

# Timeline: Israel's Anti-Palestinian Laws Since 1948

By [Middle East Monitor](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [History](#),  
[Law and Justice](#), [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

## 2006-Present

[07 February 2018](#): *Israel advances a plan to build a walkway through the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem to connect two settler residential compounds in the Palestinian At-Tur neighbourhood*

[07 February 2018](#): During a Knesset report on the policy of refusing to return the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces to their families for burial, officials are urged to 'throw it into the sea', 'we should not return bodies. We should demolish homes', others say

[05 February 2018](#): A number of Israeli politicians, including coalition government members, call for 'practical moves' to be taken to annex settlements in the occupied West Bank while Donald Trump heads the White House

[04 February 2018](#): Israel grants legal status to the unauthorised outpost of Havat Gilad in the occupied West Bank

[05 February 2018](#): The Israeli army is imposing 'harsh travel restrictions' in an effort to 'drive Palestinians out' in the southern Hebron Hills area of the occupied West Bank, according to human rights NGO [B'Tselem](#)

[02 February 2018](#): In a report, the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem warn that Israel is using tourism to legitimise its illegal settlement construction with 'local Palestinian residents absent from the narrative being promoted to the visitors'

[30 January 2018](#): The Israeli occupation army maintains a 'policy of suppressing demonstrations in Gaza with live fire' against demonstrators 'who are not endangering them', NGO [B'Tselem](#) reports

[31 January 2018](#): Israel's Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman [announces](#) via [Twitter](#) that the illegal settlement outpost of Havat Gilad will be 'legalised' on Sunday.

[01 February 2018](#): The Israeli municipality in Jerusalem begins to impose taxes on church and United Nations properties in occupied East Jerusalem

[30 January 2018](#): The Knesset passes in its first reading a bill extending the authority of the Israeli Higher Education Council over higher education institutions in illegal settlements built on Palestinian lands occupied in 1967

[30 January 2018](#): The Israeli army is set to take full 'security control' of Palestinian neighbourhoods in occupied East Jerusalem that lie behind the illegal Separation Wall, in particular the areas of Kafr Aqab and the Shuafat refugee camp

[15 January 2018](#): Israeli Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank launched field teams of photographers and videographers to take pictures of Palestinian protesters to help the Israeli occupation forces to identify and arrest them easily

[January 2018](#): Israel's Ministry of Justice recommends punitive measures be imposed on men who marry more than one woman, including reducing child and family allowances, in an effort to stifle the increase in the Arab population

[07 January 2017](#): Israel publishes a "blacklist" of 22 NGOs from Europe, the United States, South America and Africa whose activists are barred from entry

[26 December 2017](#): Poverty levels among Israel's Arab citizens have increased as a result of the government's racist policies, official data shows

[24 December 2017](#): The leader of Al-Araqueeb village receives 10 month sentence, \$10,300 fine and expelled from his home by Israel

[6 December 2017](#): Israeli occupation bulldozers raze the village of Al-Araqueeb in the Negev area for the 122nd time leaving its residents homeless despite the stormy and cold weather.

[30 November 2017](#): 10 US Senators urge Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to demolish Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank, reports the [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#)

[16 November 2017](#): Israeli authorities demolish the Palestinian village of Al-Araqueeb in the Negev Desert for the 121st time

[25 October 2017](#): Staff from the Israel Land Authority (ILA) accompanied Israel Police and bulldozers who raided Al-Araqueeb village and demolished the makeshift homes made out of tin that the residents build every time the village is demolished. This is the 120th time that the village has been razed

[3 October 2017](#): Israeli bulldozers, accompanied by police forces, raided the Arab Bedouin village of Al-Araqueeb in the Negev region and demolished it for the 119th time

[14 September 2017](#): Israeli army bulldozers demolish the village of Al-Araqueeb in the Negev for the 118th time

[5 September 2017](#): Israeli authorities demolished 1,158 homes belonging to Israeli Arabs in the Negev between August 2016 and August 2017, a report issued by Coexistence Club in the Negev reveals

# MEMO

[24 August 2017](#): An Israeli court has ordered residents of Al-Araqueeb village to pay the government \$541,000 for the cumulative cost of destroying their homes 116 times since 2010

[09 November 2017](#): 30 families in the Jordan Valley receive eviction notices dated 1 November warning them they have eight days to evacuate their homes before they are demolished. They now live in constant fear of raids and forced displacement

[10 November 2017](#): Amendments are made to the proposed 'Jewish Nation-State Law' allowing it to head for its first vote in the Knesset next month

09 November 2017: Israel plans to double the number of settlers in the Jordan Valley area because the area 'must be strengthened', *Israeli Radio* reports

