



Palestine Solidarity Alliance
United Against Apartheid Israel



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Flag March - how the Apartheid state of Israel masks its racism and occupation

Israel's illegal and occupying mechanisms and those who support it vehemently deny its apartheid system against Palestinians claiming that no racism exists within Israel. Israel and its supporters continue to paint the narrative of Israel being "the only democracy in the Middle East" who "made the desert bloom" when the reality for millions of Christian and Muslim Palestinians is significantly different.

The celebration of 'Jerusalem Day' in Israel is in itself problematic as it celebrates the annexation and occupation of Jerusalem at the hands of Israel's occupying forces. When this contentious celebration is coupled with the increasingly controversial Flag March, the true racist nature of Israel's right-wing government and its supporters is revealed. Jerusalem Day celebrates what the Zionists term the "reunification" of Jerusalem which in reality was the capture of East Jerusalem and its subsequent occupation. The silence of the international community and global leaders at Israel's blatant celebrations of its acts of occupation is deafening.

Israeli occupation forces' audacity at blatantly celebrating the occupation of Jerusalem extends to the Flag March, a demonstration deeply racist and anti-Palestinian at its core. Celebrations of this racist demonstration in the past were accompanied by chants of "Death to Arabs" with Israelis wearing t-shirts and other memorabilia which promote the destruction of the Al Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site, in order to replace it with a Jewish temple. The religious freedom of Muslim Palestinians and the Al Aqsa compound, called "Temple Mount" by the Zionists, has been under continued assault by Israelis who believe the site belongs to them. The once multi-religious city of Jerusalem is now plagued by Zionist extremists who blatantly enact acts of aggression and violence against Christian and Muslim Palestinians, claiming the city as their own.

The Flag March is a way for Zionist extremists to partake in state-sanctioned and protected acts of racism and violence, with several reports of Palestinians being harassed by crowds who attend the march. The route of the march snakes its way through the Muslim Quarter of the Old City, an act of unnecessary aggression and planned provocation, with Palestinian shopkeepers forced to either stop shop for the day or contend with the aggression of the Zionist crowd.

Despite evidence of the racist nature of the march, Israeli authorities continue to support the march with right-wing leaders such as Itamar Ben-Gvir being in attendance at previous marches. Israeli authorities protect the actions of the Zionist extremists by deploying thousands of security personnel whose agenda does not include the protection of Palestinians. Instead, supporters of the march feel emboldened in the presence of said security personnel to act aggressively towards Palestinians knowing that they will be protected from any retort.

As a Palestine solidarity organization based in South Africa, a post-apartheid nation, we condemn such blatant acts of state-sanctioned racism and violence. We echo the call of Minister Naledi Pandor to the international community to hold Israeli officials to account for their apartheid crimes against the Palestinians, who continue to suffer under Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian land. No freedom,

including religion, is safe from Israel's apartheid policies and laws; with Christian and Muslim Palestinians continually impeded from exercising their religious rights during Ramadan and Easter.

Israel will not stop until Jerusalem and all of Palestine is under Zionist control. Events such as Jerusalem Day and the Flag March signal an impending future of continuous occupation and genocide with the end goal of the erasure of all Palestinians. It is our duty as a post-apartheid nation to ensure that the vision Zionists have for the legitimisation for the state of Israel through the genocide of the people of Palestine never comes to fruition. We will continue to raise our voices against Israel's illegal occupation and apartheid until Palestine is free; from the River to the Sea.

Issued by the Palestine Solidarity Alliance
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