

Responses For Common Pro-Palestinian Arguments

Many unfounded claims are often thrown in the air by Pro-Palestinian advocators. Many of which can be easily debunked, as they serve a false narrative. It's important to know how to engage with each one of these arguments in a debate.

Useful Tools & Websites

- <https://byebyecolonizer.com/> - An Interactive story of the history of the land of Israel.
- <https://speedy-facts.vercel.app/> - Short facts and materials on more than 30 categories.
- <https://neveragain2023.com/> - Testimonies from Israelis about the 2023 Gaza war.
- <https://oct7map.com/> - A map of the October 7th Massacres.
- <https://www.october7.org/> - Eyewitness and survivor stories from inside the massacres.

Queries And Responses

Trigger Warning: Some of the links which are given as sources contain highly disturbing and violent materials. Viewer discretion is advised.

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Q: There was a country called Palestine before 1948.

R: Palestine, or "Palestina" was the name of the region, rather than a country or a nationality. It is a Greek name that was given to the land of Israel by the Romans 2000 years ago. The source of the name is an ancient people called the "Philistines" who lived in ancient Canaan and were considered to be the sworn enemies of the Israelites. The Jews tried to rebel against the Romans but failed. When the Romans suppressed the rebellion they changed the name of the region to "Palestina" to mock the Jews and to remove any Jewish traces to the land of Israel.

There was never a state called "Palestine" that was run by Arabs. Before 1948, the British controlled the region, and beforehand the Ottoman Empire and many other colonizers. For instance, there wasn't any Palestinian president, constitution, or any government at all before 48'. Most of the land was a desert, scattered with Arab and Jewish villages and towns.

In fact, the term "Palestinian" was a general term for anyone who lived in mandatory Palestine before 1948 - Jews, Muslims, and Christians. It wasn't attributed to any nationality. It was first attributed to Arabs in the 50-60s when Arab Palestinian Nationalist movements such as Fatah and PLO were founded.

It's also important to note that even though most of the Jews were exiled, some managed to remain in Israel and preserved their ancient communities for thousands of years, most

notably in Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed, Tiberias, and Beit Shaan. There was a constant presence of Jews on the land for thousands of years, and Jews in the diaspora always dreamt of returning to Jerusalem.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Palestine

<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/palestine>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_and_Judaism_in_the_Land_of_Israel

Israel/Jews invaded Palestine in 1948 (NAKBA) and kicked them out of their homes. Israel has stolen Palestinian land/How do you explain NAKBA?

First of all, Palestine was never a country, but rather a Greek name for the region. The region was controlled by the British Empire and beforehand the Ottomans. There were Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Israel, which was mostly an empty inhabited desert.

It's also important to note that even though most of the Jews were exiled, some managed to remain in Israel and preserved their ancient communities for thousands of years, most notably in Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed, Tiberias, and Beit Shaan. There was a constant presence of Jews on the land for thousands of years, and Jews in the diaspora always dreamt of returning to Jerusalem. **Israel is historically the homeland of the Jewish people.**

In addition, Israel did not start the 1948 war. Local Arab militias declared war and attacked Jewish villages immediately after Israel declared its independence. They attacked with the help of 5 Arab armies and the goal was to destroy Israel and to kill all the Jews. Abdul Rahman Hassan Azzam, the Secretary-General of the Arab League declared in 1947 that if a war were to take place with the proposed it would lead to **"a war of extermination and momentous massacre** which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacre and the Crusades".

Surprisingly, the Jewish defense forces managed to thwart the Arab armies even though they were vastly outnumbered and outgunned. The Arabs lost some territories in the war and most of the Palestinians fled. When you start an offensive war of annihilation, you have to face the consequences.

Furthermore, most of the Palestinians left to ensure their safety and the safety of their families during the war. Some left at the request of the Arab leaders, who promised them they could return after the Jews lost the war. For instance, Palestinian leader Haj Amin al-Husseini insisted that the Arab citizens of Haifa had to leave, lest they help legitimize the Jewish state.

Sources:

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-743153>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azzam_Pasha_quotation

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_and_Judaism_in_the_Land_of_Israel

Q: The only reason Israel was established was because of the Holocaust.

R: The holocaust was one of the factors that contributed to the establishment of Israel, but it is not the main reason Israel was established. The holocaust, the Pogroms, and the persecution of Jews in Muslim countries led to many Jewish refugees, that found shelter in Israel. However, the re-establishment of a Jewish state in Israel has been an ongoing process since the 19th century and it was affected by a variety of factors.

The de-colonialization of the land played a pivotal role in the establishment of Israel. For the past 2000 years, the land was controlled by Empires - whether it was the Romans, the Muslims, the Ottomans, or the British. When the British Mandate ended in 1948, it posed a unique historical opportunity for the Jews to gain independence.

It's also important to recognize that most of the Jews were exiled from Israel during the conquests of different empires, but they never forgot their homeland and longed to return to the holy sites. There is even a famous blessing in Judaism that translates to "Next year in Jerusalem".

Sources:

<https://byebyecolonizer.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Israel

Q: The Establishment of the State of Israel was a grave injustice to the Palestinians.

R: The notion of a Jewish state in Israel is not an Injustice to the Palestinians. Jews and Muslims lived in Israel during the British Mandate, and both of them were deserving of an independent state. That's why the UN intervened and brokered a plan to partition the land between the two people. The Arabs rejected it and declared war on the Jews. Not only that, they also encouraged 5 Arab countries to invade Israel and destroy the Jewish towns. The Arabs lost the war, and consequently, they lost some territories and many refugees fled to neighboring countries, especially Jordan. Many Palestinians were also evacuated at the request of Arab leaders, who promised them they could return after the Jews had lost the war. This is how wars work - when you reject a peace deal and start a big war you must be ready to face the consequences.

However, it's important to mention that 21% of the Israeli population are Arabs, many of whom identify as Palestinians. While Palestinians and Arabs in all neighboring countries suffer from poverty, wars, water scarcity, and genocide, Israeli-Arabs have much better

conditions, are granted equal rights, and are protected by Israeli Law. They also contribute a lot to the Israeli economy and have become an integral part of Israeli society.

Sources:

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-743153>

<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/palestine#hamas>

Q: Israel commits genocide.

R: Genocide is the intentional destruction of a people in whole or in part. However, from 1990 to 2022 the population of Palestine increased from 1.98 million to 5.04 million people. Namely, the Palestinian population has increased by 150% in 32 years. This growth surpasses many Western countries and it debunks claims of genocide. For instance, when Jews experienced genocide in World War Two, 2 out of 3 European Jews were murdered, resulting in 6 million casualties.

Regarding the situation in Gaza, Hamas has embedded itself into dense residential areas and it operates out of schools and hospitals, effectively using its own civilians as human shields. According to international law, if a facility is used by the enemy as a military site, it is a valid target. Hamas is the one endangering its civilians. If Israel were to commit genocide, it wouldn't have dispersed thousands if not tens of thousands of brochures in order to call civilians to evacuate. It wouldn't send relentless SMS messages asking civilians to evacuate, or even call them by cellphones. It wouldn't give a 2-week notice so everyone can get to safety. Israel even created humanitarian corridors in which hundreds of thousands of people used to flee to the south of the Gaza Strip. This completely debunks the claim for genocide - If Israel were to commit genocide it would just level up Gaza in an hour, which it is perfectly capable of.

