

'There is no Palestine'

Israeli incitement, rejectionism
& anti-Palestinian racism

Ben White



MIDDLE EAST MONITOR

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Cover: *An Israeli settler from the Har Bracha settlement throws stones at Palestinian villagers just outside of Burin, in the occupied West bank on April 19, 2011 (Wagdi Eshtayah / Apalmages).*

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MEMO Publishers
1 Green Mews
Bevenden Street
London N1 6AS

t: +44 (0)20 8838 0231

e: info@memopublishers.com
w: www.memopublishers.com

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Ben White is an analyst, journalist and author. His articles on Palestine/Israel have been published by *the Independent*, *the Guardian*, *Middle East Monitor*, *Middle East Eye*, *Newsweek Middle East* and others.

He has published three books: *Israeli Apartheid: A Beginner's Guide*, *Palestinians in Israel: Segregation, Discrimination and Democracy*, and *The Gaza 2014 War: 21 Questions & Answers*.

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Israeli incitement, rejectionism & anti-Palestinian racism

Anti-Palestinian incitement and racism can be found throughout Israeli society, from football matches and op-ed pages, to universities and the highest levels of elected office. The dehumanisation of Palestinians and rejection of their basic rights flows from, and has provided justification for, decades of settler-colonialism and occupation.

Palestinians are portrayed routinely by Israeli politicians, academics and religious leaders as barbaric, a “demographic threat” and a “problem” to be managed. This affects public attitudes; according to one study, 60,000 active Israeli social media users posted at least one racist item against Arabs in 2016, at a rate of one post every 46 seconds.

This factsheet is just the tip of the iceberg, with a focus on the rhetoric of government ministers and officials - from various political parties - in recent years. While Palestinians are routinely jailed by the Israeli authorities on the grounds of anti-occupation “incitement”, there is clearly *impunity* for anti-Palestinian racism both in Israel itself and, regrettably, on the part of Israel's friends and allies.

*[Palestinians] are beasts,
they are not human.*

Member of the Knesset Eli Ben-Dahan, August 2013

Rejection of Palestinian statehood



“ *We are against a Palestinian state.
There is not and never will be a Palestinian
state.*

Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, October 2015 ”



“ *The land of Israel is whole.
There is no Palestine...Let the Palestinians
go to Jordan, to Gaza, to Saudi Arabia, to
Kuwait, to Egypt and to Iraq.*

Welfare Minister Haim Katz, December 2015 ”



“ *I think all the members of the cabinet
oppose a Palestinian state, and
the prime minister first among them.*

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, February 2017 ”



“ *There never has been a Palestinian state and
there never will be one. There has to be one
state between the Jordan and the sea -
the State of Israel.*

Agriculture Minister Uri Ariel, September 2017 ”

Exclusive territorial claims



“

*We won't divide Jerusalem,
we won't make concessions,
we won't withdraw from land.*

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, March 2015

”



“

*We need to go to a million settlers in Judea
and Samaria [the West Bank]...
We need to think of new ways of thinking
that will include Judea and Samaria under
Israeli sovereignty forever.*

Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely, March 2017

”



“

*For us, Judea and Samaria
[the West Bank] is Israel.*

Housing Minister Yoav Galant, March 2017

”



“

*We returned [to the West Bank] in order to
stay forever, without conceding land and
without foreign sovereignty.*

Economy Minister Naftali Bennett, September 2017

”

Demographic threat



“ *I see [it] as a national duty to prevent the spread of a population [Palestinian citizens] that, to say the least, does not love the state of Israel.*

The then Housing Minister Ariel Atias, July 2009 ”



“ *I most certainly want there to be a Jewish majority in Jerusalem. Yes, I am not ashamed of that - I think Jerusalem should have a Jewish majority.*

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, October 2013 ”



“ *One objective statistic is comforting... Jewish fertility and immigration rates continue to grow, while the Arab fertility rate is slowing.*

Editorial in the Jerusalem Post, January 2015 ”



“ *I want to separate from the Palestinians. I want to keep a Jewish state with a Jewish majority. I don't want 61 Palestinian MKs in Israel's Knesset. I don't want a Palestinian prime minister in Israel.*

The then Labour leader Isaac Herzog, June 2015 ”

Dehumanisation



“ *The Palestinian threat harbours cancer-like attributes that have to be severed and fought to the bitter end.* ”

The then Israeli Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon, August 2002



“ *[Palestinians] are beasts, they are not human.* ”

Member of the Knesset Eli Ben-Dahan, August 2013



“ *According to Jewish law, gentiles should not live in the Land of Israel... If a gentile does not agree to take on the seven Noahide Laws, we should send him to Saudi Arabia.* ”

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef, March 2016



“ *If Israel's Arabs aren't satisfied with the rate at which they suck from the state's teats, let them find another country that will pamper them more.* ”

Prof. Raphael Israeli, in his 2017 book 'The Arab Minority in Israel: Open and Hidden Processes'



Israeli soldiers guard settlers as they pay a visit to the Jewish shrine of Atnaail Ben Kinaz in a Palestinian neighbourhood in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, on December 17, 2009 (Najeh Hashlamoun / Apalimages)

A Palestinian protester dressed as Santa Claus stands next to an Israeli soldier during the weekly demonstration against settlements in the West Bank village of Bilin, on December 27, 2013 (Issam Rimawi / Apalimages)





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