

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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B'Tselem Says Israel is an Apartheid State

LA Jews for Peace accepts B'Tselem's assertion that Israel is an apartheid state. The B'Tselem position paper, "*A Regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is Apartheid*,"¹ argues that: (1) all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea is under Israeli rule and is not separable across the Green Line into democratic Israel and a temporary military occupation, and (2) the Israel regime promotes and perpetuates the supremacy of one group over another — Jews over Palestinians — across the entire area with Palestinians having different rights in Israeli sovereign territory, in East Jerusalem, in the West Bank, and in the Gaza Strip, but those rights are always inferior to the rights of Jews living in the same area.

B'Tselem's well-documented paper assertion that Israel is apartheid will advance the struggle to bring peace, prosperity, and equality to Palestinians as well as Jews. Naming Israel as apartheid makes clear that it is Israel's regime of Jewish superiority that holds Palestinians from achieving peace and prosperity, and even prevents Jews from enjoying peace. **LA Jews for Peace** believes the simple act of naming Israel as an apartheid state will enable the International Community to confront Israel's policies because apartheid is defined by international agreement as a Crime Against Humanity.

Some activists argue that the situations in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip are clearly apartheid. But they insist that is not the case in Green Line Israeli where Palestinians have the right to vote and no laws specifically signal out Palestinians for inferior treatment. **LA Jews for Peace**, in agreement with B'Tselem and Nathan Thrall (who recently analyzed Israeli apartheid²), rejects that argument because there is a one-state reality between the River and the Sea that includes Green Line Israel and the occupied territories. Although Palestinian citizens of Israel have the vote, multiple Israeli laws treat Palestinians as inferior to Jewish citizens. The most glaring are the 2018 Nation State Law that declares only Jews have the right to national self-determination within "Israel", and the 1950's Law of Return which allows any Jewish person to become a citizen of Israel even while expelled indigenous Palestinian refugees and their descendants are denied the right of return that is established under international law.

The liberal Zionist premise that Israel is a democracy rests on the belief that one can separate Green Line Israel from the rest of the occupied territories it controls. But as Thrall explains, that is a delusion. Israel makes the rules in the entire territory to promote and enforce Jewish supremacy over Palestinians: that is apartheid.

¹ B'Tselem report, "*A Regime of Jewish Supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is Apartheid*," 12 Jan.2021. https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid.

² Nathan Thrall, *London Review Books*, "The Separate Regimes Delusion," 2021, <https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v43/n02/nathan-thrall/the-separate-regimes-delusion>.