

Israel to 'Judaize' Galilee and Expand West Bank Settlements?

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The Haaretz article (read [here](#)) shows that Israeli authorities are escalating their discrimination and segregation policies against Indigenous Christian and Muslim Palestinian citizens.

Israeli authorities have been enforcing [discriminatory land practices](#) since 1948 inside Israel against its nearly 2 million [Christian and Muslim Palestinian citizens](#) who represent 21 percent of the country's population.

Christian and Muslim Palestinians citizens of Israel currently represent [53 percent](#) of Galilee's population and [25 percent](#) of the Negev's population. The Galilee and Negev regions [comprise two-thirds of the land in Israel](#).

The Haaretz article states Israeli authorities are taking major steps to further 'Judaize' the Galilee and the Negev by intensifying discriminatory land practices and housing policy, mainly by expanding the [Admissions Committee Law](#) so that it applies to communities with up to 1,000 households..

The Israeli state directly controls 93 percent of the land in the country, including occupied East Jerusalem. A government agency, the Israel Land Authority (ILA), manages and allocates these state lands. Almost half the [members of the governing body](#) belong to the Jewish National Fund (JNF), whose explicit [mandate is to develop and lease land for Jews](#) and not any other segment of the population. The JNF owns 13 percent of Israel's land, which the [state is mandated to use](#) "for the purpose of [settling Jews](#)." them.

Currently, Israeli law permits [towns in the Galilee and Negev](#) with up to 400 households to [maintain admissions committees that can reject applicants](#) from living there for being "not suitable for the social life of the community" or for incompatibility with the "social-cultural

fabric.”

This authority [effectively permits](#) the [exclusion of Christian and Muslim Palestinians](#) from [small Jewish towns](#), which Adalah, a human rights group based in Haifa, estimated in 2014 make up 43 percent of all towns in Israel, albeit a smaller percentage of the country’s population. In a 2015 study, Yosef Jabareen, a professor at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, found that there are more than 900 small Jewish towns, including *kibbutzim*, across Israel that can [restrict who can live there](#) and have no Christian and Muslim Palestinian citizens living in them.

By expanding the [Admissions Committee Law](#) so that it applies to communities with up to 1,000 households, Israel would be preventing the 2 million indigenous Christian and Muslim Palestinian citizens from residing in 900 communities that would be inhabited by around 3 million Jewish Israelis.

Canada must condemn these discriminatory and racist policies that violate the human rights of 2 million Christian and Muslim Palestinian citizens, and everything enshrined in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

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