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## ***Neofascism Israel version: Chronicle of extremism prolonged by colonialism, occupation and apartheid***

By allowing racism to spread without clear demarcations, and violent discourses to diversify – without regulations or condemnations – a floor of possibility was established suitable for the unbridled irruption of symbolic and material intimidation.



The naturalization and continuity of *apartheid* against the Palestinian people, the colonial and military occupation of their territory in the West Bank and the renunciation – by the Israeli hegemonic parties – to make the establishment of an independent Palestinian State viable, enabled the progressive expansion of the supremacist groups, which managed to become great winners of the November 1 elections.



Election poster of the two winners of the election: Itamar Ben-Gvir, pictured above, and Benjamin Netanyahu below.

Israel held its fifth election in four years because of the fragility of a political system that requires a 61-member majority over 120 seats in the unicameral parliament, whose Hebrew name is Knesset. The bloc that groups the right and the supremacists reached 64 seats, while the set of opposition parties managed to add 56 representatives. This distribution of positions, however, does not express the number of votes received by each of the conglomerates that will make up the ruling party and the opposition: between the alliance led by Benjamin *Bibi* Netanyahu and his opponents, there was only a difference of 8,189 votes. The difference in positions reached in the Knesset is due to the electoral floor proposed by the electoral regulations, which only allow the admission of congressmen to lists that exceed 3.25% of the voters.

The final results indicate that the Likud party led by Netanyahu – won 32 seats, the supremacists 14 and the Orthodox 18. For its part, the party of current Prime Minister Yair Lapid obtained 24 investitures that, added to the 12 of Defense Minister Benny Gantz, are not enough to form a government. The right-wing bloc is the one that most vigorously defends the continuation of the occupation of land in the West Bank and emphatically endorses the systematic repression of the 2.5 million Palestinians who lack citizenship rights and are subject to administrative military authority.

The Likud leader will become the first head of government to serve as prime minister for the third time, after David Ben-Gurion, Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres held that position twice each. Netanyahu is accused of being one of the most responsible for sabotaging the Oslo Accords of 1993 – signed by Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat – and achieving their subsequent dissolution. He is also accused of promoting the illegal occupation of the territories of East Jerusalem and the West Bank to extend Israeli settlements in those militarily occupied territories. In 2020, [Netanyahu](#) was accused of bribery, fraud and abuse of power, becoming the first ruler in Israel's history to be indicted during the course of his term. The causes for which he is still prosecuted include receiving bribes to favor businessmen and the abuse of power to improve his image in the media.

#### Kahanism without limits

According to the vast majority of Israeli political analysts, the supremacist parties located to the right of the Likud have radicalized Netanyahu to avoid the continuous flight of votes to these groups, characterized by Islamophobia, racism, homophobia and misogyny. The group that expresses them, which reached 14 parliamentary positions, has as a reference Itamar Ben-Gvir, an extremist lawyer repeatedly accused of hate speech against Arabs. According to several witnesses, the future *Javer Knesset* (parliamentarian) exhibited in his home – until two years ago – a portrait of the American-Israeli terrorist Baruch Goldstein, who in 1994 massacred 29 Palestinian Muslim worshippers and wounded 125 others in the Tomb of the Patriarchs, located in the Palestinian city of Hebron. A year later, a member of the same group to which Goldstein belonged assassinated Prime Minister Rabin, moments before participating in a gigantic demonstration in Tel Aviv, called under the slogan "Yes to peace, no to violence."

In October 2021, Ben-Gvir attacked the Arab-Israeli leader of the Joint List, [Ayman Odeh](#), who revalidated his entry into the Knesset last Tuesday obtaining five places for his group, made up of the Communist Party and other formations opposed to the occupation and fascism. The congressmen of his alliance were sworn in in March 2021 with the commitment to "confront the occupation and fight against racism and racists," in obvious reference to the collective commanded by Ben-Gvir. In December 2021, the latter was charged with gun violence, due to the leak of a video showing his threats against unarmed security guards who asked him to move his vehicle because it was improperly parked.



Meir Kahane.

In October 2022, Ben-Gvir participated in clashes between Israeli settlers and local Palestinian residents, demanding that police shoot Palestinian protesters. On that occasion, the current Minister of Public Security, Omer Barlev, called Ben-Gvir "a cowardly thug who displays his weapon while hiding behind a truck protected by security personnel." According to sources linked to the Likud, Ben-Gvir is bidding to become the next Minister of Public Security, whose tasks include ensuring peaceful coexistence on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, nominated by Muslims as *Haram Al-Sharif* (or Al-Aqsa complex), a space where various spirals of violence have been detonated during the last decades.

