



Dear friend,

In the beginning of 2021, B'Tselem revised its definition of the regime that governs the entire area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Israel has built more than 250 settlements throughout the West Bank, with hundreds of thousands of Jewish settlers living in them as they would anywhere within Israel. It has annexed East Jerusalem de-jure and the remainder of the West Bank de-facto. This state of affairs can no longer be addressed only as occupation. An analysis of the demographic, legal and political reality in the entire area under Israel's control reveals a regime that upholds a single organizing principle: promoting and perpetuating the supremacy of one group – Jews – over another – Palestinians. A regime in which one group oppresses another through violence, law and praxis is an apartheid regime.



We did not introduce this definition because we have given up hope. On the contrary: we are determined to look reality in the eye in order to change it. Only by calling the situation what it is can we make headway towards a different future – one based not on Jewish supremacy, but on equality, liberty and the protection of human

rights.

Our position paper is part of a broader shift being led by Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations. More and more people, here and around the world, now recognize that Israel is not upholding a democracy to the west of the Green Line and a military occupation to the east of it, but a single apartheid regime.

The paper has been broadly covered by leading world media and cited thousands of times over the past year.



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
@AOC

So are the extensively researched, painstaking conclusions from the UN, Human Rights Watch, and B'Tselem (among the largest human rights orgs in the world and in Israel) considered "outbursts" too?

Or is that just a descriptor MSN reserves for the women legislators quoting them?

MSN · @MSN · May 16, 2021

AOC calls Israel 'apartheid state' in Twitter outburst over Gaza attacks msn.com



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OUR COLUMNISTS

## WHY AN ISRAELI HUMAN-RIGHTS ORGANIZATION DECIDED TO CALL ISRAEL AN APARTHEID REGIME



Le Monde



S'abonner

INTERNATIONAL

## Une ONG israélienne, B'Tselem, dénonce un régime d'apartheid

L'organisation de défense des droits de l'homme israélienne accuse l'Etat d'entretenir un régime de suprématie juive entre le Jourdain et la Méditerranée.

## Israel's apartheid regime is not a domestic issue

B'Tselem believes that effective international action is crucial to ending the apartheid and the occupation. That is why we continued to engage with the international community this past year. In dozens of meetings with elected and appointed officials and with diplomats from all over the world – held mostly online, given the times – we discussed a variety of issues: the apartheid regime, the critical need to preserve the independence of the International Criminal Court in The Hague in order to ensure accountability, B'Tselem's objection to the Israeli defense minister's outrageous designation of Palestinian human rights organizations as "terrorist

organizations,” and Israel’s ongoing dispossession of Palestinians throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. We used these meetings to stress the damaging effect of the choice, made by international officials for political reasons, to make do with lip service and empty declarations rather than take action and force Israel to pay a price for its policies.



Children from Batan al-Hawa in Silwan, greet a group of diplomats who toured their neighborhood with us, June 2021



Visit to Ras a-Tin with a member of the European Parliament, November 2021



A tour of Kh. Zanutah, November 2021

## Another assault on the blockaded Gaza Strip, dozens more innocents killed

The year 2021 was the deadliest for Palestinians in the last five years. After the terrible war Israel waged on Gaza in May, we published the testimonies of residents whose loved ones were killed and homes destroyed – people who lost everything. At the same time, we published the names of all 232 Palestinians killed in

the war.



## ICC investigation

In February 2021, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague announced she was launching an investigation of Israel for suspected war crimes. B'Tselem welcomed this much-needed development after years in which Israel has successfully evaded accountability for human rights violations against Palestinians.

In December, we published a report along with the Gaza-based Palestinian Center for Human Rights demonstrating yet again how Israel's whitewash mechanism operates. The report focused on Israel's open-fire policy during the Great March of Return protests held along the Gaza fence, in which 223 Palestinians were killed and more than 8,000 injured by live fire.

Over the course of the year, we continued to investigate cases in which soldiers wounded or killed Palestinians as part of Israel's criminally lax open-fire policy.





Muhammad Da'adas (2006-2021)



'Awad Harb (1994-2021)



Ahmad 'Abdu (1996-2021)



'Imad al-Hashash (2006-2021)

## **Dispossession of Palestinian land – to benefit Jews alone**

The apartheid regime is on a constant quest to increase the land at its disposal. To that end, it employs various measures to make Palestinians' living conditions so unbearable that they leave their land. Direct methods include violence by security forces, demolition of homes and infrastructure, and draconian restrictions on construction and development. Indirectly, this goal is also served by settler violence against Palestinians, which is not committed by "extremists" acting "on their own initiative," as Israel often wishes to portray them, but rather on behalf of the regime and with its full support.

This year, B'Tselem documented the demolition of 295 residential

units – a record high since 2016. In these demolitions, 895 Palestinians, including 463 minors, lost their homes. B'Tselem also documented 338 acts of violence by settlers, some of which were carried out in the presence of security forces, who also participated in a number of the assaults.



The lands seized using these methods serve Jews alone. In a report we published in March 2021 along with Kerem Navot, *This Is Ours – And This, Too*, we examined how Israelis are encouraged to move to settlements established on land taken from Palestinians, and the impact of settlement blocs that cut across the West Bank.



## The violent routine of the occupation

Over the past year, we continued to document the violent routine of the occupation, which consists of countless practices and incidents that occur on a daily basis and barely receive public attention. Every year, thousands of Palestinians, including hundreds of children, are put behind bars, hundreds of them in administrative detention – which is indefinite incarceration without trial. Every year, hundreds of roadblocks and checkpoints, some temporary and others permanent, disrupt the daily lives of thousands of people. Every year, not a night goes by without soldiers invading Palestinian homes, terrorizing entire families and robbing them of a safe space in their very own homes.



## B'Tselem in the media

A selection of media coverage of B'Tselem's work over the past year:

# Israel isn't a democracy, it's an 'apartheid regime,' rights group says

By **Sam Kiley**, Senior International Correspondent, CNN

Updated 1539 GMT (2339 HKT) January 12, 2021



## Israel is a non-democratic apartheid regime, says rights group

Embassy spokesperson rejects 'false claims' in report that alleges policies perpetuate supremacy of Jews over Palestinians



SHARE THIS VIDEO - [social icons] May 15, 2021 **Velshi: The right to exist goes both ways**

WORLD **B'Tselem labels Israel an 'apartheid regime' for first time**  
The prominent rights organization said Israel cannot be a democracy while maintaining an occupation in the Palestinian territories.



Outlook • Perspective **Israel has chosen a two-tiered society. Violence is the inevitable result.**  
Denial of human rights to Palestinians is unsustainable in the long run.



**JOINT MILITIAS**  
On a Single Day in May, Israeli Settlers and Soldiers Cooperated in Attacks That Left Four Palestinians Dead

Coronavirus pandemic Winter Olympics R

# Report: Israel failed to probe shootings at Gaza protests

By JOSEPH KRAUSS December 2, 2021



A screenshot from B'Tselem's video. Credit: B'Tselem

## Israeli Soldiers Awoke, Gathered and Illegally Recorded Palestinian Minors

Israeli soldiers gathered and photographed 13 Palestinian children forcing them to 'say cheese' before snapping an



## IDF troops force Palestinian kids out of bed to be illegally photographed



## 'We are family': the Israelis sharing life and hope with Palestinians