

## ISRAEL

# A Racist State Protected by Imperialists

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In an unprecedented move, Rima Khalaf, the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary for the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) announced her resignation at a news Conference in Beirut (Lebanon) on March 17, 2017. Reason -? She seriously disagreed with the call of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to take off the report released by the UN ESCWA on March 15, 2017 from the website.

The ESCWA is a UN body comprising of 18 Arab States. In 2015, the UN asked the ESCWA to study whether Israel has established an apartheid regime. This Commission has entrusted this job to two US Academics – Richard Falk, a former Human Rights Investigator for Palestinian territories and Virginia Tilley, Professor of Political Science at Southern Illinois University. The report is an outcome of their study.

Ms. Rima Khalaf has commended the report as the “first of its type” from a UN body as it “clearly and frankly concludes that Israeli is a racist state that has established an apartheid system that persecutes the Palestinian people.”

The UN Spokesman Stephane-dujarric sought to defend the UN Secretary-General’s call to withdraw the report on the plea that it was published without consultation with the UN Secretariat. But it was an alibi. The real reason is, the Israel has fiercely opposed the report and it enjoyed the support of US.

For several decades, the Palestinian people are waging a just struggle to free their Home Land from the illegal and forced occupation by the US backed Israeli Zionists. They had to encounter countless small and big wars, lakhs of people lost their lives, territories, peace and security of life. While the Israeli Zionists were expanding the areas by forcible and illegal occupations, the Palestinian people were made to helplessly wait for justice and negotiate for elusive peace and resolution of the problem.

Building of Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories has become a well-articulated policy for the Israeli rulers to impose their control and authority over Palestine. They had simply pushed aside the UN resolutions and violated the agreements calling Israel to cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestine territories, including the Eastern Jerusalem. As noted by UN Middle East Envoy Nickolay Mladenov, “many advancements that were made (by Israel) in the past three months further sever the territorial contiguity of a future Palestinian State and accelerate the fragmentation of the West Bank.”

The report of the ESCWA has noted that Israel is guilty of apartheid not only in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem—the occupied Territory – but also within its own boundaries and against the Palestinian refugees. ‘The Israeli government’s illegal Jewish settlement project in the West Bank and its virtual annexation of East Jerusalem make it impossible even to imagine the establishment of Palestine state in that region. What exists is one State with an apartheid system, with Israeli Jews in a dominant position over the Palestinians. Israel is a ‘racial state’ because its institutions are premised on maintaining a Jewish nation by techniques of suppression and expulsion’. The report said, the “strategic fragmentation of the Palestinian people” was the method through which Israel imposes the apartheid, with Palestinians divided into four groups oppressed through “distinct laws, policies and practices “. Israel identified the four sets of Palestinians as: Palestinian citizens of Israel; Palestinians in East Jerusalem; Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza strip; and Palestinians living as refugees or in exile. The report made two recommendations. One, The International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the situation in Israel. Two: The member states to allow the criminal prosecution of Israeli Officials demonstrably connected with the practices of apartheid against the Palestinian people.

While the attempts are being made to bring an international consensus towards the creation of two states, the Israeli Zionists are frenziedly trying to turn the entire Palestine into a single Israeli Jewish state reducing the Palestinian people to an apartheid status. Thus they are conspiring to deny the Palestinian people their just and inalienable right of Home Land.

In this context, the report of ESCWA acquires greater importance. All those who stand by the just right of Palestinian people for Home Land must raise their voice against the policy of racism, apartheid and forced occupation of others' territories pursued by the Israeli rulers. The imperialists are pursuing a dubious policy. On one hand, they talk about peace and fair resolution of the problem and, on the other hand, they extend all support to the Israeli rulers in their crimes and shield them from the growing international condemnation. It must be thoroughly exposed. The Indian Govt., has gone a long a long way in moving closer to Israel. It cannot evade the question: what is its attitude towards the just right of Palestine people for Home Land? How it views the blatant attacks of Israeli rulers on this right in the form of illegally and forcibly building and expanding Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories?

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