



## [Israel Announces Plans to Build 1,300 New Settlement Homes in the Illegally-Occupied West Bank](#)

Israel announced this week that it plans on building 1,300 new settlement homes on Palestinian land in the illegally-occupied West Bank. The global community views Israeli settlements as a flagrant violation of international law, and impartial analysts often rightfully point out how it is a massive hindrance to any realistic prospects of progress regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The new housing units are in addition to the more than 2,000 residences that were authorized for West Bank settlers several months ago. Israel's inflammatory actions, both this and their Palestinian human rights organization terror designations, have come under particular large-scale criticism in recent days. The United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and rights advocacy groups all expressed grave concern and strong disapproval with the plan for more unlawful settlements, as social justice activists call for increased pressure to halt the reprehensible behavior.

Israel's actions in the West Bank have continually been subjected to international scrutiny. Despite universal global consensus over the illegality of their settlements there, Israeli authorities have repeatedly made efforts to expand their presence in the Palestinian territory. The condemnation of this latest announcement has been substantial, and includes local actors, European nations, international institutions and blocs, and rights organizations. The United Nations and the European Union labelled the actions "clearly illegal under international law," with the former also declaring that Israel's constant building of settlements has undoubtedly hindered peace efforts in the region. Germany and France spoke out against the plan for new settlements as well, as did prominent advocacy groups, with Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International condemning the behavior and calling for the world community to stand up in solidarity for Palestinian rights.

With respect to the United States, the current administration relayed its clear disapproval, and many observers highlighted the American reaction as one of its strongest condemnations to date since President Biden took office earlier this year. The U.S. State Department added that it was "deeply concerned," representing a notable change in tone from the prior Trump administration. Under Trump, the United States adopted a series of one-sided and biased policy stances in favor of Israel including closing a Palestinian mission in Washington D.C., stopping aid for Palestinian refugees, and moving the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Due to the backlash from social justice and rights activists against these actions, it is evident that the Biden administration is attempting to employ a more even-handed and fair approach to the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Despite the widespread global condemnation from an array of different actors towards Israel's continued violations of international law, it appears authorities are determined to proceed with illegal construction activities in the West Bank – even as it falls under investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for its war crimes and human rights abuses in the region. Israel's new government under Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has consistently called for further unlawful development of Palestinian territory, which experts believe will harm any potential for significant advancements in the peace process.