

GLOBAL JEWISH COALITION TO STOP ANNEXATION

We are a coalition of organisations representing Jewish communities around the globe, united in our opposition to unilateral annexation and permanent occupation.

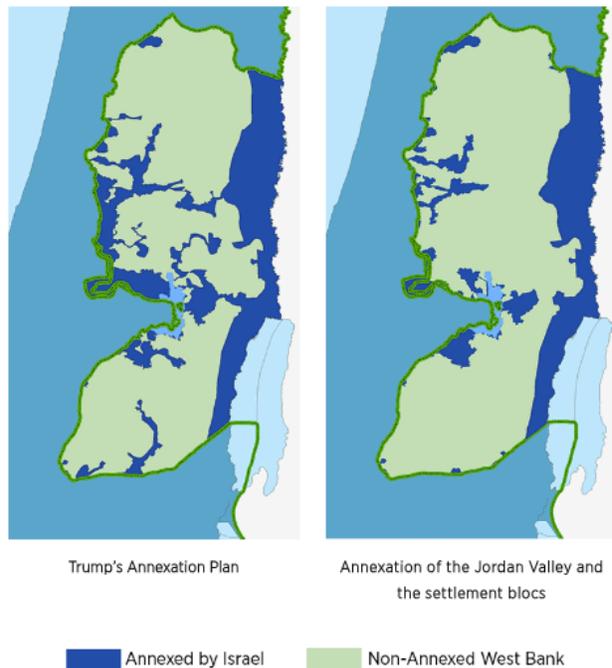
As early as July 1, the Netanyahu-Gantz government could begin annexing large swathes of the West Bank. United by a concern for Israel and its democratic future and for the human rights of Palestinians, we call on decision-makers, lawmakers, and political leaders to take urgent action to prevent annexation.

Annexation is intended to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. It has the potential to institutionalize an undemocratic system in which Israel rules permanently over stateless Palestinian residents of the West Bank. Annexation fundamentally betrays the democratic principles of Israel's founding, and will cause irreparable damage to Israel's relationship with its allies, destabilise existing peace treaties, and lead to a future of endless conflict and unrest.

Learn what annexation means for Israelis and Palestinians.

❖ **Detrimental to Israeli Security:**

Members of Israel's security establishment have warned that annexation risks undermining or destroying important cornerstones of Israel's security strategy, while provoking outrage in the West Bank. Unilateral annexation violates Israel's commitments under the 1993 Oslo Accords and undermines an already weak Palestinian Authority (PA). It will threaten Israeli security cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, either through an official cessation of cooperation or through a de facto reality when Palestinian security forces no longer show up to work. If Palestinian security coordination ceases to be effective, Hamas will be well positioned to fill this vacuum, and the IDF will need to scale up its policing and security forces in the West Bank, leaving Israel vulnerable on other fronts in need of reinforcement.



Source: Dan Rothem

This scenario could also lead to a full reoccupation of the West Bank, including all Palestinian population centers currently under PA administration. The outlined domino effect would trigger a violent response from Palestinians who have given up hope for a diplomatic process, paving the way for an era of extremism and destabilization in the West Bank and Gaza — leaving Israel with no exit strategy.

Furthermore, unilateral annexation threatens decades-long peace and stability with Egypt and Jordan, discussed further under the section on regional security and strategic relationships.

- ❖ **Annexation jeopardises the two-state solution:** Unilateral Israeli annexation means the deliberate prevention of a viable and independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Instead of a negotiated peace agreement on the basis of two-states for two peoples, it is designed to thwart the Palestinian right to self-determination and prevent a mutually agreed resolution to the conflict.

Annexation, as envisioned by Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Trump administration, leaves the Palestinian people with only non-contiguous islets in seventy percent of the West Bank. Instead of a negotiated peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, annexation forces Palestinians to live in isolated island-cities -- that is, ostensibly autonomous areas that are surrounded and controlled by Israel, denied basic civil rights including freedom of movement and the right to vote for the Israeli government that will control virtually every aspect of their lives. That virtually guarantees a future of escalating unrest and conflict.

