

Israel and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

The concept of the state of Israel is that it wants to be a home for Jews. According to the Law of Return of 1950, Jews everywhere in the world have the right to settle in Israel. The more than 700,000 Palestinians who were expelled from their homes in 1947-49 do not have the right to return to their home and land. Everything was taken away from them, without any restitution up to the present time.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel treatment.

Common practices during arrests and interrogations include beating, kicking, cursing and threatening. Long-lasting solitary confinement causes physical and psychological traumas. Withholding medical care in prison breaches international covenants. Exceptional extrajudicial executions often remain unpunished.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.

1. Fulfilled military service is linked with privileges relating to employment, housing and membership in associations. It is then easy to understand how this ends up in discriminating against Palestinians who refuse to participate in the oppression of their own people. At the same time, this discrimination remains concealed.
2. The Jewish Land Authority owns 93% of the land in Israel. The land managed by the Jewish National Fund may only be used by Jews.
3. Palestinian towns in Israel struggle with many restrictions on house-building and investments in infrastructure. The sewage systems are often outdated. Many Palestinian towns are not marked on official maps. Palestinian schools are funded significantly less than Jewish schools.
4. There are many restricting rules for Palestinian farmers in the area between the wall and the Green Line. For example, only the official owner of a piece of land may work on that land and that during a set number of days. Access to the land is limited. For Israeli farmers, none of these restrictions exist. When Palestinian farmland remains unworked as a result of all these restrictions, the land can then be confiscated by Israel.
5. In coastal towns like Haifa and Akko there is a similar tactic. On historical sites, Palestinians are forbidden to do renovation work on their houses. In Akko, the company Amidar brings legal suits against the owners of real estate. The historical quarter in Haifa lacks street lighting. Through systematic neglect, houses are abandoned. And then the process of Judaization can start.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Administrative detention is a practice whereby people are detained without a charge or trial. Administrative detention can be renewed multiple times. This practice violates fundamental principles of law. In August 2018 there were 456 administrative detainees.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal.

The law should be equal for every citizen. Jews in Israel and the occupied territories are tried in a civil court. In the West Bank, however, Palestinians fall under military law. Military courts have

conviction rates of 99,74%. Palestinian residents of Jerusalem can now even be accused and convicted of “incitement to violence and terror” because of statements made on Facebook. However, mass-scale media campaigns calling for the “killing of Palestinians and the burning of their corpses” remain unpunished.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

In the West Bank, Israel has built a new road infrastructure. Palestinians are not even allowed on certain sections of these roads.

Freedom of movement is seriously restricted by a network of checkpoints in the West Bank and the separation wall that has been built since 2002.

Article 15

Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality.

In East Jerusalem, Palestinians have to prove that Jerusalem is their “center of life”. Even when they have been born in Jerusalem they can lose their residence permit, which results, practically speaking, in their becoming stateless.

Article 17

Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

A basic task of the state is to protect the property of its citizens against theft. In Israel the state itself is the thief. In the West Bank, Israel is expanding its territory. Farmers lose their land. Water tanks and solar panels are confiscated. In area C houses, stables, tents and even schools are being demolished. During raids, Israel confiscates laptops and electronic devices. There is no legal basis for these acts, and still this happens on a daily basis.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Palestinians commemorate the period of 1947-1949 as the Nakba, the catastrophe. More than 75% of the Palestinians lost their land and their homes due to the ethnic cleansing carried out by the Jewish paramilitary groups that later became part of the Israeli army. Commemoration of the Nakba is forbidden. For teachers in Israel, it is forbidden to speak about the Nakba. Participating in peaceful protests against land grabbing can lead to imprisonment for years.

Article 21

Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country.

Israel pretends to be a democracy, but Palestinians are not consulted regarding the major plans for infrastructure and the expansion of cities – neither in Israel, nor in the West Bank.

Article 25

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family

Israel limits the supply of fuel for the production of electricity in Gaza. The population of Gaza has electricity only for 4-6 hours a day. Some Palestinian villages that are older than the state of Israel remain unrecognized. Until today they are not connected to water and electricity and they receive no funds for infrastructure, clinics or schools.