

# LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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## LA Jews for Peace Welcomes the Amnesty International Report on Apartheid in Israel-Palestine as a Step towards Peace

**LA Jews for Peace** welcomes the Amnesty International 280-page report “*Israel’s apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel system of domination and crime against humanity*” (February 1, 2022)<sup>1</sup>. The report has a blunt conclusion, namely that Israel’s government of all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea constitutes apartheid that is a violation of international law. The report recommends that Israel must end its apartheid regime for peace to have a chance.

Amnesty International, the largest human rights organization in the world, has excellent credentials. Amnesty’s report follows by less than a year reports by the Israel human rights group *B’Tselem* and the international human rights group *Human Rights Watch* that reached similar conclusions. Palestinian groups have pointed to Israel’s rule as apartheid for decades.

As expected, the Amnesty report was dismissed by Israel and U.S. governments and some American Jewish groups (including AIPAC & ADL)<sup>2</sup> as anti-Semitic, harmful to Israel, and endangering Jews around the world. **LA Jews for Peace** disagrees with this assessment of Amnesty’s report, as do liberal Zionist American Jewish groups (including J Street & APN).

Rather, **LA Jews for Peace** endorses the statement by fourteen Israel human rights groups including Gisha, HaMoked, Breaking the Silence, Physicians for Human Rights, & Combatants for Peace<sup>3</sup> that defended Amnesty’s report saying, “the debate around the crime of apartheid of which Israel is accused, ..., is not only legitimate, but absolutely necessary” to achieve peace.

**LA Jews for Peace** calls for an end to U.S. government support for Israel’s apartheid government that is a barrier to peace. Congress must stand up for human rights. A good start would be to pass pending legislation:

- **HR-2590 – Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act** proposed by Representative Betty McCollum.
- **HR-5344 – Two-State Solution Act** proposed by Representative Andy Levine.

<sup>1</sup> Feb. 1, 2022. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MDE1551412022ENGLISH.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Jan. 31, 2022. <https://www.haaretz.com/us-news/.premium-u-s-jewish-groups-slam-amnesty-s-israeli-apartheid-report-1.10579147>

<sup>3</sup> Feb. 3, 2022. <https://twitter.com/HaMokedRights/status/1489228317802835973>