

NIF Grantees Statements and Resources Reacting to Trump's Annexation Plan

Responding to President Donald Trump "Vision for Peace," which encourages and facilitates unilateral Israeli annexation of large parts of the West Bank, opposition from Israeli civil society was widespread. The following is a collection of statements and resources from NIF grantees reacting to the Trump's administration's effective greenlighting of unilateral Israeli annexation of the West Bank:

NIF GRANTEE STATEMENTS

ADALAH: THE LEGAL CENTER FOR ARAB MINORITY RIGHTS IN ISRAEL

Adalah ("Justice") is an independent human rights organization and legal center that works to promote human rights in Israel in general and the rights of minority Palestinian citizens of Israel in particular.

Following the release of the Trump annexation plan, Adalah released the following statement on [Twitter](#):

"[President Donald Trump's] 'deal of the century' gives green light to Israel's illegal annexation of massive swaths of occupied Palestinian West Bank and to forced transfer of Palestinian citizens of Israel.

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THE ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN ISRAEL (ACRI)

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel is a policy driven legal non-profit protecting human rights and civil liberties of all people living in Israel and the Occupied Territories often referred to as the ACLU of Israel.

After the release of the Trump annexation plan, ACRI released the following statement on [Twitter](#):

"The Association for Civil Rights in Israel is gravely troubled by the declarations of the government of Israel regarding its intentions to unilaterally annex occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank with the approval of the American government and not in the context of an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. It is not in the purview of Israel and the United States to make decisions that break international law and [trample on] human rights.

"They are not permitted to decide on their own to annex the territories. They cannot change the status of various territories without taking into account the status of the Palestinians who live there and the fact that that they are likely to be severed from their homeland. In addition, the Israeli government certainly is not permitted to negate the citizenship and rights of non-Jewish citizens of the state.

"[This plan] strengthens the separate dual systems of law that exist in the West Bank, and officially turns the status quo regime into an apartheid regime. This is a victory for anyone who has taken part in the Israeli settlement enterprise, which is, in its entirety, an illegal project of land theft and harm to human rights."

BREAKING THE SILENCE

Breaking the Silence is an organization of veteran IDF combatants who testify before the Israeli public about the reality of everyday life in the Occupied Territories, aiming to bring an end to the occupation.

In advance of the Trump annexation plan, Breaking the Silence released the following statement on [Twitter](#):

“...Annexationists are celebrating. They know there's no substitute for [international] support when it comes to apartheid. And make no mistake: that is exactly what's on the table when we talk about annexation. Israel justifies the occupation by reasoning that it's only 'temporary', even after 52 years. But annexing the Occupied Palestinian Territory without giving rights to Palestinians means that even that argument falls.

“The State of Israel will be one in which one person is eligible from birth to full civil liberties while another person, from birth to death, is subject to the tyranny of being ruled over with none of those rights. That state of affairs has a name. It's called *apartheid*. And that's something that every decent person must oppose.

“Was [it for *this* that] what we patrolled the alleyways of Hebron and entered the houses of families in the middle of the night? So that after 52 years our government would jump on the opportunity to remodel ourselves on a horrific, racist regime from the last century?”

###

B'TSELEM: THE ISRAELI INFORMATION CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

B'Tselem strives to end Israel's occupation, recognizing that this is the only way to achieve a future that ensures human rights, democracy, liberty and equality to all people, Palestinian and Israeli alike.

Following the release of the Trump annexation plan, B'Tselem released the following [statement](#):

“...There are many ways to end the occupation, but the only legitimate options are those based on equality and human rights for all. This is why the current plan which legitimizes, entrenches and even expands the scope of Israel's human rights abuses, perpetuated now for over 52 years, is utterly unacceptable.

“The Trump plan drains the principles of international law of any meaning and completely neuters the concept of accountability for breaching them. Trump suggests rewarding Israel for the unlawful and immoral practices in which it has been engaging ever since it seized the Territories. Israel will be able to continue plundering Palestinian land and resources; it will also get to keep its settlements and even annex more territory; all in complete defiance of international law. Israeli citizens who live in the Territories will continue to enjoy all the rights granted to other Israeli citizens, including full political rights and freedom of movement, as if they were not living inside an occupied area at all.