- ❖ **A disaster for Israel's democracy:** Annexation is inimical to Israel's character and standing as a democracy. It takes Israel fully down an anti-democratic road to permanent authoritarian rule over another people, unending injustice and inequality -- and corrodes democratic institutions within Israel. Annexation means the unequal and discriminatory legal system in the West Bank could be made formal and permanent. With the imprimatur of the Trump administration, Israel would maintain its current dual and unequal legal regime in perpetuity, denying most Palestinians citizenship, the vote, and their basic civil rights, as well as any hope for a better future.

An entrenched occupation cannot be disentangled from the destructive trends that are deepening in the fabric of Israeli democracy. Israeli political scientist Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin warns that, "an attempt [to establish] a political and legal foundation for permanent annexation" has played a substantial role in the increasing illiberalism of Israeli society and political life, including increasing attacks on core democratic institutions like the judiciary.

- ❖ **Annexation has a severe impact on Palestinian human rights:** While decades of "creeping" or de facto annexation through settlement construction and expansion has already dramatically impacted Palestinian human rights, de jure annexation will likely create systems that will lead to further deterioration of the situation on the ground for Palestinians.

Annexation is likely to lead to further violations of Palestinian human rights, including:

- Curtailed freedom of movement within the West Bank;
- Restricted travel abroad;
- Infringement on Palestinian property rights due to land expropriation or restrictions that make it impossible for Palestinians to access their farmland;

- increased demolitions of homes and unrecognised Palestinian villages -- along with the risk of expulsions -- as settlements are expanded within annexed areas;
- Systemic violence against and abuses of Palestinians;
- Exclusive Israeli control of natural resources in annexed areas without oversight, restrictions or resource-sharing requirements.

❖ **Harmful to regional security and strategic relationships:** Annexation threatens Israel's vital peace agreements with Jordan and Egypt, undercutting decades of peaceful relations and destabilising Jordan. Furthermore, it will seriously harm other strategic relationships in the region.

Unilateral annexation jeopardises the 1994 Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement, which has been vital to Israel's security. King Abdullah has stated that annexation of the Jordan Valley would have a "major impact" on bilateral relations and indicated that relations are already at an "all-time low." Annexation also poses a threat to Israel's peace with Egypt, which has been a cornerstone for regional stability for over 40 years. The disruption of these relationships would undermine global alliances and Israeli security relationships in a highly volatile region, creating major implications for regional and global security.

The Arab League has also condemned moves towards annexation, signalling that annexation will thwart Israeli aspirations for normalised economic and diplomatic ties with the Arab world. Annexation also strengthens extremists in the Arab world and undermines the moderates. The bolstering of extreme groups at a time when many regimes in the Middle East are weakened could have dire consequences for Israeli security and regional stability.

❖ **Grave violation of international law:** Unilateral Israeli annexation of the West Bank would constitute a major transgression of international laws and norms. The prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force has underpinned the international order that emerged after the ravages of World War II. The prohibition on annexation is built into the United Nations Charter. The UN Security Council prohibited annexation in UNSC Resolution 242 in November 1967, which has served as the bedrock for peace-making. Annexation would strengthen the resolve of the International Criminal Court to conduct investigations into alleged war crimes, and could lead to tangible punitive action.

❖ **Annexation compromises Israel's critical relationships abroad:** Israel's unilateral annexation will undermine its critical relationships with democratic countries abroad that have offered support to Israel since its establishment -- and may even trigger serious punitive action.

Unilateral Israeli annexation is an indication that the Israeli government has altogether abandoned the path to a just peace and its international obligations as a charter member of the United Nations.

❖ **Annexation undermines Israel's relationship with the Jewish communities in the diaspora:** Jewish communities around the world are overwhelmingly supportive of a two-state solution and opposed to policies of annexation and

perpetual occupation. Annexation forces them to choose between defending indefensible Israeli policies and living up to their own democratic values.

Jews in the diaspora share a commitment to Israel, rooted in its safety and its identity as both a democracy and a homeland for Jews. The impact of annexation will be a betrayal of Israel's founding values of democracy and equality, as enshrined by Israel's 1948 Declaration of Independence. This will result in divisions within global Jewish communities, who will struggle to respond to his new reality.



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