

Challenging the UNHRC Report “From Occupation to Genocide”: A Rebuttal

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Executive Summary

Francesca Albanese's July 2025 report to the UN Human Rights Council - grandly titled *From the Economy of Occupation to the Economy of Genocide* — is not so much a legal analysis as it is a polemic, dressed up in bureaucratic gravitas. At 21,000 words, it is not brief. But it is breathtaking - not for its insight or legal clarity, but for its omission, distortion, and ideological zeal.¹

At the heart of the report is a simple proposition: that Israel, alone among nations, is guilty of a crime so grave that it requires the full weight of international censure - genocide. It is a word Albanese invokes no fewer than 57 times. The words "Hamas", "terrorism", or "hostage" do not appear once. This is no accident. It is the foundation of a carefully constructed moral illusion.

This policy paper dismantles that illusion. It exposes the report's key deficiencies - legal, methodological, and moral - and offers policymakers and parliamentarians an evidence-based corrective. What emerges is not merely a critique of poor scholarship, but a warning: that the machinery of international law is being bent to serve ideological warfare.

Introduction and Context

Ms Albanese, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, is no stranger to controversy. From calling for "armed struggle" to equating Zionism with apartheid, her record is one of polemics masquerading as analysis. In this latest publication, she reaches for the nuclear term — genocide — and applies it with abandon. It is, in effect, a libel wrapped in the language of law.

Let us begin with the term itself. Genocide, under the Genocide Convention of 1948², requires specific intent: the demonstrable aim to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. That is a high bar. And rightly so. Albanese does not clear it. She does not even attempt to. Her "evidence" of genocidal intent consists of selective quotes, often out of context, from Israeli politicians and media. Many of these have been publicly condemned within Israel itself. Meanwhile, there is no engagement with actual policy documents, military protocols, or Israel's own extensive legal constraints.

¹ Francesca Albanese, *From the Economy of Occupation to the Economy of Genocide*, UN Human Rights Council Report A/HRC/59/23 (Advance Unedited Version), July 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session59/advance-version/a-hrc-59-23-aev.pdf>.

² United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, 9 December 1948, United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 78, p. 277, <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/Genocide%20Convention.pdf>.

To read Albanese's account is to enter an alternate universe - one in which Palestinian terrorism simply does not exist. There is no mention of Hamas's 7 October massacre - an event so grotesque in its barbarity that it was likened to ISIS, even by Israel's most trenchant critics. There is no mention of rockets, of suicide bombers, of tunnels dug under kindergartens or hostages paraded in Gaza. Nothing.³

The effect is grotesque: a tale of victimhood entirely unburdened by causality. This is not legal analysis. It is the narrative strategy of the propagandist.

Albanese accuses Israel of running an "economy of genocide," an accusation so inflammatory it deserves a moment's pause. The report argues that Israel's economy is based on "appropriating Palestinian labour, land, and resources." This is a claim made in the abstract. There is no mention of the 1994 Paris Protocols, signed by the Palestinian Authority itself, which govern economic relations between Israel and the territories. No mention of Palestinian imports and exports routed through Israeli ports under agreed frameworks. And certainly no mention of the hundreds of millions in monthly tax revenues Israel transfers to the PA — even during times of armed conflict.

The charge of "colonialism" is even more absurd. Israel is not a foreign colonial power; it is the nation-state of a people indigenous to the land, the majority of whom are refugees or descendants of refugees from surrounding Arab states. What Albanese calls "settler colonialism" is, in truth, the return of a stateless people to their ancestral homeland — a phenomenon unparalleled in modern history. To frame this as conquest is not just dishonest; it is obscene.

Perhaps no term is more abused in this report than "apartheid." The charge is repeated with wearying frequency, yet never substantiated. Albanese fails to mention that over 20% of Israel's population is Arab, that they vote, serve in the Knesset, in the judiciary, and in the Israel Defence Forces. She ignores that Arabic is an official language in Israel, and that Arab parties - some of them explicitly anti-Zionist - campaign freely in Israeli elections.⁴

In the West Bank, meanwhile, legal distinctions exist because of a conflict - not a racial ideology. Israeli military law applies in areas under Israeli control; Palestinian Authority law applies elsewhere. That is not apartheid. It is the tragic consequence of an unresolved war.

