

Anniversary of 1967 occupation: Israel continues to deny Palestinian rights

Saeb Erekat, Chief Negotiator of the PLO and a member of its Executive Committee speaks



Over 12 million Palestinians living in the occupied State of Palestine and worldwide are commemorating 67 years of the ongoing Nakba and 48 years of Israel military occupation since 1967.

“The Israeli government, headed by Benjamin Netanyahu, is determined to undermine the Palestinian right to live in dignity, and is obstructing our right to self-determination,” said Dr Saeb Erekat, Member of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee.

“We will continue to halt any attempts by Israel to erase and bury Palestinian national identity by prolonging its occupation of our land. The world is accountable for the on-going crimes committed against our people,” Erekat added.

“While the Palestinian leadership continues to advocate for the two state solution, there are people in Israel that continue to undermine efforts for an effective solution. Those people are the same ones granted impunity by the international community, including the United States and Canada, and I would like to remind those nations of their obligations and responsibilities towards the two state solution. The illegal Israeli settlement enterprise is a clear violation of international law,” Erekat said.

The 5th of June marks the 48th anniversary of the six-day war and the Palestinian Naksa, in which Israel occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, The Egyptian Sinai and the Syrian Golan heights. [Read Palestine News Network for full text](#)

Israel’s Charade of Democracy- A B'Tselem perspective

This week will mark 48 years since the occupation began. Only two years shy of fifty. Think of all the people who were born into this reality: Palestinians and Israelis who know no other Israel, no other Palestine. They have never known any reality other than this “temporary” situation that has existed for almost half a century, with Israel as occupier and Palestinians under occupation. This state of affairs is the only one that millions of people have ever known. I am one of them: I was born after 1967. I have known no other reality, yet I know that I can no longer bear this one.

This reality will change some day. The exact how and when cannot be foretold, but in the meantime there are lies we should stop accepting. We must refuse to keep calling

this reality “democratic” – a reality in which millions of people cannot take part in deciding their future and cannot vote for the institutions that rule their lives. And, we must refuse to continue cooperating with the lie that Israel’s control of the Occupied Territories is temporary, under the legal definition of “provisional military occupation”.

This reality is neither temporary nor democratic – a message clearly articulated in an op-ed published in the New York Times earlier this week. B’Tselem’s position paper published a year ago provides further details and in-depth analysis on why the occupation cannot be considered temporary.

[Read op-ed published in New York Times](#)

A report from Middle East Eye

Tens of thousands of Israeli settlers, right-wing activists and high-school students marched through Jerusalem's Old City on Sunday evening. The flag march marked 48 years since the occupation of East Jerusalem and the Old City by the Israeli army during the 1967 war. The march passed through the Muslim quarter of the old city, and Israeli police officers forced Palestinian shop owners to close up, while Palestinian residents could not walk freely in the streets for hours. As the march entered the Old City, many Israeli youth taking part shouted "Death to all Arabs!", "Demolish the mosque, build the temple!" and "Take revenge on the Palestinians!" Some 500 Israeli protesters attacked Palestinian journalists and photographers covering the event, throwing sticks and trying to break their equipment.

There were no reports that Israeli protesters were detained by police.

Before the march, which started in Jerusalem's city centre and went toward the Damascus gate entrance to the Old City, some 100 Palestinians held a protest against the event. A big police force pushed the protesters out of the area near the Old City. At least 10 protesters were arrested. In West Jerusalem, a small group of left-wing activists held a vigil near the path of the march.

Last week, a left-wing Israeli group appealed to the Supreme Court against the march, asking it not to allow the march to pass through the Muslim quarter in Jerusalem's Old City. The court did not accept the appeal but the judges ordered the police to prevent those taking part from chanting racist slogans, and ordered them to arrest anyone who broke the order.

[Read full report from Middle East Eye](#)