“Palestinians, on the other hand, will be relegated to small, enclosed, isolated enclaves, with no control over their lives as the plan eternalizes the fragmentation of Palestinian space into disconnected slivers of territory in a sea of Israeli control, not unlike the Bantustans of South Africa's Apartheid regime. With no territorial contiguity, Palestinians will not be able to exercise their right to self-determination and will ...continue to be at the mercy of Israel's draconian permit regime and need its consent for any

construction or development. In this sense, not only does the plan fail to improve their predicament in any way, but, in fact, it leaves them worse off as it perpetuates the situation and gives it recognition.

“This plan reveals a world view that sees Palestinians as perennial subjects rather than free, autonomous human beings. A ‘solution’ of this sort...is not a legitimate solution. [I]t is no solution at all, just a recipe for generations more of oppression, injustice, and violence.”

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GISHA: LEGAL CENTER FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Gisha is an Israeli non-profit organization whose goal is to protect the freedom of movement of Palestinians, especially Gaza residents.

Following the release of the Trump’s annexation plan, Gisha released the following [statement in Hebrew, Arabic and English via email](#), referring to it as a “plan for ongoing conflict”:

“The ‘peace plan’ presented yesterday in Washington D.C. aims to make permanent a reality of fragmentation, isolation and division in the occupied Palestinian territory. Further entrenching the dispossession of Palestinians and perpetuating the occupation are a recipe for ongoing conflict, not peace. [...]

“Control over movement means control over life. The sweeping restrictions that Israel imposes on movement of people and goods prohibit economic activity and sentence the Palestinian civilian population to a life of scarcity. Movement restrictions are the violent, everyday norm. They deny people access to livelihoods, education, medical care, and tear apart families and communities.

“Nods to bridges and tunnels are not enough given that the only vision presented in this plan is for enclaves, disturbingly reminiscent of Bantustans, whose residents will be deprived of rights and of control over their own fate.

“Gisha will continue to promote the fundamental right to freedom of movement, a precondition for exercising other fundamental rights and for living a life of dignity. A real solution to the conflict cannot be reached by coercion; it will only come by recognizing the rights of all residents of the region.”

###

IR AMIM

Ir Amim (“City of Nations” or “City of Peoples”) focuses on Jerusalem within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; its mission is to render Jerusalem a more equitable and sustainable city for the Israelis and Palestinians who share it and to help secure a negotiated resolution on the city.

After the release of the Trump annexation plan, Ir Amim released the following statement on [Twitter](#):

“There are commentators who claim that Trump’s plan includes a Palestinian capital in Jerusalem, and are even chuckling about how [this means] Netanyahu has agreed to divide Jerusalem.

“There could be nothing further from the truth: The “Jerusalem” that the program offers to Palestinians refers to the areas that the separation wall cuts off from the city, for example, the Shuafat refugee camp and Kafr Aqab. We are talking about enormous, neglected neighborhoods where 120,000 East Jerusalemites are forced to live because they have no choice, because if they leave they will lose their legal status as Jerusalem residents. [Minister for Jerusalem Affairs MK] Ze’ev Elkin has already tried to extract these areas from the legal jurisdiction of the city, *absent* American pressure. The implication of this process would be to sever — to literally cut off — a third of the city’s Palestinian population. This is anything *but* a Palestinian capital in Jerusalem.”

###

OMDIM BEYACHAD - STANDING TOGETHER

Omdim Beyachad - Standing Together is an Israeli movement of Jews and Arabs, who, guided by the principles of peace, equality and social justice, aim to create social change in Israel.

Following the release of the Trump annexation plan, Omdim Beyachad - Standing Together released the following statement and call to action via email from Maisam Jaljuli, member of the National Leadership. It called for all Israelis, Arabs and Jews, to join together Saturday night in protest of the annexation plan:

“Yesterday, President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu decided that Palestinians and Israelis don’t matter. Let me translate this plan to you in personal terms: As a resident of Tira, in the Triangle area, my Israeli citizenship would be revoked under Trump’s plan. I would lose my job, be cut off from my friends and everything I have worked for and contributed to Israeli society. It is an insult to my dignity to even hear of this threat. And, as you know, I’m not the only one whose life would be upended, if not destroyed by this plan.