However, the October 7th Massacre has all the hallmarks of genocide. Terrorists deliberately invaded residential areas, moved from house to house, executed brutally or kidnapped all of the civilians that were there, and burned the houses to make sure there weren't any survivors. There's also a plethora of evidence, many of which were provided by Hamas itself, that the civilian population was targeted intentionally.

Sources:

<https://www.worlddata.info/asia/palestine/populationgrowth.php>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/eu-condemns-hamas-using-hospitals-human-shields-urges-israeli-restraint-2023-11-12/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_the_State_of_Palestine

<https://oct7map.com/>

Q: Israel commits ethnic cleansing.

R: The claim that Israel commits ethnic cleansing has no grounds. The population of Israel consists of 73.5% Jews, 21% Arabs, and 5.5% are classified as other minorities. If Israel were to commit ethnic cleansing we would expect to see 100% Jews in Israel. In fact, this is exactly the situation in Muslim countries. It is estimated that more than 850,000 Jews used to live in Muslim countries prior to the establishment of the state of Israel. However, they were often persecuted and attacked in Pogroms, such as the Shiraz Pogrom (Iran, 1910), Farhud (Iraq, 1941), and the 1948 Cairo Bombings. Jews, like other minorities, were also discriminated against in Muslim countries. For example, they had to pay the Jizya, a special tax unless they converted to Islam.

Many Jews were forced to convert to Islam or hide their Jewish identity, and eventually, many of them were expelled or fled to Israel. As a result, nowadays there are 0 Jews in almost all Muslim countries.

For instance, by World War 1 the Jews accounted for one-third of Iraq's population, and it is estimated that 120,000 Jews lived in Iraq by 1936. In addition to the Pogroms, the Iraqi government actively engaged in ethnic cleansing of Jews. In 1950, Iraqi Jews were permitted to leave the country within a year provided they forfeited their citizenship. A year later, however, the property of Jews who emigrated was frozen and economic restrictions were placed on Jews who chose to remain in the country.

It's also important to recognize that Israel is a very diverse place, which holds many minorities: Druze, Bedouin, Circassians, Baha'is, Samaritans, Assyrians, Armenians, Arameans, and Ethiopian Jews. All of these minorities' rights are protected by the law and they are given freedom of religion.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Israel

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Iraq

Q: Israel committed ethnic cleansing in 1948

R: This is a false and misleading claim.

Ethnic cleansing is the systematic forced removal of ethnic, racial, or religious groups from a given area, with the intent of making a region ethnically homogeneous.

Israel's population is exceptionally diverse; 73.5% are Jews, 21% are Arabs, and 5.5% are other minorities, such as Druze, Bedouin, Samaritans, Armenians, and more. The numbers speak for themselves.

In addition during the 1948 war most Arabs fled to the neighboring countries to guarantee their safety. Like any other war near civilian populations in modern history, many people became refugees and sought shelter elsewhere. For instance, approximately 6 million refugees left Ukraine during its latest war with Russia. Does that mean Russia ethnically cleansed Ukrainians? Of course not! Unfortunately, mass immigration on behalf of refugees is quite common during times of war.

Furthermore, many Arabs left at the request of the Arab leaders, who promised them they could return after the Jews lost the war. For instance, Palestinian leader Haj Amin al-Husseini insisted that the Arab citizens of Haifa had to leave, lest they help legitimize the Jewish state.

If Israel were to commit ethnic cleansing of Arabs, there wouldn't be millions of Arabs in Israel that amount to **a fifth of its population**. Israeli Arabs today constitute an important pillar of Israeli society and live equally alongside Jews.

It's important to recognize that the local Arabs have started the 1948 war alongside 5 other Arab countries that attacked Israel. Therefore inherently many of them who fled weren't allowed to return. That is what war is all about - when you start and lose a war, you have to deal with the consequences. There's a big difference between actively pushing to cleanse the population from an ethnic group, and not allowing the return of a potentially hostile population which would lead to the destruction of the Jewish state.

If Jews were to lose the war, there wouldn't be any Jews left in Israel. In fact, Abdul Rahman Hassan Azzam, the Secretary-General of the Arab League from 1945 to 1952, declared in 1947 that if a war were to take place with the proposed establishment of a Jewish state, it would lead to "a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacre and the Crusades."

Moreover, Muslim countries have systematically ethnically cleansed Jews. There used to be more than 850,000 Jews in Muslim countries, but in almost all Muslim countries there are barely any Jews left nowadays, as almost all Jews were expelled or fled from the Pogroms and the persecution.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Israel

<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-743153>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Anti-Jewish_pogroms_by_Muslims

Q: Israel commits war crimes against the Palestinians.

R: The IDF goes to great lengths to minimize civilian casualties as much as possible. It has dispersed millions of leaflets in Gaza calling for civilians to evacuate weeks before the ground invasion and also sent millions of text messages and recorded phone calls warning civilians. Israel has been using these methods for more than a decade, even when it compromised its military objectives.

Furthermore, Hamas has a long track record of using Palestinians as human shields. Hamas has terror bases and tunnels in residential facilities such as hospitals, schools, and mosques because of the protection they receive from international law, knowing that if Israel attacks

these areas it will face international backlash. In 2021, Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar even admitted there are indeed Hamas bases in civilian areas, and pledged that he would move them elsewhere. Unfortunately, this was an empty promise to the people of Gaza. It's important to emphasize that putting your own civilians at risk in such a devious way is against international law, and even constitutes a war crime.

It's also important to mention that while Hamas has built a vast tunnel network that's estimated to have cost hundreds of millions to billions of dollars, it also hasn't spent any money to build shelters to protect the people of Gaza. In fact, In an interview with Russia Today's Arabic channel, when asked why Hamas has dug over 500 kilometers of tunnels in Gaza but never built a single shelter for civilians, Hamas official Moussa Abu Marzouk declared that Hamas is not responsible for the safety of the citizens of Gaza; instead, he pointed to Israel and the UN as being responsible for them.

Hamas also committed severe war crimes and crimes against humanity on October 7th when it deliberately targeted, slaughtered, kidnapped, raped, mutilated, and executed Israeli civilians, including babies and children.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/eu-condemns-hamas-using-hospitals-human-shields-urges-israeli-restraint-2023-11-12/>

▶ IDF Transfer of Medical Supplies to Shifa Hospital in Gaza

▶ WATCH: Israel drops leaflets telling Gaza City residents to flee south

▶ IDF Calls Off Airstrike

<https://x.com/MOSSADil/status/1734105548478410909?s=20>

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Q: The Jews are White colonists from Europe.

R: This is a completely false statement. Jews, as their name suggests, originate from the old kingdom of Judea and hence they are native to the land. Over time, many ancient empires conquered the land of Israel, and most of the Jews were expelled or forced to convert to other religions.

In the 20th century, most Jews fled to Israel after they were persecuted and massacred - most notably in Europe (the holocaust) but also in Muslim countries. They were refugees and sought shelter in the Jewish communities in Israel. They didn't "colonize" the land.

