

APARTHEID Today

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Apartheid

Definition: Apartheid (“separation”) was the name for South Africa’s legal system of segregation, discrimination, and domination based on race.



These signs, in public spaces all over South Africa, were a constant reminder of white domination and control over South Africa’s black population.¹

Today, the term apartheid is used to describe legal systems that institutionalize segregation, discrimination, and oppression on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, or religion.

Apartheid South Africa: Denial Of Political Rights



A black South African displays his passbook. It designated him a “colored” and denied him access to white schools, hospitals, and even entire cities.²



South Africans protest their lack of political rights.

South Africa’s 20-percent minority stripped “people of color” of citizenship and voting rights in the Separate Representation of Voters Act (1951), outlawed their political parties (1960), and barred them from positions of authority or influence. The 80-percent majority fought brutal repression to regain these basic rights.

Apartheid South Africa: Denial Of Civil Rights And Personal Freedom

Apartheid law segregated “non-Europeans” in every aspect of daily life—train stations, beaches, restrooms, restaurants, schools, health clinics—and restricted them to inferior medical care, education, employment, wages, and housing.

Apartheid law prohibited sexual relations and marriage between whites and non-Europeans in the “Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act” (1949) and the “Immorality Act” (1950).



Apartheid South Africa: Enforcing Inequality Through Repression

South African blacks who protested and demanded equal political and civil rights met police violence, indefinite detention, torture, and execution.



White South African police break up a crowd of protesting black women.³



White South African police break up a crowd of black demonstrators .⁴

South African activists finally defeated the apartheid regime in 1994.

Apartheid Today:

Gender Apartheid

Definition: A system of legally sanctioned segregation and/or oppression based on gender. Women are confined to inferior status and denied personal freedoms and civil and political rights.

Women in Arab League countries “suffer from unequal citizenship and legal entitlements, often evident in voting rights and legal codes [and] from inequality of opportunity, evident in employment status, wages and gender-based occupational segregation.” Their “political and economic participation remains the lowest in the world.” –UN Human Development Report, 2002 p. 22⁵



The Governor of Mecca looks at the charred remains of a girls' school fire. Fifteen girls burned to death when police refused to allow them to evacuate because their clothes violated the Kingdom's "decency" laws (no headscarves/black robes).⁶

Saudi women and men walk on separate sidewalks. Women in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to drive. They are treated as minors and must have a male “guardian” approve requests for travel and health care. Iran, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt are some of the Middle Eastern countries that require women to obtain “permission” from male guardians to travel.⁷



“Honor Killings”

Sanctioned murder of women in “Honor Killings”:

When women are raped or suspected of flirtations or sexual relations with men who are not their husbands, they are often murdered by relatives to preserve family “honor.” In court, the murderers get light sentences or are acquitted. This practice is widespread in the Middle East, including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Gaza and the West Bank, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon.⁸



Fifteen-year-old Rofayda Qaoud of the Palestinian village of Abu Qash was raped and impregnated by her brothers. When she refused to kill herself to save her family’s honor, her mother Amira (left) suffocated, stabbed, and beat her to death the night of January 23, 2003.⁹ She received a light sentence, as “honor killing” is a mitigating factor in the Palestinian judicial system.

Most murders of Palestinian women can be attributed to honor killings, according to recent research.¹⁰

Legal Inequality:¹¹

No laws protect women against domestic violence.

Rape is blamed on women, even if they are young children. Rapists can escape legal punishment by marrying their victims. In Iran and Saudi Arabia, the female victims are often punished for “immorality.”

Women’s court testimony is worth less than men’s, especially in cases of rape and domestic violence.

Family law requires wives’ “obedience” to husbands who are legally “heads of the household.”

Women can be forced into arranged marriages.

Apartheid Today:

Sexual Apartheid

Definition: A system of legally and culturally enforced discrimination and/or persecution against people based on their sexual behaviors, with severe repression of sexual freedom.

