

# LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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## **An ICJ Examination of the Legality of the Israeli Occupation of Palestine May Lead to Peace**

**LA Jews for Peace** joins Palestinians world-wide in applauding the December 30, 2022, resolution of the U.N. General Assembly to request an opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. The resolution passed by 87 to 26 with 53 abstentions. **LA Jews for Peace** regrets that the United States and other Western liberal democracies voted against the resolution.

The Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territories has gone on for 55 years with no end in sight. Israel's wealth and military might have deprived Palestinians of civil, political, and economic rights, including the right to self-determination. The only way out of this crisis is for a power outside the U.S.–Israel axis to intervene. An ICJ ruling may open a path to end the violence the Israeli government and settlers regularly inflict on Palestinians.

The U.N. resolution asks the ICJ:

“to render its opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel's ongoing violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of discriminatory legislation and measures.”

The resolution also asks the ICJ to advise on how those policies and practices "affect the legal status of the occupation" and what legal consequences arise for all countries and the United Nations.

The Hague-based ICJ, known as the World Court, is the top U.N. court dealing with disputes between states. Its rulings are binding, though the ICJ has no power of enforcement.

The ICJ last weighed in on the Israel–Palestinian situation in 2004 when the ICJ ruled that the Israeli separation barrier was illegal. Israel rejected that ruling, accusing the court of being politically motivated. The 2004 ruling stands unenforced.

Israel rejects having the ICJ examine its occupation, saying it will encourage extremists. Actually the opposite is the case — 55 years of a violent occupation, given a pass by the world community, is partly responsible for extremists and fascists ending up as major players in the new Israeli government.