Furthermore, even though most Jews were exiled, some managed to stay. There were always Jewish communities in Israel in many locations, most notably Jerusalem, Tiberias, Safed, Beit Sha'an, Be'er Sheva, and Bene Berak. There is a plethora of archeological artifacts which confirm that.

DNA studies have also shown that there's a clear distinction between the genetic code of Jews and Europeans, including Ashkenazi Jews. Studies have concluded that most Jews indeed have DNA sequences that are present only in the Middle-Eastern population and the Levant region. Other studies asserted that most Jews and Arabs are closely related, while others showed proximity to other Middle Eastern groups such as Turks and Armenians. Some researchers claim that these results are aligned with historical accounts that suggest some Muslim Arabs descend from Jews and Christians who converted to Islam.

In addition, more than half of the Jews are not even of European heritage. Many Jews were expelled or fled from Muslim countries to Israel and some Jews even arrived from Ethiopia. There was even a big Jewish community in India for thousands of years. Jews are Semite, not Europeans - Israeli Jews even speak Hebrew - an ancient Semite language that shares similarities with Arabic.

Furthermore, The diaspora Jews never forgot the holy land, and they dreamt of returning home. Many songs were written about it. For instance, Rabbi Yehuda Halevi (1075-1141), one of the most known Jewish philosophers of all times wrote the song "צִיּוֹן, הֲלֹא תִשָּׂאֲלִי" where he expresses his longing to return to Israel. Furthermore, Israel is deeply embedded in Judaism; one of the most known prayers in Judaism is "לשנה הבאה בירושלים", which means "Next year in Jerusalem", since the diaspora Jews longed to return to the holy land. Most of the Jewish holidays are also related to Israel's history and holy sites.

In conclusion, Jews have a deep historical and religious connection to Israel. They maintained a presence in the land for thousands of years and therefore they are certainly the natives of the land, by any standard.

Sources:

DNA Studies:

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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1274378/>

<https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/2014-11-13/ty-article/.premium/75-percent-of-jews-trace-ancestry-to-mideast/0000017f-df85-d3a5-af7f-ffa4c4d30000>

<https://www.science.org/content/article/jews-and-arabs-share-recent-ancestry>

Jews in Muslim countries:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Anti-Jewish_pogroms_by_Muslims

Israel & Judaism:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanukkah>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sukkot>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_and_Judaism_in_the_Land_of_Israel

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_in_Judaism

Q: Israel killed its own civilians on October 7th, not Hamas.

R: This is absolutely false. There is an overwhelming of graphic footage of the atrocities Hamas committed on October 7th - much of it was filmed by the bodycams of the terrorists, and even posted by Hamas in their Telegram channels at the beginning of the war.

There are also hundreds, if not thousands of testimonies of survivors from the different massacre sites.

The long trail of burnt cars and bodies near the Nova Festival was also not a result of "Apache airstrikes". There is footage and testimonies from the site that prove unequivocally that Hamas members shot, burnt, threw grenades, and launched RPG missiles at the cars. Footage also shows Hamas terrorists confirming the death of civilians they shot several times. Some partygoers from the Festival were also slaughtered when hiding in bomb shelters by Hamas.

Sources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/11/world/middleeast/israel-hamas-oct-7-attack-shelter.html>
<https://www.october7.org/nova-festival-massacre>
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<https://nypost.com/2023/10/13/hamas-targeted-bedouins-during-weekend-attack-community-member-says/>

Graphic footage of the atrocities:

<https://www.thisishamas.com/>
<https://hamasisisis.co/>
<https://www.hamas.com>
<https://t.me/s/hamasdid>
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Q: Israel is a colonial state, always wanting to expand its territory.

R: After the decline of the Roman and Byzantine empires, the Land of Israel fell under other foreign powers: the Muslim Arabs (636-1099 CE), the Christian Crusaders (1099-1291), the Mameluks (1291-1516), the Ottoman Empire (1516-1917), and the British Mandate (1917-1948).

Israel is not a colonial state since the Jews are indigenous to the land of Israel. Even though many Jews were exiled or forced to convert to Christianity or Islam by foreign occupiers, there have always been Jewish communities in Israel, for thousands of years. For instance, the Jewish communities in Jerusalem, Safed, Hebron, Tiberias, Haifa, Acre, Jaffa, and Bene Berak. Therefore it does not align with the core definition of colonialism. Also, Palestinian territories in the West Bank and in Gaza have been “Jew-free” for decades, and they govern themselves.

In addition, Israel doesn't have ambitions to expand its territory. In the peace treaty that Israel signed in 1979, it relinquished the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. It means that Israel has forfeited more than half of its territory for the peace deal. In 1993, as part of the Oslo Accords, Israel formally began its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area of the West Bank and in 2005 it unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip. In 2008, Israeli PM Ehud Olmert even offered a two-state solution to the Palestinians that grants them more than 95% of the West Bank, but President Abbas refused.

If Israel wanted to expand its territories, it wouldn't have given so much land back in favor of peace.

Sources:

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<https://www.timesofisrael.com/abbas-admits-he-rejected-2008-peace-offer-from-olmert/>

Q: The number of Palestinians killed is much higher than Israelis, which proves that Israel is the aggressor.

R: The number of casualties in wars does not attest to the moral differences between the two sides and does not determine who's right and who's wrong. In addition, not every conflict in history fits the "aggressor-oppressed" narrative, and the fixation to label conflicts based on that mindset does not align with reality.

For instance, in World War Two, it is estimated that 6-8 Million Germans died, but only 450,000 British lost their lives. Does that the British were the oppressor and the Nazis were oppressed? Of course not!

Many more ISIS terrorists have died than US Soldiers in the last decade. Does that mean the US oppresses ISIS?

This logic fails when reviewing most of the conflicts in human history since the strong side isn't necessarily "evil" and the weak side isn't inherently "good".

If we go back to the war between Hamas and Israel, Hamas uses its own civilians as human shields and prevents them from leaving the danger zones. It spent Billions of dollars of humanitarian aid on terror activities instead of on severe property and building bomb shelters to protect the people of Gaza when it provokes wars against Israel. They are responsible for Palestinian deaths since they use their civilians as cannon fodder instead of protecting them.

In an interview with Russia Today's Arabic channel, when asked why Hamas has dug over 500 kilometers of tunnels in Gaza but never built a single shelter for civilians, Hamas official Moussa Abu Marzouk declared that Hamas is not responsible for the safety of the citizens of Gaza; instead, he pointed to Israel and the UN as being responsible for them.

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 Hamas Official Mousa Abu Marzouk: Gaza Tunnels Were Built to Protect Hamas Fight...

<https://www.memri.org/reports/hamas-official-mousa-abu-marzouk-tunnels-gaza-were-built-protect-hamas-fighters-not>

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<https://twitter.com/i/status/1732539753227051327>

Q: Gaza is an open-air prison.

R: This is a misleading and false statement.

Gaza is not an open-air prison. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, and the territory is now under the control of Hamas, a terrorist organization.

It's important to recognize that the restrictions on movement into and out of Gaza are in place for security reasons, as Hamas has repeatedly launched attacks on Israel. These measures are necessary to protect Israeli citizens from terrorism and to prevent the smuggling of weapons by Hamas.