Homosexuality is a crime punished by imprisonment, flogging, stoning, hanging, or beheading in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.¹²



Left: In Iran, practicing homosexuality is a capital offense. Those “convicted” of homosexuality are publicly executed, usually hanged. A reported 4,000 homosexuals were executed in Iran between 1979 and 1999.¹³

State-sanctioned discrimination and persecution of homosexuals: In most Middle Eastern countries, no laws prevent anti-gay discrimination, and gays face severe ostracism. Though homosexuality is not illegal everywhere, gays are often arrested under laws against “lewd conduct” (Egypt) and experience police harassment and torture (Egypt and the Palestinian Authority). Recent reports indicate that murderers of gays may be prosecuted under the lenient category of “honor killings.”¹⁴

Adultery is a crime for both sexes, though women receive harsher punishment. Adultery is a capital offense, with execution by stoning (Iran, below)¹⁵ or a criminal offense with prison sentences.



Apartheid Today: Religious Apartheid

Definition: A system of legal repression, segregation, and persecution based on religion.

Public practice of non-Muslim religions prohibited:

Saudi Arabia.¹⁶

Conversion from Islam is punishable by death (Iran, the Palestinian Authority, and Saudi Arabia) or by loss of civil and inheritance rights, imprisonment, or torture (Jordan, Egypt, Oman, and northern Sudan).¹⁷

Blasphemy of Islam prohibited or punishable by death:

Saudi Arabia and Oman.

Proselytizing by non-Muslims prohibited or proselytizers

persecuted: Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian Authority, Iran, and Jordan.

Special religious police persecute Muslims and

non-Muslims: Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Legal, social, and economic discrimination against non-

Muslims and minority Muslim sects: Saudi Arabia,¹⁸ Egypt,¹⁹ and Iran.

Persecution, violence, property expropriations, and intimidation of Christians, Ba'hai, or other minority

religions: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian Authority, and Iran.²⁰



"Christians are being persecuted not only in Iraq, but in most Arab countries.... They are subjected to every possible kind of discrimination, as well as expulsion.... We continue to instill a horrific culture in our children, one that sees Christians as infidels... and as 'the other.'"—Abd Al-Nasser Al-Najjar, *Palestinian daily Al-Ayyam*, October 25, 2008.



A Christian in Saudi Arabia is publicly flogged after being "convicted" of practicing Christianity, 2007.²¹

Apartheid Today: Racism

Definition: A system of legally and culturally enforced discrimination and/or persecution based on a person's race or national or ethnic identity.

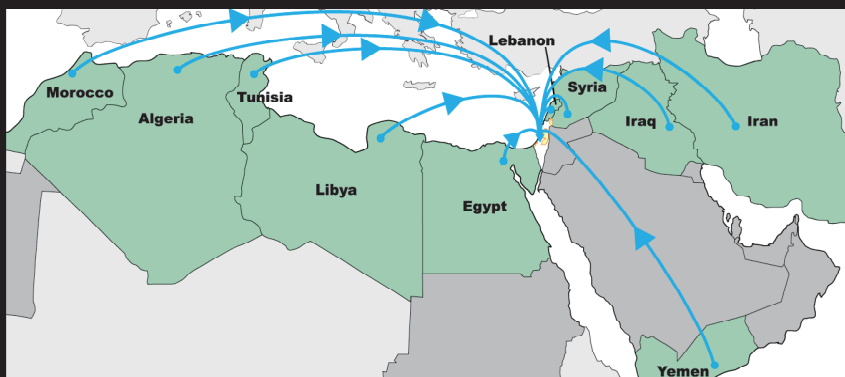
"I'm sad to say that we Arabs are the epitome of racism....If Obama was in an Arab country...under no circumstances ... would they have given him citizenship. They'd say to him: You are a slave, you are black, you need a 'guarantor,' you are a Kenyan, and your origins are unknown."—Abd Al-Bari 'Atwan, editor-in-chief of the London daily *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, BBC interview, November 7, 2008.

Enslavement of blacks: Sudan.

Persecution and discrimination against native Berber tribes and their culture: Morocco and Libya.²²

Anti-Jewish persecution, discrimination, and/or incitement: Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, UAE, and the Gulf States.²³

- In 1948, 850,000 Jews lived in Arab lands. Today only a few thousand remain because of persecution, discrimination, and expulsions.
- Selling land to Jews was a capital offense in Jordan until 1995. It remains illegal in Jordan and in the Palestinian Authority.
- Clerics and government-controlled schools and media continually demonize Jews, and recycle in print and film anti-Semitic forgeries such as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.²⁴



Map of origins of Jewish refugees who were forced to flee to Israel from Middle Eastern countries after 1948.

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**Learn more about the gender, sexual and religious
apartheid that exists today in far too many
Middle Eastern countries.
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