

# **APARTHEID ISRAEL**

*Possibilities for the struggle within*

Uri Davis (2003)

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### **About this Book**

Uri Davis has been at the forefront of the defence of human rights in Israel since the mid-1960s, as well as being at the cutting edge of critical research on Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In this book, a sequel to *Israel: An Apartheid State* (Zed Books, 1987), Uri Davis provides a critical insight into how it came about that Jewish people, including the victims of Nazi genocide in the Second World War, subjected the Palestinian people, beginning with the 1948-49 war, to such criminal policies as mass deportation, population transfers and ethnic cleansing; prolonged military government (with curfews, roadblocks, so-called security fences and the like); and economic, social, cultural, civil and political strangulation, punctuated by house demolitions and Apache helicopters strafing civilians and their homes.

Since its establishment in 1948 Israel has acted in blatant violation of most UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, including amassing weapons of mass destruction in violation of international law. How is it then possible for this country, its apartheid legislation notwithstanding, still to maintain its reputation in the West as 'the only democracy in the Middle East' and effectively to veil the apartheid cruelty it has perpetrated against the Palestinian people?

In the course of outlining answers to these questions, Uri Davis traces the departure of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from its declared political programme; its steep decline beginning with the Oslo 'peace process'; and the struggle within Israel against Israeli apartheid.

The object of this book is to contribute to a moral understanding, political framework and climate of opinion in the West that will support international sanctions against the rogue government of Israel, with the aim of dismantling the state's apartheid structures as a state for Jews only, and assisting in the establishment of a democratic (whether confederal, federal or unitary) state of Palestine in conformity with the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the standards of international law.

'Uri Davis's new book is a devastating critique of Israel's internal apartheid system and by extension the entire ideology of political Zionism. It is difficult to do justice to such an impassioned and detailed work, but I would particularly draw attention to its dedication to universal moral principles, unassailable logic and attention to factual detail that I believe are the distinctive hallmarks of this brilliant book.' HISHAM SHARABI

'Based in part on the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa, and borrowing from his long years in the peace movement, Uri Davis presents what is for me the only sensible way forward in the present deadlock - a road map based on civil rights, human dignity and international justice. It caters for Jews and Palestinians alike and it has the moral strength to convince more people in the future, victimizers and victims alike, that there is a valid alternative to the present Israeli system of discrimination and occupation.' ILAN PAPPE *historian and author of The Making of the Arab-Israeli Conflict. 1947-1951*

'*Apartheid Israel* represents the most thorough critique to date of Israel's legal and political structure from a human rights perspective. At the same time it points towards an alternative vision for conflict-ridden Israel/Palestine, building on the author's own exceptional experience as an Israeli academic and human rights activist for decades. Current developments make this book more urgent reading than ever before.'

NILS BUTENSCHÖN *Director, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, University of Oslo*

### **Other books by Uri Davis**

*Documents from Israel* (co-ed.), Ithaca Press, London, 1975

*Dissent and Ideology in Israel* (co-ed.), Ithaca Press, London, 1975

*Israel and the Palestinians* (co-ed.), Ithaca Press, London, 1975

*Israel: Utopia Incorporated*, Zed Books, London, 1977

*Palestinian Arabs in Israel: Two Case Studies* (co-author), Ithaca Press, London, 1977

*Towards a Socialist Republic of Palestine* (co-ed.), Ithaca Press, London and Miftah, Kefar Shemaryahu, 1978 (Arabic edition Miftah, Kefar Shemaryahu, 1978)

*Debate on Palestine* (co-ed.), Ithaca Press, London, 1981

*Golan Heights under Israeli Occupation*, Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Durham, 1983

*Israel: An Apartheid State*, Zed Books, London, 1987 (abridged edition Media Review Network, Laudium, 2001)

*The Jewish National Fund* (associate author), Kegan Paul International, London, 1988

*The State of Palestine*, Ithaca Press, Reading, 1991 *Crossing the Border:*

*A Political Autobiography*, Books & Books, London, 1995 (Hebrew edition, Breirot, Tel Aviv, 1994)

*Citizenship and the State: A Comparative Study of Citizenship Legislation in Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon*, Ithaca Press, Reading, 1997

*Citizenship and the State in the Middle East: Approaches and Applications* (co-ed.), Syracuse University Press, 2000