Gaza also has an international border with Egypt, which is also restricted by Egypt. These restrictions are not indicative of an occupation but rather reflect the reality of living in a volatile region with ongoing security concerns.

However, unlike Egypt, in recent years Israel has allowed the entrance of tens of thousands of Gazan workers every day, to improve the economy of Gaza. Furthermore, many sick patients in Gaza are given treatment in Israeli hospitals, especially Oncologic patients.

Sources:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/tens-of-thousands-in-gaza-line-up-for-israeli-work-permits-as-rumors-swirl/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_workers_in_Israel

Q: Israel is an Apartheid.

R: Apartheid refers to the implementation and maintenance of a system of legalized racial segregation in which one racial group is deprived of political and civil rights.

Israel is not an Apartheid since everyone gets equal rights by law - Jews, Arabs, and many more minorities such as Druze and Bedouin.

First of all, there is no segregation between Jews and Arabs in public spaces, such as public transportation, academia, schools, libraries, malls, etc. Arabs also vote in the election and they have representatives in the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament. Supreme Court judge Salim Joubran is a prime example of that, as he even sent an Israeli prime minister to Jail.

The Arab society also contributes significantly to the Israeli health system. A degree in medicine is considered to be the most prestigious and difficult to obtain in Israel, and according to a 2021 report by the Israeli Health Ministry, 46% of the new doctors in Israel are either Arab or Druze. And if that's not enough, more than one-third of the pharmacists in Israel are Arab. Some Arabs even enlist in the IDF. Other minorities such as Druze and even some Bedouins enlist as well, even though many of them are Muslim.

Furthermore, equality is rooted deep in the very document that dictates the essence of the Jewish country. According to Israel's Declaration of Independence, each person is equal to the law and must not be discriminated against by race, religion, or sex.

It's important to emphasize like anywhere in the world, Israel isn't perfect, and if you're looking to find issues you will probably find them. However, the Arabs in Israel are treated significantly better than other Arabs in the Middle East who are dying by the millions due to constant wars, and are extremely poor.

To sum things up, Israel is a democratic country and none of the characteristics of Apartheid apply to it, and therefore it is most certainly not an Apartheid.

Sources:

▶ Arab-Israelis: Where Would You Rather Live?

▶ Yoseph Haddad went all the way to South Africa to find out what apartheid is and what...

▶ Arab Muslim Speaks About Her Life in Israel

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Q: The settlements in the West Bank prove that Israel does not want peace.

R: While the settlements in the West Bank are an obstacle to the peace process, they are not the main barrier to the peace process.

From 1949 to 1967, Israel did not have any settlements and Palestinians still committed terror attacks against Jewish cities. Even if Israel pulls out of all the settlements in the West Bank it is extremely unlikely that anything will change. In fact, history proves otherwise. Israel pulled out all the settlements from Gaza in 2005 and gave Gaza to the Palestinians. They immediately elected Hamas to govern Hamas, an organization that stands for the destruction of Israel. Even today, most Palestinians don't even recognize the right of the Jewish state to exist and a decisive majority supports Hamas and the October 7th Massacre, according to surveys conducted by Birzeit University weeks following the beginning of the 2023 Gaza War.

Hamas and the PA also indoctrinate young Palestinians to despise Jews, and they actively train them to be terrorists and to "liberate" ALL of Israel from the Jews. In fact, the situation is so dire that if a Jew tries to enter any of the Palestinian territories he will be immediately lynched by an angry mob.

That's why to achieve peace, the Palestinian society must go through a process of de-radicalization, and murderous terror organizations such as Hamas need to step out. Once the corrupt and violent extremists are out of the picture, all of the money directed to terror can be spent to create prosperity rather than poverty, chaos, and war among the Palestinians.

Sources:

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/palestinian-territories/1700158968-survey-finds-majority-in-the-west-bank-justify-the-oct-7-massacre>

▶ **Inside the Gaza Summer Camps Training Children to be the Next Generation of Terrori...**

▶ **Children in Hamas TV Kids' Show: Criminal Jews Plotting to Replace Al-Aqsa Mosque ...**

<https://www.memri.org/tv/hamas-tv-childrens-show-encourages-killing-jews>

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▶ **Are Israeli Settlements the Barrier to Peace?**

Q: Israel is imposing collective punishment on Gazan civilians which is a war crime.

R: Israel is not imposing collective punishment on Gazan civilians, Hamas does. Israel has done everything in its power to avoid civilian casualties, while Hamas did the exact opposite. Israel has sent warnings for civilians in danger zones to evacuate for two weeks, while Hamas reportedly threatened the lives of civilians who wanted to flee.

It's important to remember that Hamas embedded itself within civilian sites such as hospitals and schools in residential areas, actively using the people of Gaza as human shields. This is a severe war crime since the whole point of the rules of war is to get civilians as much further from the war as possible. According to some reports from the Gaza Strip, civilians who fled south were even shot dead by Hamas-affiliated gunmen. In addition, Hamas holds a great amount of fuel, food, and water in the vast tunnel system its members are hiding in. As Hamas official Abu-Marzuk said: "Gaza tunnels built to protect Hamas, not civilians". He also said, "It's the responsibility of Israel and the UN to protect the civilians in Gaza".

Hamas also has a long track record of abusing humanitarian aid to facilitate terror activities. For instance, at the beginning of the war, Hamas stole approximately 24,000 liters of fuel from UNRWA. Recordings released by the IDF also show that if you have ties to Hamas you can get your hands on fuel, even though it is needed in the hospitals. In addition, Hamas imposes collective punishment on its people by starting a war it knows beforehand will lead to vast devastation in Gaza, and refusing to release all of the 240 hostages in return for much greater humanitarian aid. It's also important to mention that taking civilian hostages is also a war crime.

Sources:

▶ **WATCH: Israel drops leaflets telling Gaza City residents to flee south**

▶ **IDF Transfer of Medical Supplies to Shifa Hospital in Gaza**

▶ **#hamas prevents Gaza #hospital from receiving fuel**

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<https://vinnews.com/2023/12/10/horrors-of-captivity-revealed-mayas-foot-attached-wrongly-it-ai-operated-without-anesthesia/>

Q: Israel's war on Gaza is disproportionate.

R: Proportionality in war is fundamentally deeply immoral. Israel has to do everything it takes to make sure Hamas cannot ever commit such an attack against its civilians - This is its duty as a sovereign state. If Israel holds back and allows Hamas to keep existing, the next war is simply a matter of time, and who knows how many casualties it will cost?

Article 51 of the UN charter, which governs the use of force, gives states the right of self-defense, provided the force they use is necessary and proportionate. Proportionality is not about inflicting symmetrical harm. It means the defending state cannot use more force than is needed to respond to a threat. Legal experts argue that Israel has considerable scope to respond to Hamas' October 7 attack and that its stated aim to "destroy" Hamas can be justified under international law.

The notion of proportionality in this particular situation is also quite ridiculous. If you truly believe in proportionality, Israel should brutally execute more than a thousand Gazan civilians. Behead and burn the EXACT number of children and babies in Gaza, rape the EXACT number of women, kill the exact number of husbands in front of their kids, and kidnap 240 Gazans hostages. It also has to launch the EXACT number of rockets on Gaza's civilian population without notice and without even caring if Hamas is there or not.