There is something especially dangerous about Albanese's work. Not because it is true - but because it is designed to be believed. It is not written for legal scholars or

³ Patrick Kingsley and Isabel Kershner, "Scenes of Horror After Hamas Massacre in Israel," *The New York Times*, 12 October 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/12/world/middleeast/hamas-attack-israel.html>; see also BBC News, "What Happened in Israel and Gaza on 7 October?", *BBC*, 13 October 2023, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67039975>.

⁴ Central Bureau of Statistics (Israel), *Statistical Abstract of Israel 2023*, <https://www.cbs.gov.il/en/publications/Pages/2023/Statistical-Abstract-of-Israel-2023-No-74.aspx>; see also Yohanan Plesner, "Arab Citizens in Israel: Current Trends and Future Directions," *Israel Democracy Institute*, 15 March 2023, <https://en.idi.org.il/articles/48264>.

historians. It is written to be quoted - in protest signs, parliamentary speeches, and social media screeds. It is not scholarship. It is ammunition.

And yet, it carries the imprimatur of the United Nations. This is the real scandal. The UN Human Rights Council, already infamous for its obsession with Israel (more resolutions passed against it than against Syria, Iran and North Korea combined), has now become a platform for ideological vendettas.

Francesca Albanese's report is not the triumph of legal analysis. It is its evisceration. By stripping away context, erasing Palestinian agency, and weaponising international law, it does not bring us closer to peace or justice. It ensures that both will remain out of reach.

The great tragedy is that a real conversation is needed — about Palestinian suffering, about Israeli policy, and about the road to coexistence. But this report does not contribute to that conversation. It ends it, with a scream of accusation, and the sound of doors slamming shut.

If Britain - and the civilised world - is to take international law seriously, it must also take seriously those who abuse it.

The Genocide Libel: A Grave Insult to Law, Logic, and Memory

If one seeks to extinguish moral clarity from a conflict, there is no quicker route than to inject it with the vocabulary of annihilation. "Genocide" is one of the most powerful words in the modern lexicon - one that carries with it the stench of Auschwitz, the carnage of Rwanda, and the graves of Srebrenica. To invoke it carelessly is not only to slander the accused but to dilute the meaning of the crime itself. And yet this is precisely what Francesca Albanese, the UN's Special Rapporteur, has done in her latest report.

Titled, with grim flourish, *From the Economy of Occupation to the Economy of Genocide*, Albanese's 20,000-word tract uses the word "genocide" over fifty times. In that same expanse of prose, the words "Hamas," "terrorism," and "October 7th" appear exactly zero times. There is no mention of 1,200 Israelis slaughtered in their homes, no reference to infants burned alive, no acknowledgment of thousands of rockets fired indiscriminately at civilian populations. The omission is not accidental—it is ideological. The report is not an inquiry; it is an indictment written in advance of the evidence, an attempt to brand Israel not merely as flawed but as fundamentally evil.

Let us be clear: to accuse a democratic state - however embattled or imperfect - of genocide is no minor censure. It is to place Israel in the moral company of Hitler, Stalin, and Pol Pot. It is to say that the Jewish state does not merely err, but that it is criminal in its very existence. This is not a call for reform, but for eradication. Albanese, a lawyer by trade, surely knows this. Which makes her choice of words all the more inexcusable.

But her charge crumbles upon contact with legal and empirical reality.

According to the 1948 Genocide Convention - a document drafted, with bitter irony, in the wake of the Holocaust - genocide is defined as acts committed with the “intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such.” These acts include not only killing but also inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about destruction, preventing births, or forcibly transferring children.⁵

Let us examine the facts. Has Israel used force? Yes. Has it launched military operations in Gaza and the West Bank? Certainly. But use of force - even disproportionate force - does not constitute genocide. There must be demonstrable intent to exterminate a people, not merely defeat an armed adversary. And here the claim falls apart. There is no Israeli policy or statement, official or otherwise, that seeks the destruction of the Palestinian people as a group.

Quite the opposite: despite the enduring conflict, the Palestinian population in both Gaza and the West Bank has grown steadily for decades. According to UN data, Gaza’s population increased from 1.3 million in 2000 to over 2.3 million in 2023. One would be hard pressed to find a genocide that results in population growth.⁶

Contrast this with the openly exterminationist rhetoric of Hamas. Their founding charter promises that “Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam obliterates it.” Their leaders have called for the killing of Jews - not Israelis, Jews - across the globe. And on 7 October 2023, they demonstrated precisely what this means: whole families butchered, hostages taken, and civilians targeted with gleeful cruelty.

