



Parallels Between Apartheid South Africa & Israeli Policies

QUOTES FROM SOUTH AFRICANS AND ISRAELIS

“In fact from the onset Zionism aimed at the dispossession of the indigenous population so that Israel could become a wholly Jewish State. As the Palestinians became aware of these intentions they quite naturally began resisting. At Israel’s independence in 1948, based on the UN Partition Plan—approximately 56% of the land went to the Jewish state and 44% to the Palestinians—Israel acquired the power, aid and resources to expand to 78% of the former territory, expelled Palestinians and with American backing became regional superpower.

With the illegal Jewish settlements, security road network, and construction of the monstrous wall around the militarily occupied West Bank, the remaining Palestinians are ghettoized within 12% of their original territory. This dispossession is reminiscent of Apartheid and its 13% of Bantustan homelands. For many this is the fundamental cause of the conflict...

May Israelis wake up and see reason, as happened in South Africa, and

negotiate peace. Finally, let us learn from what helped open white South African eyes: the combination of a just struggle reinforced by international solidarity utilizing the weapons of boycott and sanctions.”

—**Ronnie Kasrils**, *Mail and Guardian*, Johannesburg, on 1st September 2006. (Kasrils is Minister of Intelligence in the South African Government)

“There are things we South Africans recognize in the Palestinian struggle for national self-determination and human rights. The repressed are demonized as terrorists to justify ever-greater violations of their rights. We have the absurdity that the victims are blamed for the violence meted out against them. Both apartheid and Israel are prime examples of terrorist states blaming the victims.”

—**Ronnie Kasrils**, quoted in Chris McGreal, “Brothers in arms: Israel’s secret pact with Pretoria,” *Mail & Guardian*, October 24, 2006

“This is much worse than apartheid. The Israeli measures, the brutality, make apartheid look like a picnic. We never had jets attacking our townships. We never had sieges that lasted month after month. We never had tanks destroying houses. We had armoured vehicles and police using small arms to shoot people but not on this scale.”

—**Ronnie Kasrils** after a 2004 visit to the Palestinian territories, quoted in Chris McGreal, *Mail & Guardian*, October 24, 2006

“Apartheid was all about land. Apartheid was about keeping the best parts of the country for the whites and sending the blacks to the least habitable, least desirable parts of the country. And one sees that all the time here, particularly with the wall, now, which is really a land grab. One sees Palestinians dispossessed of their homes by bulldozers. One can draw certain

parallels with respect to South Africa that, during the heyday of apartheid, population relocation did result in destruction of property, but not on the same scale as the devastation in Gaza in particular, [or in] the West Bank.”

—**John Dugard**, South African lawyer and UN human rights monitor, quoted in Chris McGreal, *Mail & Guardian*, October 24, 2006.

“The similarities between the situation of East Jerusalem and black South Africans is very great in respect of their residency rights. We had the old Group Areas Act in South Africa. East Jerusalem has territorial classification that has the same sort of consequences as race classification had in South Africa in respect of who you can marry, where you can live, where you can go to school or hospital.”

—**John Dugard** in Chris McGreal, *Mail & Guardian*, October 24, 2006

“I’ve been very deeply distressed in my visit to the Holy Land; it reminded me so much of what happened to use black people in South Africa. I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at the checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like us when young white police officers prevented us from moving about.... Israel will never get true security and safety through oppressing another people. A true peace can ultimately be built only on justice... We in South Africa had a relatively peaceful transition. If our madness could end as it did, it must be possible to do the same everywhere else in the world. If peace could come to South Africa, surely it can come to the Holy Land?”

—**Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, *The Guardian*, December 20, 2006

“We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of Palestinians.”