Imagine if there was proportionality in other wars in the past. Do you expect the Jews to murder 6 million Germans in gas chambers? Of course not!

In the end, Hamas is a genocidal terrorist organization that tries to force a war on the whole Middle East and it is very much proportionate to get rid of it to have any chance for a future peace deal.

Sources:

<https://legal.un.org/repertory/art51.shtml>

Q: The hostages were treated well by Hamas

R: This is a completely false and ridiculous claim.

The hostages were kidnapped from their homes while their families and communities were slaughtered, often in front of their eyes. Video footage from October 7th shows the hitting of the hostages on the way to Gaza by Palestinians and even the apparent killing of some hostages.

In addition, Some hostages had severe injuries as they were shot or thrown grenades at by the terrorists. However, they were not granted adequate medical attention. Other hostages reported being treated by veterinarians and operated on without anesthesia. Others testified that Gazan doctors wouldn't accept Jews.

For example, Mia Regev (21) was shot by Hamas in the leg. She was operated on in Gaza and her leg was connected "the wrong way" according to Israeli physicians.

Since they were kidnapped, Hamas has also denied the Red Cross access to the hostages in violation of international law. Taking civilian hostages is also a war crime. Hamas also kidnapped bodies of people they have murdered, to use them as a bargaining chip in negotiations. Graphic footage from October 7th shows that bodies of Israeli victims and soldiers were spat on, kicked by angry Palestinian mobs, and even beheaded.

Furthermore, Many hostages described conditions of malnutrition and even near-starvation conditions. Philippine citizen Jimmy Pacheco testified that, for some time, he and the other hostages only got briny water and half a pita a day. To survive, he collected pieces of toilet paper and moistened them with humidity that accumulated on the tunnel's walls, before eating them.

In addition, Hamas also reportedly drugged some hostages so they appear happier and more exuberant, according to Israeli physicians. They also threatened them to wave and smile at them, which was also recorded on camera. It's also important to note that many if not all of the hostages had family members and friends that were still in the hands of Hamas, when they were released. Therefore, their loved ones might probably be severely punished or even murdered for any disobedience on their behalf.

If that's not enough, even children who were released from Hamas captivity reported physical and mental abuse. For instance, the aunt of Eitan Yahalomi (12) said Hamas forced him to watch videos of atrocities and aimed a gun at him and the other children when they cried.

This matches other testimonies of children, that were reportedly scared to speak loud and only whispered after they came back home.

Sources:

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 EXCLUSIVE: Liberated Hamas Hostage Details Horrific Treatment: 'My Strength Cam...'

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▶ Doctor describes abuses suffered by Hamas hostages

▶ Hostages were drugged, abused in Gaza: Israeli doctor | ABS-CBN News

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▶ Hamas Militants Live Stream Israeli Hostages' Plea Before Whisking Them Into Gaza |...

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Q: Hamas doesn't exist in the West Bank.

R: Hamas does have a presence in the West Bank, although it is not as prominent as it is in the Gaza Strip. While the Palestinian Authority governs the West Bank, Hamas has many supporters and sympathizers in the region.

In fact, according to a recent poll carried out by Birzeit University, 68% in the West Bank strongly supported the October 7th massacre, while another 16 percent supported it to some extent. Asked about their view of various entities, respondents answered overwhelmingly in support of the military wings of the terrorist organizations; Palestinian Islamic Jihad with 84%; al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades with 80%, and al-Qassam Brigades with the highest 89%, though Hamas as a whole received a lower 76%.

It's also important to note that Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad have committed a large number of attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers in the last 30 years, ranging from mass shootings and suicide bombings to stabbing Jews on the streets. In fact, the attacks were so severe and frequent that Israel had to carry out a full-scale invasion of the West Bank in Operation Defensive Shield (2002) during the second Intifada.

Sources:

▶ School students call to murder Jews, "strike and burn Tel Aviv," "blow up the Zionist's h..."

▶ Whoever has a rifle, "shoot a Jew, or give it to Hamas!"

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Palestinian Terror Attacks:

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolphinarium_discotheque_massacre

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ma%27alot_massacre

Q: Israel attacks Al Aqsa Mosque and discriminates Muslims there.

R: Israel doesn't attack Al Aqsa Mosque, the police respond to violent riots there where Molotov cocktails and stones are thrown. At the request of the Muslims, only Muslims are allowed to pray in the Al Aqsa compound. Jews and Christians are forbidden from praying there, and they are arrested if caught. In that sense, Jews are discriminated against, as they are not allowed to pray in the Temple Mount, the holiest place of Judaism in the world.

Palestinian terror groups have been claiming Israel is trying to destroy the Al Aqsa Mosque for decades to trigger public outrage and escalation and to brand themselves as the protectors of Islam. However, Israel has proved for decades that it has no intentions to change the status quo in the Mosque.

In fact, in recent years Hamas as fired rockets into Jerusalem for several times in the proximity of the Al-Aqsa mosque. One of the rockets could easily hit the mosque. Israel actually defended the mosque and the people of Jerusalem, by intercepting the aforementioned rockets.

Sources:

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Q: More than 20,000 innocent Palestinians were killed, 40% of them are children.

R: The data you're referring to is provided by the Health Ministry of Gaza, which Hamas runs. Hamas is a genocidal terror organization and therefore the data it provides is not reliable. For instance, Hamas reported that Israel had bombed the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza and claimed within minutes that there were 500 casualties. Besides the fact that you simply cannot count so many casualties in minutes, we later found out that the blast was a result of a failed rocket launch by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group, and that the real number of casualties is around 10-50 people. It's important to recognize that at least 20% of the rocket launches from the Gaza Strip fall into Gaza, resulting in at least 1000 rockets that rained upon the citizens of Gaza since the beginning of the war.

In addition, **Hamas is to blame for all of the casualties in Gaza.** First of all, **it initiated the war** when it brutally massacred a thousand civilians, kidnapped hundreds, and injured thousands more. It knew what reaction it would trigger from Israel, and it chose to proceed anyway.

Moreover, there is concrete evidence that **Hamas uses civilians as human shields;** Hamas has terror bases inside hospitals, it stores weapons and launches missiles from hospitals, schools, mosques, and the homes of civilians, it threatened the lives of people in Gaza not to leave the fighting zone, blocked and attacked the humanitarian corridor Israel

has provided and according to some reports it even executed Gazan civilians fleeing to the southern of the Gaza Strip and stole fuel from hospitals in Gaza. **The US Government has confirmed that Hamas uses hospitals as terror bases and the EU publicly condemned Hamas' use of hospitals for military purposes.**

In addition, according to the latest reports from the IDF, it has struck more than 20,000 targets in Gaza from the beginning of the war. **That means that even if you believe the data Hamas provided, on average less than one person died in each attack.**

Considering that Gaza is one of the most crowded places on Earth, it is an absolute miracle that there weren't hundreds of thousands of casualties. This attests to the extreme precision of the precautionary measures Israel takes to avoid civilian deaths.