“Trump and Netanyahu put us all on a path to a future of continued occupation, endless rounds of violence, blood and grief. They called it a “deal,” but it’s a scam. They called it “peace,” but it is the same occupation we have known for decades, only much worse because it will be reinforced by annexation, the exclusion of Arab communities in Israel and impossible demands forced on Palestinians before they can even discuss statehood. [...]

“Our demands are simple: a real peace settlement. One that offers self determination and dignity for both sides, an end to occupation and military violence, a complete rejection of annexation or any unilateral territorial claims, full equality for all citizens within Israel.”

###

SOCIAL ECONOMIC ACADEMY

The Social Economic Academy (SEA) is a non-profit organization that combines education, training and activism to advance social justice and equality in Israel.

Following the release of the Trump annexation plan, CEO of the Berl Katznelson Foundation's Ideas Center and the Socio-Economic Academy, made the following statement via [Twitter](#).

“As progressive Zionists our main line of defense against the delegitimization of Israel is premised on two arguments: A) The West Bank is not formally a part of Israel and its status will be negotiated. B) Palestinians living in the formal borders of Israel are equal citizens.

“Unilateral annexation of the settlements while applying the Israeli law on the west bank undermines these two fundamental [arguments]. It [leads] to a situation where Palestinians in the annexed territories will be denied citizenship and rights. This insures [that the] ‘Deal of the Century’ will become Israel’s very own threat: undermining its existence as a Jewish and democratic state.”

###

YESH DIN: VOLUNTEERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Yesh Din is an Israeli non-profit organization working to protect the human rights of Palestinians living under Israeli armed forces’ occupation.

Following the release of the Trump’s annexation plan, Yesh Din’s executive director Lior Amihai released the following statement via [Twitter](#), accompanying an image of the plan’s ‘conceptual map:’

“Palestine is Bantustan, Israel is Apartheid. Those who see this as a vision for peace are blind to eternal occupation, segregation and prison for the Palestinians.”

###

ZAZIM: COMMUNITY ACTION

Zazim: Community Action is a campaigning community for social and political change.

Following the release of the Trump annexation plan, B’Tselem released the following [statement and call to action](#):

“Annexation, apartheid, and population transfer. Last night, an impeached [president, Donald] Trump and an indicted [prime minister, Benjamin] Netanyahu gave the green light to destroy any chance for a future of justice and equality.

“Trump advanced his “peace” plan without even talking to the Palestinians - so it’s no surprise the plan is a roadmap for apartheid and annexation. The plan promotes revoking citizenship from hundreds of thousands of Arab citizens of Israel, makes settlements permanent, and shatters the Palestinian state to disconnected enclaves.

“[W]e must raise a clear and loud voice against annexation, and for a future of justice and democracy...”

NIF GRANTEE RESOURCES

YESH DIN

Yesh Din is an Israeli non-profit organization working to protect the human rights of Palestinians living under Israeli armed forces' occupation.

In advance of the Trump annexation program, Yesh Din developed a database that consolidates all of the legislative efforts to date of Israel's incremental approach to annexation. The database makes clear, according to Yesh Din that these efforts seek to transform Israel "into an apartheid state, in which two types of people live: Israeli citizens who have full rights, and Palestinian residents who lack political rights, as well as other rights."

RESOURCE: [Annexation Legislation Database](#)

###

ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN ISRAEL (ACRI)

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel is a policy driven non-profit protecting human rights and civil liberties of all people living in Israel and the Occupied Territories often referred to as the ACLU of Israel.

ACRI reviewed all legislative initiatives in the 20th Knesset relating to the Occupied Territories that seek to promote by law the annexation of the West Bank, what is known as "creeping annexation" of the Occupied Territories. The document analyzes the damage annexation legislation have caused to the principles of international law that underlie the laws of occupation – laws that were intended to provide protection for a population subject to foreign military rule, and proposes steps that could help protect human rights in the reality created in the Occupied Territories.

RESOURCE: [Legislative Initiatives to Promote Annexation Direct Legislation of the 20th Knesset Imposed on the West Bank](#)

STATEMENT: [Israel Establishes Dual Regime in the West Bank](#)

52 Years of Occupation in The West Bank

In recent years, and even more so during the period of the outgoing Knesset, the government has worked to endorse the deepening Israeli hold on the West Bank and the removal of occupation from Israeli public consciousness. These activities are carried out via legislative initiatives and amendments aimed at promoting "legal annexation" of the West Bank. The legislation is not promoted in order to actually apply Israeli sovereignty to the West Bank territories, but rather to institutionalize a discriminatory rule of annexation and occupation. [...]

