

BPNIC Memo

Israel Must Accept that Independence Has a Cost

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Israel must accept that independence has a cost, and that no settlement can be accepted without the recognition of the Right of Return.

Jews from all over the world and even converts to Judaism are allowed to immigrate to Israel under the Law of Return; but in clear demonstration of religious and ethnic discrimination, the indigenous Palestinian Muslim and Christian populations are banned from returning to their homes.

Israel refuses to abide by international law with respect to the rights of the indigenous non-Jewish population. Israel defines itself as a Jewish state and Palestinian refugees are Christians and Muslims.

Under international law, civilians fleeing a war are entitled to return to their homes.

- **U.N Resolution 194 – (passed on 11 December 1948 and reaffirmed every year since 1948)**

"...the (Palestinian) refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible".

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948**

"Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country" (*Article 13 (2)*).

- **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 21 December 1965**

"...State Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination on all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, color, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of... (t)he right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's country" (*Article 5(d)(ii)*).

- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966**

"No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country" (*Article 12(4)*).

The Israeli Government Policy of Maintaining the Jewish Majority in Jerusalem

The Israeli government has a policy of maintaining the Jewish majority in Jerusalem by a ratio of 73.5% to 26.5%. The Israeli policy has been implemented since 1967 in Jerusalem to reduce the Palestinian presence in the city and these measures included the controlling and revoking identity card holders inside the city.

Students who continued to study long years abroad have had their ID cards revoked. Palestinians who married and stayed abroad lost their right to be residents of the city.

Also, Israel, through its urban plan, has always controlled the presence of Palestinians through the city by not providing them with enough space, by not letting them grow. Many Palestinians could not find housing for years and sought housing outside the city instead. Now we find 70,000 Jerusalemites live in the West Bank area because they could not find housing in Jerusalem.

Basic Facts Summary

1. Israeli policy is maintaining Jewish majority.
2. Israel is confiscating more portions of East Jerusalem.
3. Israeli actions threaten peace.