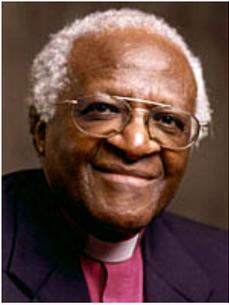
—**President Nelson Mandela**, Pretoria, December 4, 1997



**END THE
OCCUPATION**

US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION

The US Campaign is a diverse coalition of over 200 groups working for freedom from occupation and equal rights for all by challenging US policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Campaign is based on human rights and international law, providing a non-sectarian framework for everyone who supports its *Call to Action*. Its strategy is to inform, educate, and mobilize the public so as to change the US role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



“The end of apartheid stands as one of the crowning accomplishments of the past century, but we would not have succeeded without the help

of international pressure—in particular the divestment movement of the 1980s. Over the past six months a similar movement has taken shape, this time aiming at an end to the Israeli occupation....These tactics are not the only parallels to the struggle against apartheid. Yesterday’s South African township dwellers can tell you about today’s life in the occupied territories....If apartheid ended, so can the occupation, but the moral force and international pressure will have to be just as determined.”

—**Archbishop Desmond Tutu**,
The Nation, July 15, 2002

“If you changed the names, the description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank would be a description of what is happening in South Africa.”

—**Archbishop Desmond Tutu**
speaking in 1989 at a New York synagogue

“Israel, like South Africa, is an apartheid state.”

—**Former South African President Hendrick Verwoerd**, *Rand Daily Mail*, November 23, 1961

“Israelis have this loathsome hatred of Arabs that makes me sick....They will create a worse apartheid here.”

—**ANC activist Esther Levitan**,
interviewed by *Ha’aretz*, May 24, 2002

“It becomes difficult, particularly from a South African perspective, not to draw parallels with the oppression experienced by Palestinians under the hand of Israel and the oppression experienced in South Africa under apartheid rule.”

—*Not in Our Names Declaration of Conscience*, written by South African government minister **Ronnie Kasrils** and legislator **Max Ozinsky** and signed by hundreds of leading Jewish South Africans

Quotes by Israeli Individuals and Organizations on the Apartheid Analogy

“The US Jewish Establishment’s onslaught on former President Jimmy Carter is based on him daring to tell the truth which is known to all: through its army, the government of Israel practices a brutal form of Apartheid in the territory it occupies. Its army has turned every Palestinian village and town into a fenced-in, or blocked-in, detention camp.”

—**Former Israeli Minister for Education and Israeli Prize laureate Shulamit Aloni**,
Yediot Acharonot, December 20, 2006.

“Israel has created in the Occupied Territories a regime of separation based on discrimination, applying two separate systems of law in the same area and basing the rights of individuals on their nationality. This regime is the only one of its kind in the world, as is reminiscent of distasteful regimes from the past, such as the apartheid regime in South Africa.”

—**Israeli human rights organization B’Tselem**, *Land Grab: Israel’s Settlement Policy in the West Bank*, May 2002

“This report deals with one of the primary...components of Israel’s policy of restricting Palestinian movement in the Occupied Territories: restrictions and prohibitions on Palestinian travel along certain roads in the West Bank. ... This regime, based on the principle of separation through discrimination, bears striking similarities to the racist Apartheid regime that existed in South Africa until 1994. In the regime operated by Israel, the right of every person to travel in the West Bank is based on his or her national origin.”

—**B’Tselem**, *The Discriminatory West Bank Road Regime*, August 2004

“It goes without saying that ‘cooperation’ based on the current power relationship is no more than permanent Israeli domination in disguise, and that Palestinian self-rule is merely a euphemism for Bantustanization.”

—**Former mayor of Jerusalem Meron Benvenisti**, *Intimate Enemies*, 1995

“Sharon explained at length that the Bantustan model was the most appropriate solution to the conflict....Sharon’s map [for a Palestinian state] is surprisingly similar to the plan for protectorates in South Africa in the early 1960s. Even the number of cantons is the same—ten in the West Bank (and one more in Gaza).”

—**Akiva Eldar**, *Ha’aretz*, May 13, 2003

“To a Jew, to concede the predominance of a racial world view of subjugating Palestinians is difficult to accept. But, unfortunately, the fact of the absence of a racial ideology is not sufficient because the realities that have emerged in some ways are clearly reminiscent of some of the important trappings of an apartheid regime.”

—**Israeli lawyer Daniel Seidemann**, quoted by Chris McGreal, “Brothers in arms: Israel’s secret pact with Pretoria,” *Mail & Guardian*, October 24, 2006