The legislation was intended to expand construction in unauthorized settlements and outposts, and to strengthen the link between settlements and the sovereign State of Israel. However, the legislation is not intended to promote Israeli sovereignty in all of the territories, since the government has neither intention of granting status or voting rights to millions of Palestinians, nor to providing equal education, health and welfare services or freedom of movement throughout the "one state" between the Jordan

River and the sea. Military occupation rule will continue to be applied to the Palestinian population and conduct its way of life, as if nothing has changed.

[T]hese laws are intended only to benefit the settlers and harm the rights of the Palestinian residents, they also undermine fundamental principles of the laws of belligerent occupation, which Israel is obligated to follow, and which are intended to guarantee the rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories[...].52 years after the occupation of the West Bank, the Israeli government is working to institutionalize the illegal situation it created in the occupied territories.

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FORUM FOR REGIONAL THINKING

The Forum for Regional Thinking is an independent Jewish and Arab research institute founded to change public discourse and opinion in Israel regarding our relationship with our neighbors.

Analysis from a Forum for Regional Thinking Research Associate Yaël Ronen Research Associate spells out the mechanisms by which Israel might annex portions of the West Bank and challenges that would pose for future territorial compromise and withdrawal.

PERSPECTIVE: [“Jordan Valley: Easy to annex, hard to back out”](#) by Yaël Ronen Research Associate

Prime Minister Netanyahu has declared his intention of annexing the Jordan Valley. Professor Yaël Ronen explains how easy this would be under Israeli law – and how hard it would be to undo.

###

B'TSELEM: THE ISRAELI INFORMATION CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

B'Tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories strives to end Israel's occupation, recognizing that this is the only way to achieve a future that ensures human rights, democracy, liberty and equality to all people, Palestinian and Israeli alike, living on the bit of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

B'Tselem launched an interactive map to mark 52 years since the Israeli occupation began in 1967. This resource provides a useful visualization to understand decades of overlapping policies that comprise Israel's occupation:

“This visualization of the occupation shows how a combination of measures – annexation; establishment of settlements; declaration of “state land,” firing zones, nature reserves and national parks; construction of the Separation Barrier; division of the West Bank into Areas A, B and C with varying forms of control; and severing the Gaza Strip from the West Bank – has broken up Palestinian space into separate units that are easier to control in isolation. While Israel imposes restrictions on Palestinian movement as a major means of control, Israelis enjoy freedom of movement within the West Bank, within Israel, and between the two areas.”

RESOURCE: Interactive Map: [Conquer and Divide](#)

GISHA – LEGAL CENTER FOR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Gisha is an Israeli non-profit organization whose goal is to protect the freedom of movement of Palestinians, especially Gaza residents.

As one of the few Israeli human rights organizations working mainly in Gaza, Gisha released a report that draws a linkage between the policies of separation practices by the government of Israel towards Gaza and the aims of de facto and de jure annexation policies in the West Bank.

EXCERPT: “Israel’s long-term goal of annexing the West Bank has long been evident in statements made by Israel’s political establishment and in the public discourse. Israel seems to be sensing a window of opportunity to make its already de facto annexation of the West Bank official. Even if the American administration promotes new norms and accepts annexation of the West Bank, common consensus for two-state solution remains. At the same time, other members of the international community have not taken tangible or coordinated action to block future steps toward de jure annexation of the West Bank, just as they have not done enough to challenge the creeping de facto annexation by Israel over the past 50 years. In this way, the official diplomatic vision of a two-state solution has effectively been pushed off the table.”

RESOURCE: [From separation to annexation: The impact of Israel's isolation of the Gaza Strip and how it serves annexationist goals in the West Bank](#)

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MITVIM - THE ISRAELI INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL FOREIGN POLICIES

Mitvim is an independent think tank aims to reshape Israel's relations in the Middle East, Europe and the Mediterranean, by promoting new paradigms for Israel's foreign policies, enhancing Israel's regional belonging, and advancing Israeli-Arab peace.

As Prime Minister Netanyahu brings annexation, Mitvim analyst Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin provides insights into possible international responses to annexation based in other conflicts.

