



איגוד העובדים הערבים

نقابة العمال العرب

Arab Workers Union

(Registered N°: 58-0527612)

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Legislating the National Identity Law

Israel Officially Recognises its Status as an Apartheid State

The “**National Identity law**”, recently ratified by the Israeli Knesset, has sparked a stormy response at both, the local and international levels. This law recognises the Jewishness of the state and the right to self-determination and return exclusively to Jews, and denies the right of Palestinians in Israel as a Palestinian indigenous group living on ancestral land. In addition, the law stipulates that only the Hebrew language is the official language of the country and the total denial of the Arabic language as another official language as it was stated in the Declaration of independence of the state of Israel.

The “**National Identity Law**”, passed by the Knesset as a foundation law, has laid down many foundation laws that Israel claimed to adopt and abide by since its establishment. The first was the overthrow of the Declaration of Independence terms which promised equality among all citizens. The law abolished the foundation law of human dignity and freedom of human rights which had it been applied on the ground, Racists would not have had the courage to topple those laws by ratifying the “**National Identity Law**”.

On the political level, the “**National Identity Law**” dropped the two-state solution, and even undermined Israel’s right to exist as it contradicts the 181 resolution of the UN Security Council, which calls for two-states solution, namely Israel’s right to exist. It even dropped the Oslo agreement to the extent that it burned all the cards, leaving the Palestinians only to return to square one.

On the Arab citizens’ level within the historic 1948 Palestine, the law of co-existence and two states for two people is irrelevant. It has been proven that we must first guarantee our right to live before we demand to live.

On the ground, legislating this law is an **official recognition** by the Knesset and the Israeli government that Israel is a racist state that practices apartheid upon the Palestinian population in Israel.

The Palestinians in the Galilee, Triangle and Negev areas are well aware that since their 1948 **Nakba**, they have lived under discrimination and racism through hundreds of laws enacted by successive Israeli governments, especially in regard to confiscation of lands, demolition of houses, discriminated against in health and education systems & the discrimination policy against Palestinian workers in all work facilities, especially in “security workplaces” such as airports, land ports, sea ports and the electricity company, and sensitive governmental positions as military service is a ‘prerequisite’ for working in such workplaces.

The law explicitly states that racism and apartheid are legalised and legitimatised. This means that the **National Identity Law** grants the apartheid regime in Israel to continue its policy of violating human rights starting with the massacres against Palestinians and ending with the confiscation of land and demolition of houses, especially in Arab villages and towns as recently happened in the city of Sakhnin on July 23rd, 2018 (**A detailed statement on Sakhnin city crimes against the Palestinian population will follow**). Arab workers, who work in Israeli hotels or restaurants in Tel Aviv or any other Jewish city or town will be prevented from speaking their Arabic mother tongue because the law declares that the Hebrew language is the only official language of the country, all under the pretext of the law that explicitly legislates everything for the benefit of the Jews. This means we are facing a new stage of confrontation between the legitimate rightful Palestinians and the colonial apartheid regime that will rise from violating Palestinians human rights on all levels.

In the face of this new stage of confrontation with the **Zionist colonial regime** in occupied 1948 Palestine, which is officially supported by the world imperialism, the Palestinian people in the 1948 region as well as in the 1967 regions, are more than ever required to prepare for a new strategy of struggle whose foundation will confront the new reality, defeat the policy of the **Zionist apartheid regime**, work on a national program of confrontation that includes all the spectrums of the Palestinian masses and all the national forces of all ideological and political affiliations, in addition to recruiting all the progressive Jewish forces for the sake of confronting the new racist laws ratified by the **Zionist apartheid regime**.

We call upon all members and friends of the international trade unions comrades & friends of the Palestinian people to stand and join hands at this critical stage of confrontation, and challenge the new regulations of the apartheid regime in Palestine.

To express your solidarity and support for this campaign, contact the Arab Workers Unions in Nazareth on the addresses below.

Long Live the Working Class

Long live Palestinian Struggle Against the Zionist Apartheid Regime

Arab Workers Union-Nazareth

(Registered N°: 58-0527612)

الناصرية ، ص.ب ٢٧٢١ الرمز البريدي ١٦١٢٦ Israel ، Zip code 16126, Nazareth, P.O. Box 2721

Dr. Suheir Khoury's Cell +972 (0)54 2030273 Email: suheirkh@gmail.com

Adv. Wehbe Badarne's Cell +972 (0)52 9633870 Email: arab.workers.union48@gmail.com