Furthermore, as the sovereign party in Gaza, **Hamas is responsible for guaranteeing the safety of the people of Gaza.** It has the responsibility to protect its civilians from wars, which it publicly denounced. Hamas didn't build bomb shelters for the people of Gaza, nor did it let the civilians take shelter in the offensive tunnel system they've spent Billions on constructing. When confronted about it, Hamas official Abu Marzuk admitted in an interview with "Russia Today TV" that the tunnels were built to protect Hamas fighters, not civilians. He added that it is the responsibility of Israel and the UN to ensure the safety of the people of Gaza.

Sources:

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▶ Hamas Official Mousa Abu Marzouk: Gaza Tunnels Were Built to Protect Hamas Fight...

▶ Hamas terror leader admits they hide their military bases among civilians

Q: The IDF also uses its civilians as human shields since there are soldiers everywhere.

R: This is a baseless and ridiculous argument. It is correct that there are many soldiers in Israel because military service is mandatory, and obviously these soldiers are not denied entry from public spaces, like any other country in the world. However, the IDF has military bases that are separated from civilian residential areas, and it certainly doesn't operate from hospitals or schools.

However, Hamas has embedded itself inside residential urban areas and assimilated itself into the civilians. That's why a lot of Hamas terrorists also fight with civilian clothes, without uniforms. Hamas has reportedly also stored weapons inside hospitals, schools, and mosques. It also built tunnels and launched rockets toward Israel from their proximity.

Furthermore, It intentionally threatens its civilians and prevents them from leaving the fight zones and it steals vital humanitarian aid to its war efforts. Some reports and video footage

even suggest that at the beginning of the 2023 Gaza war, a group of civilians who fled south at the request of the IDF was executed by Hamas - shot on the side of the road.

Sources:

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Q: Israel is preventing essential supplies and is creating a humanitarian crisis in Gaza

R: Israel allows the entry of essential aid into Gaza to mitigate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and it is in its best interest so they can maintain support from its allies to continue their ground maneuver.

However, Hamas has stolen a significant portion of the humanitarian aid from civilians for its war efforts, and thus it has significantly aggravated the humanitarian crisis. These accusations are backed by an increasing amount of testimonies from Gazans and also video footage of Hamas actively claiming the aid. Most notably, Hamas stole at least 25,000 liters of fuel from UNRWA facilities at the beginning of the war. Fuel is crucial for operating vital places such as hospitals.

Furthermore, Israel has repeatedly warned the civilians of Gaza to evacuate from danger zones for their safety and opened protected humanitarian corridors to facilitate their evacuation to the south of the Gaza Strip in the first stages of the offensive maneuver. It even assigned troops and tanks to secure the corridor from repeated attacks by Hamas. Israel even agreed to short pauses in fighting to facilitate the evacuation of the civilians.

Sources:

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▶ WATCH: Israel drops leaflets telling Gaza City residents to flee south

Q: The blockade on Gaza is illegal

R:The claim that the blockade of Gaza is illegal is unfounded. Israel's actions are by international law and are a legitimate response to the ongoing threat posed by Hamas, a terrorist organization that seeks to destroy Israel. The blockade is a necessary measure to prevent the smuggling of weapons and materials that could be used to harm Israeli civilians.

Under international law, states have the right to protect their borders and ensure the safety and security of their citizens. According to Article 51 in the United Nations Charter, Israel has the right to defend itself and its civilians from armed attacks by Hamas. Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have put great effort to smuggle weapons for terror activities, as recognized by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1860, which called for intensified international efforts to prevent the illicit trafficking of weapons into Gaza.

In addition, Israel has made efforts to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, despite the ongoing conflict. It has allowed the transfer of food, medicine, and other essential supplies while maintaining strict security measures to prevent weapons smuggling. In recent years Israel even allowed the entrance of tens of thousands of Gazan workers every day to its territories to improve Gaza's struggling economy.

It is also important to mention that Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, dismantling all settlements and uprooting thousands of Israeli citizens in the process. The blockade was imposed as a response to the subsequent increase in terrorist attacks from Gaza, including the firing of thousands of rockets into Israeli civilian areas.

Furthermore, Egypt also shares a border with Gaza and it also restricts any entrance from Gaza. If Egypt decided to open its borders, there wouldn't be a blockade on Gaza. Therefore it is nonsensical to blame solely Israel for the ongoing situation. In fact, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza could be solved rather quickly if Egypt were to accept Gazan refugees and the economic crisis in Gaza could be resolved if it permits the entrance of Gazan workers to its territories.

Sources:

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Palestinian_suicide_attacks

Q: Israel is using illegal phosphorus bombs in Gaza

R: According to International Law, the use of white phosphorus in wars is legal when it is used as a “smoke screen”. For instance, to hinder visibility and by that prevent tanks from being hit with anti-tank missiles. The IDF usually refrains from using white phosphorus on the battlefield, but when it is used, it’s only after special approval from International law Lawyers. It’s important to recognize that unlike the terror organization Hamas, the Israeli military does its best to abide by international law, and it has legal boundaries that limit its activities.

Q: Israel is committing war crimes by attacking hospitals.

R: Under international humanitarian law, intentionally directing attacks against hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected is prohibited, **provided they are not used for military objectives** (according to Article 19 in the Geneva Conventions). However, there is an overwhelming amount of evidence that suggests Hamas is using hospitals for military purposes. Hamas uses hospitals and sites close to hospitals to store weapons and launch missiles at Israeli cities, which is a severe war crime.

Despite many false claims, Israel did not strike any hospital in Gaza from the air, while the Brazilai hospital in Ashkelon was hit several times during a Hamas rocket attack.

That’s why the hospitals in Gaza became crowded with refugees - since they knew Israel wouldn’t attack there.

The Israelis also provided more than two weeks for the Al-Shifa hospital staff and patients to evacuate to other hospitals, while it is only a matter of hours or days.

However, after all the civilians are evacuated, Israel will have to make sure there aren’t any terrorists in the hospitals, or below them in the tunnels - which is perfectly valid by international law.

Sources:

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<https://youtu.be/rRra0hvjAL0>

▶ Voice From Gaza Ep. 10: A Palestinian Patient At Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital Tells Us Wh...

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1724058426932621764>

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▶ A Gaza hospital director exposed Hamas during a Shin Bet interrogation

https://x.com/Franke_schrijft/status/1725037285249306726?s=20

Q: Jews and Muslims lived in peace in Palestine before 1948.

R: Jews and Muslims in Israel were fighting long before the 1948 war, which predates hundreds of years earlier. For instance, **the 1834 looting of Safed** was a series of pogroms

that Muslim and Druze Arabs committed against the Jewish community in Safed. All of the property of the community was stolen, and many women were raped, injured, and even murdered.

In 1920 a series of attacks were launched against Jewish towns in the Galil and on Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem. 6 Jews were killed and approximately 200 were injured. During the attacks, a lot of property was stolen, and synagogues were torched. The attacks were named "**The 1920 Nebi Musa Riots**", and in Hebrew: "מאורעות תר"פ"

In 1929, dozens of Jews were killed in **the 1920 Palestine riots**, where the Jewish community in Hebron was annihilated due to the **Hebron Massacre**.

In the years 1936-1939, **the Arab revolt** took place against the Jews and the British. 630 Jews were murdered and around 2000 were injured. The Jewish resistance movements retaliated and the British Mandate tried to suppress the revolt.

