

Imprisonment for Stone-Throwing: Only in Israel

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, July 23, 2015

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)
Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)
In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

Israel equates stone-throwing with terrorism. It calls premeditated naked aggression against 1.8 million near-defenseless Gazans self-defense.

Last November, Israeli cabinet ministers approved up to **20 years imprisonment for Palestinians accused of stone-throwing** – if authorities claim it was with intent to cause bodily harm. No proof needed. Guilt by accusation suffices.

The measure applies to targeting police or their vehicles – allegedly to hinder their performance of duties.

Earlier stone-throwing convictions mandated to up to two years in prison. Last year, Netanyahu said **“Israel is operating aggressively against terrorists, against stone throwers, against hurlers of firebombs and firecrackers.”**

“We will legislate more aggressive legislation to this regard, in order to return quiet and security...”

On Monday, Knesset members overwhelmingly enacted legislation approving up to 20 years imprisonment for stone-throwing.

Overtly racist/hard-right Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked said “(t)olerance toward terrorists ends today. A stone-thrower is a terrorist and only a fitting punishment can serve as a deterrent and just punishment.”

Earlier she accused Palestinian mothers of giving birth to “little snakes.” She called for all-out war – genocide targeting an entire population.

The new law mandates up to 10-year sentences for defendants not accused of intending to cause harm – otherwise, up to 20 years.

Up to five years for anyone “interfer(ing) with the policeman’s performance of his duties or to prevent him from performing them.”

The measure was introduced by hard-right MK Nissan Slomiansky accompanied by an irrelevant/offensive statement, saying:

David killed Goliath, the strongest Philistine of all, with a stone. In other words a stone can kill. (T)his dangerous phenomenon of throwing stones must be aggressively eradicated.”

Israel annually detains hundreds of Palestinians for allegedly throwing stones – true or false, seldom harming anyone.

From 2005 – 2010, B'Tselem said “93 percent of the minors convicted of stone throwing were given a prison sentence, its length ranging from a few days to 20 months.”

Five Palestinian teenagers face possible life in prison – charged with attempted murder from a stone-throwing incident.

Outraged Palestinian MKs criticized another hugely unjust Israeli racist measure – applying solely to Arabs.

“Who will the (military) judge send to prison,” MK Jamal Zahalka asked? “He who demolished the home, seized the land, killed the brother, or the (little) boy who threw a stone” harming no one?

“The one who demolishes the home gets a medal, but the boy whose anger is justified gets punished. There is no justice in this law.”

Palestinian MK Hanin Zoabi, said “(w)e are not talking about a law. We are talking about the occupation. If the law is meant to protect the weak, it is also meant to protect those victims who are killed every week by soldiers. Imagine a soldier with a gun facing a teenager with a small stone. What symmetry is there?”

Palestinian Prisoners Club head Qadura Fares called the new measure “racist. (It’s) hateful and contradicts the most basic rule that the punishment fit the offense.”

Palestinian boys and youths often throw stones in response to brutal occupation harshness. It’s one of the few ways they have to justifiably resist what no one should tolerate.

Israel rewards IDF and other security force killers. Settler violence and vandalism are largely ignored.

Collectively punished Palestinians are victimized more than already.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

His new book as editor and contributor is titled “Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III.”

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network.

It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca