



[Israel Advances Plans for 4,000 New Settlement Housing Units in the Illegally-Occupied West Bank](#)

Israel has announced the approval of more than 4,000 new settlement homes in the illegally-occupied West Bank, yet another clear violation of international law. These settlements, which contain above 450,000 Israelis, have been broadly condemned by the global community. This latest settlement expansion is the largest since the Biden administration took office in the United States. The Biden administration, the United Nations, rights groups, and others have repeatedly expressed opposition and concerns with the building of the illegal settlements since they serve as a major obstacle to the prospect of any legitimate advancements in the peace process. The approval of the plans also comes as the International Criminal Court (ICC) leads an investigation into Israel's war crimes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Despite justifiable criticism and an array of opposition to the construction of new settlements, Israel has shown no signs of halting these blatant violations of international law.

The illegal Israeli settlements and impunity for continued human rights abuses has fueled animosity and instability in the area. Violence has grown in frequency with the increase in settlements, which was propelled by the former Trump administration's biased relationship with the Israeli government and greenlighting of illegal settlement expansion. The settlements have displaced large numbers of Palestinians from their generational homes. Additionally, alarming Israeli settler attacks against local Palestinians have formed a hostile environment towards those who remain. Israeli forces have also conducted lethal and violent raids in illegally-occupied territory in an effort to further diminish Palestinian presence there. The approval and construction of new settlements, which have given rise to acts of violence, is undeniably illegal. The West Bank is acknowledged by the international community as Palestinian territory, therefore making Israeli settlement expansion unlawful.

Israel's dangerous and illegal acts towards Palestinians in the West Bank have gained increased condemnation from the global community. The ICC's war crimes probe has focused largely on military raids and other human rights violations both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Biden administration, which now grapples with the largest new push for illegal settlement expansion, has been critical of its lack of legality and the threat to regional peace that it brings. In recent thorough investigations, prominent and well-respected rights groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have labeled Israel's policies toward Palestinians as apartheid for their clear method of systematic discrimination.

Despite these condemnations and probes into Israel's abusive actions, Israeli authorities have shown no intent to reverse course and abide by international law and norms. Thus, it is clear that the global community must continue to ramp up the pressure and expose the flagrant pattern of Israeli human rights abuses. The approval of plans to further illegal settlement expansion even in the face of widespread opposition is plain evidence that Israel believes that it can act with impunity, and only increased accountability for destructive violations like this has the potential to alter this mindset and behavior.