

Former Israeli General Compares Treatment of Palestinians to ‘Nazi Germany’ and ‘Apartheid’

Amiram Levin says the Israeli army condones violence by settlers, which could make it liable for 'war crimes'

By [Middle East Eye](#)

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A former top general in the Israeli military has said that [Israel’s](#) treatment of [Palestinians](#) in the occupied West Bank resembles Nazi Germany and is “total apartheid”.

Amiram Levin, former head of the army’s northern command, made the comments on Sunday on Israeli public broadcaster Kan.

“There hasn’t been a democracy there in 57 years. There is total apartheid,” Levin said, referring to the situation in the West Bank.

He said the Israeli army was “forced to exert sovereignty there” and is “rotting from the inside”.

“It’s standing by, looking at the settler rioters and is beginning to be a partner to war crimes. These are deep processes.”

Levin went further, comparing those processes to Nazi Germany.

“It’s hard for us to say it, but it’s the truth. Walk around Hebron, look at the streets; streets where Arabs are no longer allowed to go on, only Jews,” he said. “That’s exactly what happened there, in that dark country.”

Criticism of Comments

The comments were condemned by lawmaker Danny Danon, who belongs to the ruling Likud party.

“Those who compare us to Germany or the Nazi regime should be examined,” Danon said.

Levin, who was also a former deputy chief of the Mossad, had a military career which spanned from 1965 to 1998.

Earlier this weekend, he made a [speech](#) at an anti-government demonstration in Tel Aviv in which he called on military leaders to stand up to Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, both of whom he said were “trying to drag you into war crimes”.

Levin’s views on Israeli abuses appear to have taken a marked turn: in a 2017 interview with Israeli daily Maariv, he claimed that Palestinians “deserved the occupation”.

Several human rights groups, including B’tselem, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have in recent years determined that the term “apartheid” applies to the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Last year, Michael Lynk, the UN’s special rapporteur for human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, said in a [report](#) that the treatment of Palestinians “satisfies the prevailing evidentiary standard for the existence of apartheid”.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since the war in 1967.

The territory is home to around 2.9 million Palestinians. Around 475,000 Jewish settlers also live there in Israeli state-approved settlements, which are illegal under international law.

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