EXCERPT: “Annexation is now completely proscribed by international law, as it “violates the prohibition of the threat or use of force of force,” which in turn protects the inviolability of sovereignty or territorial integrity of existing states. Annexation is unilateral by definition; territory acquired by mutual agreement or treaty is not annexation. Some have posited that annexation is legitimate if the territory did not previously belong to a sovereign state [...] Yet, international law has ruled that such cases still fall under the laws of occupation, which in turn prohibit actions in occupied territory that lead to annexation.”

RESOURCE: [International Responses to Annexation: Lessons from other Conflicts](#)

Mitvim has been active on Trump’s annexation plan and in the news cycle. Below is a sampling of their contributions to the foreign policy debate over annexation.

Nimrod Goren, founder and head of Mitvim-the Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies, argued in the *Jerusalem Post* that [“The international community should say no to the Trump plan.”](#)

EXCERPT: “[The Trump plan] runs counter to previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements and

understandings on core issues of the conflict: borders, settlements, Jerusalem and even refugees. It serves a right-wing political ideology and electoral goals, while distancing peace. The international community should say no to the Trump plan.”

“As such, the “Deal of the Century” endangers Israel’s future in the Middle East rather than improves it. The international community, which stepped aside from the Israeli-Palestinian issue once Trump took office three years ago, must now make itself heard with a resounding “No.” The same goes for Israeli politicians who still seek to advance peace.”

The New York Times quoted Mitvim analyst Yonatan Touval The New York Times: [“Trump Plan’s First Result: Israel Will Claim Sovereignty Over Part of the West Bank.”](#)

EXCERPT: “Critics said annexation could damage Israel’s already strained relations with Jordan, which has a large Palestinian population.

The plan’s radical overhaul of the basic terms of reference for talks could so poison the atmosphere as to close the door on negotiations “for years or even decades to come,” said Yonatan Touval, an analyst at Mitvim...”

Mitvim board member Elie Podeh published in Haaretz: [“Sorry Jared This Time It’s Not the Palestinians Who’ve Screwed Up, It’s You.”](#)

EXCERPT: “The release of a peace plan should ... be a cause for celebration. Delving into the details of the Trump peace plan offers no such satisfaction. The plan is doomed to fail for several reasons: First, the Americans, as honest brokers, should have consulted also with Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority and not only with Israel and the Arab states. ... Second, the details of the plan show its clear unilateralism in its adoption of Israeli positions, especially those supported by right-wingers and settlers. It gives a green light to the Israeli annexation of the Jordan Valley and the settlements... Third, Egypt and Jordan, signatories to peace treaties with Israel, will now face heavily oppositional domestic public pressure and will not be able to support Trump’s plan, despite the fact that they have an interest in advancing a peaceful solution.”

Mitvim held a forum to discuss the Trump annexation plan yesterday:

Dr. Maya Sion-Tzidkiyahu Director of the Program on Israel-Europe Relations at Mitvim, [provided analysis](#) on how will Europe react to the Trump plan.

“For decades, the Europeans have stood by a solution of two states for two peoples, based on the 1967 borders. The Trump plan significantly distances the Palestinians from this outcome and may create new norms in conflict resolution that are not acceptable to the EU

It isn't clear if the EU and its member states will have a united position on the Trump plan. 37 former heads of state and former foreign ministers were the first to respond and called on the EU to not support the plan. The Foreign Minister of Ireland joined them.

It appears that the US President reduced the European role in his plan to that of a payer. This annoys the Europeans. However, they are not as happy as Trump is to intervene in Israel towards an election, and perhaps this is a reason for their initial cautious reactions.”

Merav Kahana-Dagan, Deputy Head of Mitvim [identified three potentially positive things](#) happen following the publication of the Trump plan:

1. The Palestinian issue and the peace process are becoming an issue of debate once again. Since the beginning of the 2000's, the word “peace” has disappeared from political campaigns and public discourse. It may now return to the discourse.
2. Israeli NGOs have acted over the years with Palestinian partners to find solutions to core issues of the conflict. In contrast to what Trump proposes, their recommendations and dialogue channels can be used in order to find new, real ways to advance peace.
3. It is now clear that the Palestinian issue hasn't disappeared and won't be resolved on its own, nor without Palestinian involvement. A growing understanding is emerging in Israel that a crisis with the Palestinians will damage regional ties that Israel advances.