[08 November 2017](#): Israel approves building permits for 240 new homes in settlements in occupied East Jerusalem, including 90 units in Gilo and another 150 in Ramat Shlomo

[08 November 2017](#): Israeli occupation forces destroy a Palestinian-owned commercial building in the French Hill district of occupied East Jerusalem. This is the third time that the building has been destroyed by the Israelis

# MEMO

[08 November 2017](#): Israel's Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz (image on the right)

demands the dismissal of a civil servant who supports the Palestinian right of return, saying 'a legal way has to be found to immediately terminate the new employee's employment at the National Road Safety Authority'

[06 November 2017](#): Israeli occupation forces have began clear its own landmines from Palestinian-owned land adjacent to the illegal settlement of Karnei Shomron near Qalqiliya. The clearance programme is expected to last two months; more than 2,200 landmines are believed to have been laid in the area, which covers around 20 acres of stolen land

[24 October 2017](#): Israeli occupation forces once again deliver demolition notices to Palestinians in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan

[26 September 2017](#): Illegal Israeli settlers call for the Israeli government to enact harsher punishments on the families of Palestinian prisoners through 'deny citizenship' and 'carry out more house demolitions'

[26 September 2017](#): Israeli MK Amir Ohana proposes a bill which would 'expand the interior minister's authority to revoke permanent residence status for security reasons' in an effort to 'circumvent' controversial court rulings against revoking residency of Arabs in Jerusalem

[11 September 2017](#): Israel begins construction of its first new illegal settlement in the occupied West Bank. The new settlement, known as Amichai, is being built to house about 300 hardline residents of the illegal West Bank Jewish outpost of [Amona](#). The Cabinet allocated \$16 million for its construction

[11 September 2017](#): Israeli authorities are making it increasingly difficult for Palestinians' foreign spouses to stay in the occupied West Bank, reducing the length of the validity of visas, the process for obtaining permanent residency has been frozen

2017: Israel announces plans to limit the travel of those arriving in Ben-Gurion airport to the Palestinian Occupied Territories.

[2016](#): NGO 'Funding Transparency' Law

**Israel begins plans** to pass a law that will ban the Muslim call for prayer on loudspeakers between 23:00 and 07:00.

Stop-and-Frisk Law – Amendment: The new law allows police to stop and frisk people in case of a reasonable suspicion that he or she is about to commit a violent act. The law was passed amid the recent wave of violence.

Anti-Terror (Counter-Terrorism) Law: This contains broad and vague definitions of terrorism and terrorist organisations often exploited by law enforcement authorities to criminalise legitimate actions of Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian residents of the Occupied Territories.

Expulsion of MKs Law – Amendment: The bill allows for the Israeli Jewish majority in the Knesset to further delegitimise and marginalise the elected political representatives of the Palestinian minority in Israel and to oust Arab MKs and political lists on the basis of purely political and ideological considerations.

2016: NGO "Funding Transparency" Law: This requires NGOs that receive 50 per cent or

more of their funding from foreign governments to make it clear in every instance. Organisations that express views critical to the government's policies, particularly those policies which discriminate against or otherwise harm Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, are the main targets of this law.

Mandatory minimum sentences for convicted stone-throwers – Amendment: A mandatory minimum prison sentence on a convicted stone-thrower or similar acts is set at “one-fifth of the maximum sentence” which equates to either two or four years.

Revoking child allowances from parents of children convicted of security offences: This removes child allowances for parents of a child convicted on criminal charges.

2015- Fines on parents of stone-throwers – Amendment: Direct fines are imposed on the parents of minors convicted of committing an offence listed in the Israeli Penal Code; for example stone-throwing. This discriminates against the parents of Palestinian children within Israel or residents of East Jerusalem brought before Israeli civil courts.

2014-March: Increased Governance and Raising the Qualifying Election Threshold – Bill to Amend Basic Law: The Government: This raises the threshold percentage of votes required for political parties in order to obtain seats in the Knesset to 3.25 per cent. This undermines the parliamentary representation of Palestinian Arabs and prevents Arab parties from contesting the elections within multiple party lists.

Civil Wrongs Law – Amendment: This creates further obstacles to justice and accountability for civilian victims harmed by Israeli security forces in the Occupied Territories.

July- Income Tax Ordinance – Amendment: This grants a 35 per cent tax exemption on donations to institutions that promote “Zionist settlement”. It differentiates between public institutions on political and ideological grounds.

2012- May: Israeli Prisons Ordinance Amendment No. 43: This was passed allowing for restrictions on security prisoners' access to legal counsel for three months at a time, which can be extended for another three months.

The logo consists of the word "MEMO" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a solid grey circle.

