism in the newly-formed state of Israel, as demonstrated in the **Nakba**, Israel's ethnic cleansing campaign against Palestinians.

**"We must expel the Arabs and take their place"**

- David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister

**"If I wish to substitute a new building for an old one, I must demolish before I construct."**

- Theodor Herzl, founder of Zionism



The Zionist movement aims for as much Palestinian land as possible with as few Palestinians as possible. **Zionism inherently opposes Palestinian freedom**, because its vision of 'Jewish self-determination' needs the exclusion of non-Jewish people. Since nobody would willingly accept exclusion from their own land, Zionism needs the violent persecution and elimination of the existing population in order to fully succeed.

## IS ISRAEL REALLY COMMITTING THE CRIME OF APARTHEID?



### SEGREGATED ROADS

An expansive system of Jewish-only roads snake through the occupied West Bank. Many of the roads that Palestinians are allowed to drive on connect Israeli settlements, not Palestinian communities. In addition, Israeli settlers and Palestinians use two different types of license plates. The road system is a clear example of Israel's regime of discrimination through separation.



### HOME DEMOLITIONS

Israeli occupation forces frequently demolish entire Palestinian villages in order to build illegal Israeli settlements. Since 2009, Israeli authorities have demolished over 7,500 structures, thereby displacing over 11,000 Palestinians (United Nations).



## CHECKPOINTS

Israel has set up a system of roughly 600 checkpoints and roadblocks throughout the occupied West Bank that limit Palestinians' freedom of movement (Machsom Watch). While Israeli settlers can move around freely, Palestinians are forced to wait in long lines, to be humiliated by Israeli soldiers and to show ID cards to move from one city to the next.



### SEPARATION BARRIER

Also called the "Apartheid Wall," this structure restricts Palestinians' freedom of movement as well. The barrier cuts through neighborhoods in the eastern part of Jerusalem and divides families. Palestinians in the West Bank must obtain a permit to visit Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine, because of the barrier.



### MILITARY LAW

Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank are governed by Israel's civilian legal system whereas indigenous Palestinians are subjected to martial law. The conviction rate in Israeli military courts is nearly 100% (Military Court Watch). On average, Israeli military courts detain and prosecute 500-700 Palestinian children every year (DCI Palestine).



## Apartheid can be seen in every facet of Palestinian life.

### Demographics

Maintaining a **Jewish demographic majority** is crucial to **Israel's racial character as a "Jewish state"**. This means displacing Palestinians & building Jewish colonies in their place.

- Following the 1948 Nakba – when Israel ethnically cleansed 750,000+ Palestinians – it **denied their return** and passed the **1950 Law of Return** to allow anyone in the world of Jewish descent to immediately gain citizenship & immigrate.
- Israeli authorities have placed an explicit **30% cap** on the Palestinian population of Jerusalem, issuing thousands of **eviction and demolition orders**, while simultaneously encouraging Jewish immigration.
- Since 1967, Israel has revoked the residency of **250,000** Palestinians to reduce the Palestinian population.

### Land

- Land is used to create & expand Jewish communities, while Palestinians are dispossessed & trapped into tiny, crowded enclaves.
- This principle was codified in Israel's 2018 "Nation State Law", saying that **"the State considers the development of Jewish settlements a national value."**
- Discriminatory laws like the Absentee Property Law are used to confiscate millions of acres of Palestinian-owned land.
- Israel has built hundreds of Jewish settlements, but has never built a single new Palestinian community.\***
- Palestinian councils are allocated **access to only 3%** of the country's land by the apartheid regime.
- Towns with admissions committees can legally reject Palestinian applications for "cultural incompatibility".
- Combined with racist land allocation policies by parastatal organizations, which own 93% of land, **Palestinian citizens of Israel ultimately can't access 74% of the land.**

*\*Exceptions are substitute villages made to concentrate the Palestinian Bedouin population after confiscating most of their land to build Jewish-only colonies.*

## Movement

Not only are Palestinians severely restricted in relocating between the four units under apartheid, but are also **restricted in moving within units**. Israel has fragmented Palestinians in the West Bank into **227 enclaves**, surrounded by Jewish-only settlements and military checkpoints which severely hinder Palestinian movement. The construction of the **Apartheid Wall** has choked off several Palestinian villages from one another, with some surrounded by the wall on all sides.

### Political Participation

While Palestinians citizens of Israel can vote, **candidates who challenge Israel's status as a Jewish state are prohibited from running in elections**. They can vote for cosmetic improvements but can never challenge the apartheid regime or achieve national liberation. Meanwhile, not only are Palestinians in other units unable to vote, but they are **arbitrarily arrested, brutalized, and killed for peacefully protesting, voicing criticism, or displaying nationalism**. Israel denies them freedom of assembly and freedom of speech, and **association with most political parties and unions is illegal**.

### Apartheid is not an Accident

**Israeli apartheid is rooted in Zionism's belief** – spanning the Israeli political spectrum from left to right – that Israel exists solely to serve one ethnic group: the Jewish people.

This racial hegemony requires violent oppression, since nobody would accept to be treated as inferior, and would thus resist with any means necessary. **In other words, the root cause of all violence is Israeli oppression.**

Understanding Israeli apartheid helps dispel misconceptions, like the 2-state "solution". **It makes no sense to end apartheid in one part of the land and keep it in the other** (one of many fundamental flaws of this "solution").

**The real solution is abolishing not only the apartheid regime but also the ideology responsible for it: Zionism. We are not trying to reform Israel – you cannot reform a state which only exists to serve one racial group.** We want to liberate Palestine from the river to the sea and build a country based on freedom, justice, and equality.

Israel has divided Palestinians between these **5 tiers of rights**, all of which are **inferior to the rights of Jewish Israelis**.

Palestinians **can't relocate between units** if it means they would **upgrade** to a superior tier...

For East Jerusalemites, upgrading to citizenship is often inaccessible and practically impossible.

Palestinians in the West Bank can't relocate to East Jerusalem or the heartland to upgrade their status to permanent residency or citizenship.

Palestinians in Gaza are prohibited from relocating to any other geographical unit, trapped in the besieged strip.

Palestinians in exile can't reside in any unit, even if they were born there.



... But Palestinians may be allowed to relocate if it means **downgrading**.

Palestinians with Israeli citizenship or East Jerusalem residency can relocate to the West Bank, but this threatens their rights & status.

Palestinians in the West Bank can relocate to Gaza if they sign a pledge surrendering their rights & vowing to never return.

Meanwhile, Jewish Israelis can move freely between all units, except the Gaza Strip, while maintaining full rights.