



ISRAELI APARTHEID: BEYOND THE LIES

FIGHT THE LIES

People often say that what's happening in Israel and the continued assault on its existence is difficult to understand, or too complicated to take a stand on. In this resource, we show that the situation, in its essence, is actually pretty straightforward and help you debunk the lies that are spreading around the world.

There are a lot of lies out there about Israel being an apartheid state, and some can be very convincing, if you don't have the right tools to see through them. Here we have a list of just a few lies that they use to try to win us over with propaganda, and next to them are some images debunking those lies.

DEFINITION OF APARTHEID

A policy or system of institutionalized segregation and social and economic discrimination on the basis of race.

ILLEGITIMATE COMPARISONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

In an apartheid state, a racial group is heavily mistreated, disenfranchised, and strictly segregated, on the basis of their race alone. In apartheid South Africa, Blacks were stripped of the vote, barred from whites-only areas, denied employment opportunities, and forced into arbitrary "bantustans."

It is an insult to the memory of those who suffered under South African apartheid to equate their treatment to that of terrorism-supporting Palestinian Arabs who are provided with employment, utilities, food provisions, and civilian rights by the Israeli government every day.

SEGREGATED BUSES

In light of the geographical and social division of communities, as well as the ongoing threat of terror, Palestinian Arabs have their own bus system for their commute in and out of Israel's borders. Arabs are not forbidden to ride on any Israeli transportation system. Jews, however, while not forbidden from riding Arab buses, are well aware that it is at risk to their lives - a fact emphasized by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas leadership, as well as by the Palestinian Arab populations who support terror and the murder of Jews.

SEGREGATED ROADS

Like with Israel's bus system, the claim that the roads themselves are segregated is propaganda, a biased misrepresentation of the truth. The only "forbidden" roads in Israel are the ones forbidden to Israelis. While border checkpoints do exist on other roads (which Israelis must pass through as well), these have only been established due to an extended history of terror and violence against Israeli vehicles and/or from terrorist-driven vehicles. Actually driving within Israel is permissible to everyone.

SOCIAL SEGREGATION

Arabs in Israel are given full equality and access to transportation, recreation, politics and social involvement. Living, working, studying in universities along with Jewish, Christian and other citizens of Israel, Arabs in Israel in fact enjoy more freedom than in any Arab country in the world.

The dynamics of Arab/Muslim culture, however, inhibit their integration or assimilation into Israeli society. The education and religious systems in their communities are a primary source of advancing the lies against Israel and the "Yehud", the Jew who has been demonized as responsible for their social, economic and geographic realities.

EQUAL RIGHTS

Within Israel, Arabs and Jews live side-by-side. Israeli Arabs, who account for approximately 20% of Israel's population, are citizens of Israel with equal rights.

Arabs can vote and even have their own parties, Arabs and Jews work together in Israel's hospitals, businesses and schools. There are no restrictions on their travel, their occupations, or even, as is sometimes argued, their right to buy land.

Unlike South Africa, which enshrined its racial segregation policies in law, Israeli law is the same for Jewish citizens and other Israeli citizens, with no explicit distinction between race, creed or sex.

SEGREGATED SCHOOL SYSTEMS

LIE: There is institutionalized ethnic separation maintained by the Israeli education system.

TRUTH: Most educational institutions in Israel are divided into Arab and Jewish ones as a result of the acceptance of social and cultural distinctions between the different communities in Israel. Israeli Arabs can and do study in some Israeli schools and universities, but are discouraged to do so by their own communities. Palestinian Arabs who have refused Israeli citizenship are not automatically entitled to benefit from the higher level Israeli school system, just as any non-citizen in any country in the world. Many Palestinian Arab schools support terrorism, honor and/or are named after terrorists, and continue to perpetuate lies and incite hatred against Israel and Jews.

Jews and Arabs are afforded equal rights under Israeli law. But in many ways, the two sectors live in separate societies, attending different schools, living in different cities, reading different newspapers and espousing different political ideals. Much of this separation stems from long-

standing structural factors like language, culture and religion. Israel's schools are separated by both religion and race. Jewish students attend either secular, religious or ultra-Orthodox schools, while the Arabs also attend separate school systems where Muslim, Christian, or Druze students are taught in Arabic.

The split education system, where students are taught in their own language and according to their own cultural norms, is and has always believed to be the answer to the Arab community's needs and not a reflection of Jewish ideals.

SEPARATE COURT SYSTEMS

Israelis, including all Israeli Jews, Arabs, Muslims, Christians, and members of all faiths and races, are under the jurisdiction of a civil court system. Israel also fully recognizes the rights of religious groups to have and maintain religious court systems.

Palestinians are subjected to a military court system only as a result of the Palestinians having no single civil representative body.

The use of separate court systems is in keeping with the internationally recognized practice for handling legal matters in disputed territorial regions.

OPEN AIR PRISON

LIE: "Palestinians in Gaza are segregated and locked inside the world's largest open-air prison" is a prominent claim, often paired with accusations of Gaza as a "concentration camp" or "ghetto".

TRUTH: Gazans are separated from Israelis as a result of their refusal to accept Israeli citizenship at the time of the establishment of the state in 1948, their denial of Israel's ancestral rights, and their continued support of terror. The governing body of Gaza is not Israel but Hamas, who furthers the confinement of its population by enforcing class structures, inhibits social or economic advancement and provides minimal provisions for its inhabitants so as to demonize Israel as the faulty party.

ETHNIC CLEANSING

The Palestinian campaign calls to destroy Israel for the establishment of a Palestinian Arab state which, as their leaders have affirmed, will not allow a single Jew to live within its borders.

In effect, they are demanding that every Jew leave the "West Bank", a form of ethnic cleansing. The Palestinian call to remove all Jewish presence is not only discriminatory and morally reprehensible; it has no basis either in law or in the agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

THE "APARTHEID WALL"

On December 9, 2003, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution referring to the International Court of Justice the question of the legal consequences of Israel's construction of the security fence, calling it a "wall."

Israel's opponents continually refer to it as a "separation barrier" for the specific purpose of evoking the image of separation between Israel and the Palestinians in a hijacking of the term "apartheid."

DOUBLE STANDARD

More than 12 countries in the world have physical barriers along their border, to prevent the infiltration of illegal immigrants.

Israel's security fence was set up along temporary border lines to prevent the infiltration of terrorists determined to murder Israelis. Egypt also has a security barrier with Gaza for the same purpose, yet has never been condemned in the international scene.

CHECKPOINTS

LIE: Israel practices institutional humiliation and dehumanization of Palestinian men, women, and children made to wait hours at Israeli military checkpoints routinely when trying to make the most basic of trips to visit relatives or attend school or college.

TRUTH: There are border passes in every country in the world. The checkpoints on Israel's borders with the disputed territories are run by the military because they exist for security reasons: to prohibit and prevent the entrance of terrorists seeking to harm innocent Israeli civilians.

APARTHEID FACTS COMPARISON

Calling Israel an Apartheid state is part of the current campaign by enemies of the Jewish state to delegitimize and demonize that state.

While it is perfectly legitimate to criticize the current Israeli government and its policies, to refer to the country as an apartheid state is completely wrong and evidence of either stupidity or malevolence. Anyone who studies the apartheid system in South Africa or who lived in that country during that time will immediately see the difference between that situation and the situation in present day Israel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What's the most common claim you've heard about Israel being an Apartheid state?
- How would you respond to that said claim now?
- What are 3 things you read that surprised you or was contradictory to something someone had said in the past about Israel?
- What are 3 things you will take with you from this?