Israeli Prisons Ordinance – Amendment: This allows the Israel Prison Service (IPS) to prohibit prisoners involved in “security crimes” from meeting their lawyers due to suspicion that the meeting will lead to the transfer of information relating to a “terror organisation”. This law targets Palestinian prisoners and Palestinian lawyers.

Anti-Boycott Law: This prohibits the promotion of academic, economic or cultural boycotts of

Israeli citizens and organisations and against Israeli institutions or illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. A civil lawsuit can be filed against anyone who calls for a boycott, namely the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

**Admissions Committees Law:** The Admissions Committees Law legalises Committees that operate in small community towns built on state land in the Negev and Galilee. They are permitted to filter on the basis of ethnicity applicants for housing units and plots of land; Arab Palestinians are the main victims of this process.

**Citizenship Law:** This allows courts to revoke the citizenship of persons convicted of treason, espionage, assisting the enemy in time of war, violating state sovereignty and acts of terrorism. The law was proposed following the arrest and indictment of Arab civil society leader Ameer Makhoul on charges of espionage and has since been used discriminately against Palestinians.

**Nakba Law:** The Finance Minister can reduce state funding or support to an institution if it holds an event that rejects the existence of Israel as a “Jewish and democratic state” or commemorates “Israel’s Independence Day or the day on which the state was established as a day of mourning.” The law deprives Arab citizens of commemorating the Nakba in a way that is an integral part of their history.

**2011- Foreign Government Funding Law:** This imposes invasive reporting requirements on NGOs, requiring them to submit and publish quarterly reports on any funding received from foreign governments or publicly-funded foreign donors. Palestinian NGOs in Israel and all NGOs which promote Palestinian rights are particularly vulnerable since they do not seek funding from Israeli governmental sources and have limited access to private funding.

**Extension of Detention – Criminal Procedure Law:** Designed to extend the harsh detention procedures for those suspected of security offences. Again, this law is used exclusively against Palestinians.

**Negev Development Authority Law:** “Individual settlements” are used to provide individual Jewish Israeli families with potentially thousands of acres of land for their exclusive use. In the Negev, these settlements were seen as part of a plan for “saving” the land.

**Absorption of Discharged Soldiers Law:** Jewish Israeli students living in the NPA will be granted a “compensation package”. Since Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel are exempt from military service they are excluded from receiving these state-allocated benefits and discriminated against on the basis of their national belonging.

**Land Ordinance Law:** This allows Israel to confiscate land for “public purposes” and has been used to confiscate Palestinian-owned land in Israel.

**2010- Termination of Proceedings and Deletion of Records in the Disengagement Plan Law:** This exempts anyone who was convicted in relation to their opposition to Israel’s 2005 Gaza disengagement plan from legal sanction, provided they have not received a prison sentence. This established a separate legal process for people who were charged when demonstrating against the Gaza disengagement from those charged for other political demonstrations, thus discriminating on ideological grounds.



More than 1 million Palestinians were displaced in 1948

**Regional Councils Law:** This law, which grants the Interior Minister absolute power to declare the postponement of the first election of a Regional Council, was passed shortly before elections were due to take place in the Abu Basma Regional Council, which includes ten Arab Bedouin villages in the Negev.

**Israel Land Administration Law:** Enforced land privatisation, especially of land owned by Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as land on which settlements are built in occupied East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

**The Economic Efficiency Law – Legislative Amendments:** Classifying towns, villages and areas as “National Priority Areas” (NPAs), this allows for the allocation of state resources without criteria; 553 Jewish towns and only 4 small Arab villages are classified as NPAs with “A” status.

**2009– Economic Efficiency Law:** This law stipulates that children who do not receive the vaccinations recommended by the Ministry of Health will no longer be provided with “child allowances”. This mainly affects Arab Bedouin children living in the Negev due to the lack of availability of vaccinations.

**Absorption of Discharged Soldiers Law – Amendment No. 7:** The benefits package available to Jewish Israelis adding to the already extensive educational benefits package enjoyed by discharged soldiers in Israel is not available for Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel due to them being exempt from military service and so excluded from receiving these state-allocated benefits.

**2008– Criminal Procedure Law – Interrogating Suspects – Amendment No. 4:** This exempts the police and the Israeli Security Agencies from recording audio and video documentation of interrogations of suspects and is used exclusively against Palestinians.

**2006– Criminal Procedure Law:** This law removes a number of essential procedural safeguards for detainees suspected of security offences and is used solely against Palestinians.

## 1960-2003

**2003– Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law:** This bans the unification of the family where one spouse is an Israeli citizen (usually applied to Palestinian citizens) and the other is a resident of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. An additional amendment in 2007 expanded the ban to include citizens and residents of Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. Although the law was originally a temporary order, it has been used repeatedly, making it a permanent law.

