

September 20, 2023

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General

United Nations

405 East 42nd Street

New York, NY 10017

United States of America

By email: antonio.guterres@un.org and sgcentral@un.org

Subject:

[Urgent Appeal: Israel's De Facto Annexation in the oPt](#)

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

We write on behalf of Peace Now, Israel's long-standing pro-peace and anti-occupation movement, to bring to your immediate attention a matter of utmost urgency: the government of Israel's policy and practice of annexing the occupied Palestinian Territory, and specifically, the West Bank. By closely monitoring Israel's government actions, and specifically, since its formation nine months ago, we implore you not to be deceived by any anticipated statements by Netanyahu regarding Israel's commitment to peace or to the two-state solution.

[Our recent report](#), published by our Settlement Watch team, reveals Israel's alarming de facto annexation activities in the occupied West Bank over the past nine months. These actions, in blatant contradiction to Prime Minister Netanyahu's prior commitments, are rapidly transforming the political reality of the State of Israel from a democracy to that of an apartheid state, and the physical landscape of the occupied Palestinian Territory, effectively leading to the annexation of the West Bank territory, without granting Palestinians equal rights or self-determination.

The report highlights 13 specific actions contributing to this dire reality, including record approvals of housing units in settlements, unauthorized outpost approvals, the creation of the

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“Settlement Administration”, a government and civil body overseeing all aspects of settler life, and the promotion of new settlements in East Jerusalem, among others.

We urgently request that you critically assess Prime Minister Netanyahu's statements and hold Israel accountable for these actions, which undermine Israel's democracy, Palestinian freedom and self-determination, and the viability of a two-state solution. Peace Now remains dedicated to the pursuit of a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and calls upon the international community to support the efforts of Israelis and Palestinians in promoting peace, security, and justice for all.

Sincerely,



Lior Amihai

Executive Director, Peace Now

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