

AMNESTY LABELS ISRAEL AN 'APARTHEID STATE'

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

Israeli policies met the criteria for apartheid under international law.

Amnesty International on Tuesday labelled Israel an "apartheid" state that treats Palestinians as "an inferior racial group," joining the assessment of other rights groups which the Jewish state vehemently rejects.

"Israel's cruel policies of segregation, dispossession and exclusion across all territories under its control clearly amount to apartheid," Amnesty's secretary general Agnes Callamard said.

"Whether they live in Gaza, east Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, or Israel itself, Palestinians are treated as an inferior racial group and systematically deprived of their rights."

Israel's Foreign Minister Yair Lapid strongly rejected the claims as "divorced from reality".

New York-based Human Rights Watch in April last year became the first major international rights group to publicly level the controversial allegation.

Amnesty stressed it was not comparing Israel's treatment of Palestinians with conditions in apartheid-era South Africa but said Israeli policies met the criteria for the crime of apartheid under international law.

Israel's Foreign Ministry has called on Amnesty to "withdraw" the report.

Mr. Lapid charged that Amnesty had an anti-Semitic agenda.

Ms. Callamard countered that "a critique of the practice of the State of Israel is absolutely not a form of anti-Semitism.

Briefing reporters on Tuesday, Ms. Callamard also dismissed charges that Amnesty "was singling out" Israel, highlighting the group's work on Israel's arch foe Iran and on China, among other places.

[Our code of editorial values](#)

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com