Claiming that Jews and Arabs lived in peace before 1948 is nonsensical and completely oblivious to historical facts.

Sources:

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1929_Palestine_riots

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1929_Hebron_massacre

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1938_Tiberias_massacre

Q: Israel should agree to a ceasefire with Hamas

R: A prolonged ceasefire with Hamas will enable it to rearm and regroup and therefore to pose a threat to IDF forces on the ground and to Israeli civilians. Hamas has declared time and time again that its goal is to destroy the state of Israel and to kill or expel all of the Jews inside it. It has proven that it has no intention whatsoever to stop attacking Israel and preventing peace in the region. A temporary ceasefire will achieve nothing in that sense since it will only delay the next war, which might be far more deadlier.

In fact, according to Article 13 in Hamas' Charter, there won't be any peace with Israel and the only way is Jihad and terrorism. Other Articles of the charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the killing of all Jews.

Israel must remove this threat from its borders to protect its civilians from terrorism and to achieve long-lasting peace in the region. According to Article 51 in the United Nations Charter, Israel has the right to defend itself and its civilians from armed attacks by Hamas.

It's important to note that 240 Israeli and foreign civilians were taken hostage by Hamas in Gaza, and the IDF must deploy any legal military action at its disposal to bring them home. Hamas also continues to launch rockets at residential areas in Israel, deliberately trying to

cause civilian casualties - which adds to the long list of war crimes and crimes against humanity it has committed on both Jews and Palestinians.

A ceasefire is not possible as long as Israeli hostages are being held in Gaza and before the threat to Israeli civilians is removed.

In addition, in accordance with International law Israel has already agreed to many humanitarian pauses in fighting to allow civilian movement from the fighting zones. Israel also allowed more than a hundred trucks with humanitarian aid to enter Gaza through the Rafah passage. The IDF has reportedly also offered to provide fuel and other vital equipment to hospitals in Gaza.

Sources:

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

▶ Hamas Official Ghazi Hamad: We Will Repeat the October 7 Attack Again Until Israel I...

▶ Senior Hamas Official: I Promise that a War of Liberation Is Coming Soon, Not Just An...

▶ There was a ceasefire, Hamas broke it on October 7th

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1734355405516460189>

<https://legal.un.org/repertory/art51.shtml>

Q: Israel should try making peace with Hamas / The Palestinians

R: It is impossible to have peace with fundamentalist Islamic terrorist organizations such as Hamas and ISIS. According to Hamas' Charter, Article 13, there will be no negotiations and peace with Israel, since Jihad is the only way. Article 7 references a hadith in Islam which states the judgment day will only come when the Muslims fight and kill the Jews. Article 22 Makes sweeping claims about Jewish influence and power. It specifically claims that the Jews were responsible for instigating multiple revolutions and wars, including the French Revolution, World War I, and the Russian Revolution. It also claims that Jews control the United Nations.

Hamas official also expressed their genocidal intentions toward Israel on many occasions. For instance, recently Ghazi Hamad, a senior Hamas official congratulated the October 7th massacre and pledged 'there will be a second, a third, a fourth (massacre)'. In 2019, Hamas political leader Fathi Hammad called for the genocide of Jews in the entire world: "...we must attack every Jew on the globe by way of slaughter and killing if God permits."

According to recent polls, most Palestinians support Hamas.

Israel has tried making peace with the Palestinians on several occasions and has agreed to make significant concessions. In the **2000 Camp David Peace Talks**, Prime Minister Barak offered Palestinians an ambitious peace package that included far-reaching concessions on Jerusalem, borders, settlements, refugees, and other issues. Barak's offer reportedly included: an Israeli redeployment from as much as 95 percent of the West Bank and 100 percent of the Gaza Strip and the creation of a Palestinian state in these areas; the uprooting of isolated Jewish settlements in the areas to be transferred to Palestinian control;

Palestinian control over parts of Jerusalem; and “religious sovereignty” over the Temple Mount. **The PA declined the offer.**

In 2008, The PA again refused a peace offer by Israel which included near-total withdrawal from the West Bank and relinquishing Israeli control of Jerusalem’s Old City.

Sources:

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

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Q: Israel is treating Christians poorly / Jews spit on Christians in Israel

R: Christians are being treated equally in Israel in Israel, like everyone. It is illegal in Israel to discriminate against a person because of his religion, race, or gender as stated clearly in Israel’s Declaration of Independence, the closest thing Israel has to a constitution. Christians are also free to practice their religion and visit all of the holy sites in Israel. Freedom of religion is a fundamental human right that everyone in Israel is granted.

The claim that Jews treat Christians poorly stems from several recent incidents where radical extremist Jews spit on Christians in Jerusalem. These incidents don’t represent the Israeli public or the Orthodox community.

Following the incidents, the police arrested the offenders and these hate crimes were condemned by the entire Israeli society. Even the Chief Rabbis who are known for their radical viewpoints have firmly condemned the phenomenon. Rabbi Yitzhak Yousef, the Chief Sephardic Rabbi even said this kind of behavior is blasphemy. Many Rabbis from the “Religious Zionism” party have signed a message claiming it is an “abomination to morality and religion” and added: “Haven’t we learned anything from how we were treated?”.

The incidents have also sparked such an outrage in Israeli society that it reached the top headlines in the news and even forced PM Netanyahu to condemn the incidents.

Sources:

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-761609>

Q: Israel has no right to defend itself

R: Article 51 of the UN charter, which governs the use of force, gives states the right of self-defense, provided the force they use is necessary and proportionate. Proportionality is not about inflicting symmetrical harm. It means the defending state cannot use more force than is needed to respond to a threat.

Legal experts argue that Israel has considerable scope to respond to Hamas' October 7 attack and that its stated aim to "destroy" Hamas can be justified under international law.

Source:

<https://legal.un.org/repertory/art51.shtml>

Q: The Law of Return is a grave injustice to the Palestinians / It proves that there is apartheid

R: The law of return allows Jews all around the world to acquire Israeli citizenship and live in Israel. It is legitimate because Israel is inherently a Jewish state, or to be more precise, the ONLY Jewish state in the world.

Throughout history, Jews have been massacred and persecuted in a variety of places and for a variety of excuses. After the holocaust and the Pogroms and ethnic cleansing in Muslim countries, it became clear without a shred of doubt that Jews are not safe anywhere in the world unless they acquire an autonomous state. The whole notion of the Jewish state is that Jews who are persecuted would be able to seek refuge in Israel.

It is not true that this law is discriminatory to the Palestinians for several reasons. First of all, Israel cannot receive Millions of Palestinians to its territories, because it would result in the end of the Jewish state and the destruction of Israel. As a responsible government, you cannot accept people who mostly want to destroy your country, into your country.

Furthermore, Palestinian Arabs are the ones who started the 1948 war. They did not accept the notion of a Jewish state living side by side with them, so they started a war to annihilate Israel with the help of 5 Arab armies. They attacked Jewish towns immediately after Israel declared its independence and refused to recognize the UN partition deal. When you start a war, that entails dealing with the consequences.

Abdul Rahman Hassan Azzam, the Secretary-General of the Arab League from 1945 to 1952, declared in 1947 that were a war to take place with the proposed establishment of a Jewish state, it would lead to "a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacre and the Crusades."