**1998– Hebrew Date Law:** The use of the Hebrew calendar in all correspondence and publications issued by the state authorities does not recognise the use of the Islamic calendar.

**1994– Knesset Law:** In the opening session of the Knesset excerpts from The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel will be read out to emphasise the exclusive connection of the state to the Jewish people.

**The Golan Heights Law:** This law is another annexation law which aims to provide a legal



defence for the application of Israeli law in the Syrian Golan Heights occupied by Israel since 1967.



Image of Israeli and UN forces at the Golan Heights border [Escla/Wikipedia]

Interpretation Law: Article 24 states that the Hebrew versions of laws will be the guiding versions, which disregards Article 82 of the *Palestine Order-in-Council (1922)*, which states that both Hebrew and Arabic are official state languages.

1981- Public Lands Law (Eviction of Squatters): An amendment to the law, introduced in 2005 expanded the powers of authorities to operate through administrative orders to evacuate land in accordance with the law. The 2005 amendment was aimed against the Arab Bedouin population of the Negev.

1980- Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel: "Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel" removes any connection for Palestinians and insists that the Occupied East of the city is part of the State of Israel.

1971- Religious Jewish Services Law: Religious councils in Jewish towns, cities and settlements can be established but no parallel law to authorise the establishment of non-Jewish religious councils exists.

1967- Protection of Holy Sites Law: The Ministry of Religious Affairs has declared 135 Jewish sites as holy sites, although Muslim, Christian and Druze holy places have still yet to be recognised as holy sites.

National Planning and Building Law - Limitation of Water, Electricity and Telephone: Article 157A prohibits national utility companies from connecting a building to national electricity, water and telephone networks if it lacks a building permit. This has been used exclusively to dislodge residents from the unrecognised Arab Bedouin villages in the Negev.

National Planning and Building Law: This does not require Council and District Committees to include Arab-Palestinian representatives.



1965- Broadcasting Authority Law: Broadcast programmes must reinforce the Zionist identity of the state of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and reflect the life of Jews in the Diaspora communities. Arabic language channels must promote the “understanding and peace with the neighbouring states in accordance with the basic goals of the state.”

1960- Basic Law: Israel Lands: The ownership of “Israel lands” cannot be transferred in any manner except to Jews only.

1960- Israel Land Administration Law: The government is able to nominate members to the discriminatory “Israel Land Administration Council” which determines and formulates Israel’s land policy within the state.

## 1945-1960

1958- Basic Law: The Knesset: Arab political candidates are disqualified from participating in the elections for the Knesset if the existence of the State of Israel as the state of the Jewish people is denied, as well as the democratic nature of the state and incitement to racism.

1953- Jewish National Fund Law: The Jewish National Fund was established in 1901 to collect funds for purchasing land for the exclusive benefit of the Jewish people.

1953- State Education Law: The law establishes separate, independent systems and secular state and state religious schools, to maintain a distinct Jewish community, Jewish culture and Zionist ideology.

1953- Land Acquisition Law (Actions and Compensation): Approximately 93 per cent of the land in Israel is owned by the state. Only 3-3.5 per cent is owned by the Arab population, compared to 48 per cent Arab ownership in 1948.

1952- World Zionist Organisation-Jewish Agency (Status) Law: This law authorises the World Zionist Organisation, the Jewish Agency and other Zionist bodies to function in Israel as quasi-governmental entities to advance the goals of the Zionist project.

1952- Entry into Israel Law: This law governs the entry into Israel of non-citizens of the state. It grants preferential treatment to Oleh [a Jewish person who migrates to Israel under the Law of Return].

1952- Citizenship Law: Article 2(a) of the Citizenship Law stipulates that, “Every emigrant under the Law of Return will become a citizen of Israel as a direct result of the return.” Article 3 of the law deprives Palestinians who were residents of Palestine prior to 1948 of the right to gain citizenship or residence status in Israel.

1950- Law of Return: Every Jew who migrated to Israel automatically became a citizen of the state, no matter where they were born. No comparable law exists to guarantee the rights of Palestinians to migrate or receive citizenship, even if they were born in the area that is now the State of Israel.

1950- [Absentees’ Property Law](#): People who were expelled or who fled after November 1947 due to the war, as well as their movable and immovable property, are marked as “absentees”. Property belonging to absentees was placed under the control of the State of Israel and the Absentees’ Property Law was used by Israel to possess land belonging to internal and external Palestinian refugees.

1949- State Stamp Law: The state stamp is placed on all official documents; it consists of the Star of David and the Menorah (candelabrum).

1945- Law and Government Ordinance, Article 18A: designates the official holidays of the state to be Jewish holy days. The only other official state holiday is Israel's Independence Day.

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