

SETTLEMENT EXPANSION: THE UGLY FACE OF APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The occupying power employs multiple measures to implement apartheid policies against Palestinians, with settlement expansion constituting one of the most dangerous tools used to enforce Israeli apartheid, due to its devastating consequences for both land and people alike.

Given the centrality of settlement expansion to the policies of the occupying power, a dedicated Ministry of Settlements has been established under the authority of the Prime Minister of the occupation government, headed by the extremist Orit Strook. In her recent statements, she claimed that there is no Palestinian people and that Palestinians have no right to establish their own state. In parallel, the extremist Bezalel Smotrich, the finance minister of the occupying entity, has asserted that wherever settlements exist, soldiers of the occupation authorities will be present, and consequently, “security” will be ensured. In the same context, the extremist Itamar Ben-Gvir, the Minister of National Security in the occupation authorities, explicitly links settlement expansion with the process of transfer (the displacement of the Palestinian people), describing it as “encouraging migration.”

In reality, there is a clear interconnection between the doctrines of Smotrich and Ben-Gvir, as the theory advanced by the extremist Itamar Ben-Gvir regarding “transfer” cannot be realized except through settlement expansion justified by security pretexts, as articulated by the extremist Minister Smotrich.

The occupying power follows systematic steps to establish a regime of racial segregation and to implement forms of apartheid against Palestinians, with the aim of rendering the West Bank an uninhabitable space for Palestinians. This is pursued through the enactment of laws, military orders, and structural settlement plans. Independent United Nations reports addressing the humanitarian and human rights

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situation in the occupied territories have condemned the occupying power for practicing apartheid against the indigenous population and forcibly displacing them, amid continued disregard by these authorities for the international community.

This report seeks to clarify the most significant measures undertaken by the occupation authorities during the month of November 2024, which included several actions aimed at expanding and intensifying settlement activity, most notably:

- Land confiscation.
- Settler violence and terror.
- Expansion of approved colonial structural settlement plans.
- The use of excessive force by settler militias and the occupation army.
- The imposition of a regime of temporal and spatial apartheid.

These measures pursue objectives of extreme gravity, namely:

- Undermining the functioning of the Palestinian National Authority.
- Eroding and obstructing the establishment of a Palestinian state.
- Rendering the West Bank an unlivable environment, thereby facilitating transfer—whether voluntary or forcible.