



Resisting Apartheid, Building a Shared Democracy in Historic Palestine

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NORMALIZATION: THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE PALESTINIANS SINCE THE NAKBA

In September 2025, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a declaration asserting that only a two-state solution is able lead to “an independent, sovereign, economically viable and democratic State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel based on the 1967 lines.” (Needless to say, the US and Israel boycotted the session.)

Now we all know that the two-state solution has never been a genuine option. Judaizing all of Palestine has always been Zionism’s purpose, and Israel would never relinquish Judea, Samaria & East Jerusalem to “Arabs.” Indeed, it has settled 800,000 Jews there in massive settlement/cities. And the international community, for all its bluster about a “two-state solution,” has never halted Israel’s settlement or its ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian population.

But if governments insist on a two-state solution, whether stand-alone or as part of the Abraham Accords, let’s call their bluff. Want a genuinely sovereign, viable and territorially contiguous Palestinian state? OK, here are the minimal requirements:



- *Control of the Palestinian state over its internationally recognized borders*, a fundamental criterion of sovereignty. Its economic viability depends on having borders with Israel, Jordan and Egypt, plus an airport and seaport in Gaza, giving it access to Arab, Israeli and global markets;
- *Territorial contiguity*. To render the West Bank a coherent territory, all Israel’s settlements would have to be removed, situated as they are to exert control over Palestinian movement and limit their accessibility to their land. Plus an extraterritorial passage for people and goods between the West Bank and Gaza;
- *Control over all the resources within its national territory* – water, land, minerals and natural gas – alongside its sacred sites and tourist attractions. An economy free of outside (i.e., Israeli) interference;
- *Sovereignty over East Jerusalem*, the most significant symbol of Palestinian national and religious life, a major part of its economy and an integral part of the Occupied Territory;
- *The ability to defend its sovereignty and territory*, at least a force symbolizing national sovereignty with policing capabilities. Also full membership in the UN and international protections;
- *The capacity to reintegrate refugees and their descendants*.