It's also important to recognize that this has nothing to do with apartheid.

Apartheid refers to a policy of segregation and political, social, and economic discrimination targeted at an ethnic group in a country. Israeli-Arabs get full rights in Israel and they coexist with the Jews in many places, but Arabs outside Israel are not entitled to anything as they are not Israeli citizens. Legally and logically, it does not satisfy the definition of an apartheid system.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azzam_Pasha_quotation

- ▶ Debunking the Palestine Lie
- ▶ The Palestinian Refugee Problem Explained (Nakba and the Arab narrative)
- ▶ Yoseph Haddad went all the way to South Africa to find out what apartheid is and what...
- ▶ Arab-Israelis: Where Would You Rather Live?
- ▶ The Ethnic Cleansing of Jews within Muslim Countries
- ▶ We are the Jews who Escaped Iraq

Q: Anti-Zionism is not Anti-Semitism

R: Zionism expresses the right of the Jewish people to live in their ancestral homeland, Israel.

Depriving the Jewish people of its religious and historical roots is inherently Anti-Semitic. It's important to emphasize that even though Jews were exiled, massacred, or forced to convert to different religions, there have always been Jews in Israel. The most notable and long-lasting Jewish communities were in Jerusalem, Safed, Tiberias, Hebron, Beit She'an, and Be'er Sheva.

Furthermore, history has shown time and time again that Jews are not safe in any country other than Israel. 6 million Jews were exterminated in Europe during World War 2, and 1 million Jews in Muslim countries were persecuted, killed in Pogroms or forced to convert to Islam. Today there are 0 Jews in most Muslim countries, a classic example of a systematic ethnical cleansing.

Even today Jews are attacked and persecuted in Europe and the US, with the surge of anti-semitic incidents disguised as Pro-Palestinian Nationalism. The Pro-Palestinian protests harbor violence, hate speech, and even Nazism, with calls such as: "Hitler knew how to deal with these people", "Gas the Jews" and "From the river to the sea". Jewish students on campuses have also been harassed and violently attacked for being Jewish, whereas at Cornell and Columbia universities students even received death threats from their peers.

Sources:

- ▶ The Ethnic Cleansing of Jews within Muslim Countries
- ▶ We are the Jews who Escaped Iraq
- ▶ My mother was from Iraq, My father from Egypt - Rachel's Story

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Pro-Israeli Arguments

A summary of pro-Israeli arguments to use in a debate.

- **Hamas is a terrorist organization - therefore it must be destroyed**
- **You cannot make peace with Hamas, since it doesn't want peace, as it has openly declared and proven time and time again.**
 - According to Article 13 in Hamas' Charter, There is no negotiated settlement possible. Jihad is the only answer.
 - Article 7 of the Hamas charter quotes a Hadith that encourages the killing of all Jews.
 - The Hamas Charter explicitly calls for the destruction of Israel by the Muslims.
- **Hamas' Attack on Israeli communities has all the hallmarks of genocide. The atrocities that took place surpass even those that ISIS has committed.**
- **Hamas is proud of the massacre, and it broadcasted the horrors on social media, especially on Telegram and Facebook Live. A lot of the footage was taken from their own bodycams, and Telegram channels.**
- **Hamas is using the people of Gaza as human shields, and therefore it is responsible for the civilian casualties.**
- **Hamas never hid its genocidal intentions regarding Jews, all around the world.**
According to Article 7 of the Hamas Charter, the Day Of Judgement will not come until the Muslims fight and kill the Jews.
- **In the October 7th Massacre, civilians were butchered brutally and indiscriminately - Kids, elderly, women, babies, and even Muslims!**
- **Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East, where everyone is granted equal rights regardless of sex, ethnicity, and religion.**
- **21% of Israelis are Arabs, who coexist with Jews and get full rights.**
- **You cannot trust Hamas / The information regarding the number of casualties in Gaza can't be trusted.**
 - Hamas is a terrorist organization. Terror organizations lie. If they have no problem butchering babies in their beds, they have no issue lying.
 - The Ministry of Health in Gaza which provides all the information regarding the casualties cannot be trusted, since it is run by Hamas.
- **Muslim Extremism is a worldwide problem.**
- **The "Free Palestine" movement is inherently anti-Semitic.**
- **Hamas indoctrinates children to terrorism and anti-semitism from a young age and it recruits teenagers as fighters**

- In Gaza, children learn to hate Israel and they train to be terrorists in summer camps.
- **There is no apartheid in Israel:**
 - Jews and Arabs get equal rights in Israel and they coexist.
 - Israeli Arabs consist 21% of the population, while 44% of the Bachelor Degree students are Arabs.
 - There is no segregation between Jews and Arabs in public spaces, such as public transportation, academia, schools, libraries, malls, etc.
 - According to a 2021 report by the Israeli Health Ministry, 46% of the new doctors in Israel are either Arab or Druze. More than one-third of the pharmacists in Israel are Arab.
 - According to Israel's Declaration of Independence, each person is equal to the law and must not be discriminated against by race, religion, or sex.
 - Some Arabs even enlist in the IDF. Mainly the Druze and some Bedouins.
 - Salim Joubran, an Arab supreme court judge, sent A Jewish prime minister (Ehud Olmert) to Jail.
- **There is no moral equivalency between what Hamas did and what Israel does.**
 - Hamas launches rockets toward residential areas to harm civilians, Israel bombs Hamas military targets after dispersing brochures and knocking bombs to convince people to leave.
 - Hamas deliberately massacred and tortured civilians in residential areas, going house by house and making sure no one survived. Israel tries not to harm civilians.
 - Hamas is violating international law and committing a war crime by using hospitals and schools as terror bases. Hamas also actively prevented, threatened, and allegedly even executed civilians who wanted to evacuate from the northern part of the Gaza Strip. This is a severe war crime and a crime against humanity since civilians should be far from the fighting.
- **It's not feasible to avoid civilian casualties in a crowded and dense area where a terror organization uses its civilians as human shields.**
 - The IDF opened humanitarian corridors to help civilians evacuate
 - Israel sent millions of leaflets and text messages and recorded phone calls to warn civilians to get out of harm's way.
 - If the IDF had no regard for human lives, it could level up Gaza in a day and finish the war.
- **The Palestinians were offered peace deals to establish a state on many occasions and they refused time after time.**
- **Egypt and other Muslim countries refuse to accept refugees into their territories and thereby they contribute to the escalation of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.**
- **Gaza is not an "Open Air Prison"**
 - Israel stepped out of Gaza in 2005 and since then Hamas has controlled the region. (Until 2023)
 - Israel cannot allow and has no obligation to open its borders to an enemy state that repeatedly declares its intention to murder Jews and destroy its countries. In the same sense, South Korea has a closed border with North Korea.

- Israel has allowed more than 10,000 Gazan workers to enter its territories every day to improve the financial situation in Gaza. Many of whom participated in the October 7th Massacre later on.
- There are Gazan children and terminal patients who were regularly given life-saving treatments in Israeli hospitals.
- Israel has put restrictions on Gaza to prevent the smuggling of weapons that will be used against its civilians. Egypt has taken similar measures as well.
- Egypt has a close border with Gaza as well.