Ben-Gvir – and his organization, *Otsma Yehudit* (whose translation from Hebrew is Jewish Power) – are tributaries to the teachings of racist Rabbi [Meir Kahane](#), who also influenced Baruch Goldstein and Rabin's assassin, Ygal Amir. Kahane was expelled from the Knesset in July 1988 for showing a noose with a sliding knot to an Arab-Israeli parliamentarian, and his *Kach* political organization was branded a terrorist group.



Welcome, my allies!

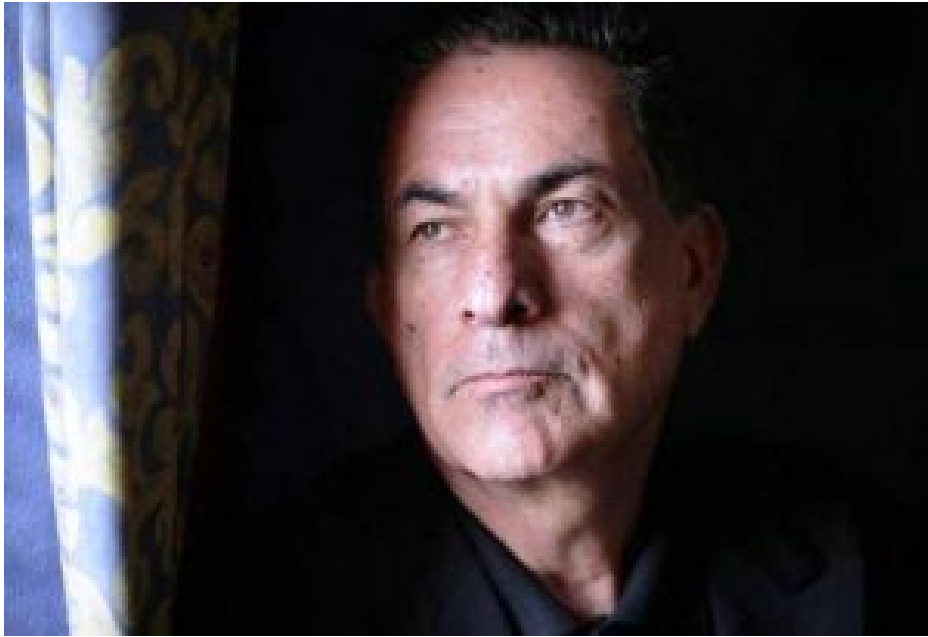
Netanyahu welcomes the Israeli KKK – the Kahanists – into his government. There is no room for hyperbole, this is the real deal.

Cartoon Latuff 2021

*Otzma's* program for the twenty-fifth parliamentary conformation is, since 1948, deeply racist. Its deputies number three times the amount of the majority movement that founded Israel, the Labor Party. Ben Gvir proposes the same measures that Kahane introduced four decades ago: banning marriages between Arabs and Israelis, revoking the citizenship of Israeli Arabs, deporting much of Israel's Palestinian population and descendants of Ethiopian Hebrews, known as [Beta-Israel](#), but derogatorily referred to as *falashas*. One civil society organization directly linked to *Otzma* is *Khasidei Meir*. Among its activities is the program aimed at preventing or preventing the [miscegenation](#) of Jews with Arabs, Muslims and/or atheists.

One of the historic parties that failed to overcome a floor of 3.25% was *Meretz*, the progressive Zionist organization that for the first time since the founding of the state will be left out of the Knesset. Its leader, [Zejava Galon](#), considered that the results of the election are the product of a wave of neo-fascism, but that "no *Kahanist*, no fascist, no racist, chauvinist or homophobe will succeed in extinguishing the spirit of equality within the human species."

However, in Argentina, the current vice president of the DAIA, Sergio Pikholtz, published a tweet the day after the elections in which he repudiated the classification of Israel as an occupying country, while claiming its character as a democracy, despite denying the vote to 2.5 million Palestinians. Israeli journalist [Guide Levy](#) – perhaps the most lucid and coherent analyst of the situation in the Middle East – considered that Kahanism is an implicit and obligatory feature of the *apartheid* suffered by the Palestinians. By allowing racism to spread without clear demarcations, and violent discourses to diversify – without regulations or condemnations – a floor of possibility was established suitable for the unbridled irruption of symbolic and material intimidation. In Levy's words: "Israeli society has become part religious, and part racist, with hatred of Arabs being its main fuel."



Israeli journalist Guion Levy.

When one refuses to combat violence in a decisive, systematic and persistent way, one day monsters come to live with those who – passively – underestimated and enabled them.

*Jorge Elbaum for La Pluma, November 6, 2022*

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