



Scottish Palestinian Forum

STATEMENT ON THE THREATENED ANNEXATION OF PALESTINIAN LAND TO ISRAEL

The recently formed coalition government in Israel has indicated its intention to annex the Jordan Valley and illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This step would be in continuity with the aspirations articulated by secular Zionists since Theodor Herzl, and the demands of the World Zionist Organisation during the years leading to the Balfour Declaration, the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, and the League of Nations Mandate. Incremental and opportunistic annexation of all of Palestine has been the policy of every Israeli government since 1948, and no Israeli government has had any intention of withdrawing from territory occupied in 1967. Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, and ambassadors have been unequivocal about this, including the outgoing ambassador to the United Kingdom, Mark Regev.* Annexation would be in conformity also with the settlement proposed by the current United States administration.

Since 1948, resolutions of the United Nations, and negotiations brokered in accordance therewith, have envisaged the creation of a Palestinian state in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza, with the 1967 armistice line the indicative border. In the face of incremental de-facto annexation of Palestinian land and displacement of the indigenous population, the international community, including the United Kingdom, have failed to take action to uphold UN resolutions or international law. While in Palestine and internationally many have maintained that the “two state solution” would be neither just nor viable (and it has never been negotiated in good faith either by Israel or by the western powers), it has nonetheless formed the basis for all international diplomacy hitherto.

It has been widely suggested that the annexation currently scheduled for 1 July would confirm Israel as an “apartheid state”. Israel has, in point of fact, never been anything else. Some hopes have been expressed that the demise of the “two state” solution will bring closer the day that Israel is forced, like South Africa, to accept the inevitability of a unitary state in which all inhabitants enjoy citizenship with its benefits and responsibilities. Nevertheless, in the shorter term annexation will lead to further expropriation of land, destruction of homes, loss of access to water, and displacement of people.

Peace cannot be achieved without justice. Justice cannot be attained without unequivocal acknowledgement of the right of the Palestinian people, including those who have been displaced internally or driven into exile, to live in security and freedom in their land. International brokers will need, for the first time, to be impartial.

<https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/mark-regev-responds-to-40-prominent-jews-appeal-against-annexation/>

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/ambassador-regev-says-pre-1967-lines-brought-israel-neither-peace-nor-security-1.500489>

Adopted by the Committee on 8 June 2020.

Statements issued by the Committee do not necessarily reflect the views of all member groups.