None of this appears in Albanese’s report. No mention of terror tunnels dug beneath schools. No mention of aid siphoned by Hamas to build rockets. No mention of hospitals turned into military headquarters or of the more than 130 Israeli hostages still languishing in Gaza. Instead, we are presented with a grotesque fiction in which one side kills, oppresses, and exploits, and the other merely suffers.

Even in wartime, Israel has allowed convoys of aid - food, medicine, fuel—into Gaza. It has established field hospitals for Palestinians. It has dropped leaflets, sent SMS warnings, and even placed phone calls to civilians in order to avoid unnecessary casualties. No other state in the world, when under rocket fire, behaves with such restraint. Certainly, no genocidal state would.⁷

And yet Albanese accuses Israel of engineering a genocidal economy - of deliberately impoverishing Palestinians to destroy them. This is an accusation so absurd it would be

⁵ United Nations General Assembly, *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, 9 December 1948, United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 78, p. 277, https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.1_Convention%20on%20the%20Prevention%20and%20Punishment%20of%20the%20Crime%20of%20Genocide.pdf.

⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects 2022*, accessed July 4, 2025, <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.

⁷ Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “IDF Humanitarian Efforts in Gaza,” accessed July 4, 2025, <https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/idf-humanitarian-efforts-gaza>.

laughable, were it not so toxic. For years, Israel facilitated employment for tens of thousands of Gazans within its borders, allowed Qatari financial aid to flow into Gaza, and transferred electricity and water - often without payment. These are not the actions of a state seeking extermination. They are the choices - however difficult, however questionable - of a democracy trying to navigate a battlefield where the enemy hides behind its own civilians.

And if this is genocide, then one must ask: what, pray tell, was Rwanda?

In 1994, 800,000 Tutsis were slaughtered in the space of 100 days. In Srebrenica, 8,000 Muslim men and boys were lined up and executed for the crime of being born. To equate Israel's actions with these atrocities is not only legally unsound - it is morally obscene. It trivialises true genocide and turns international law into political theatre.⁸

There is, of course, a reason for this rhetorical sleight of hand. "Genocide" is not used here to illuminate - it is used to silence. It renders defence impossible. It makes dialogue shameful. It transforms Israel from a nation into a pariah, from a state into a crime. And that, ultimately, is the goal.

Albanese's report is not a plea for Palestinian dignity. It is an ideological cudgel designed to delegitimise the very idea of Jewish self-determination. It weaponises international law against its intended purpose and insults the memory of those for whom the term "genocide" was not an exaggeration, but a lived reality.

At a time when antisemitism is rising once more across the West, when Jewish schools require armed guards and British streets echo with chants of "death to the IDF," it is not merely reckless but dangerous to peddle this libel under the United Nations' seal. To do so is to embolden those who do not want peace, but erasure.

Let us be clear: criticism of Israeli policy is not antisemitic. But branding Israel a genocidal state is not criticism. It is calumny. It is a lie - brazen, damaging, and profoundly immoral.

And it must not stand.

The Libel of Genocidal Capitalism: A Rebuttal to Francesca Albanese's Economic Fantasies

At the heart of Francesca Albanese's July 2025 UN report, *From the Economy of Occupation to the Economy of Genocide*, lies an economic libel - a new iteration of an old slander—dressed not in brownshirts but in bureaucratic doublespeak and UN

⁸ United Nations, "Outreach Programme on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the United Nations," accessed July 4, 2025, <https://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda>. United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, "Srebrenica Massacre," accessed July 4, 2025, <https://www.icty.org/en/outreach/featured-cases/srebrenica>.

stationery. This is not legal scholarship. It is not even competent activism. It is the weaponisation of economic terminology in the service of ideological warfare.

Albanese casts Israel not merely as an occupying power, but as a vampiric economic predator, gorging itself on Palestinian misery. Firms, institutions, cooperative ventures - nothing is spared her accusatory gaze. All are condemned as instruments of “colonial exploitation” and “genocidal profiteering,” as though every Israeli line of code, drip-irrigation system, or commuter train is but a cog in some monstrous apparatus of destruction.

Let us dismantle this grotesque narrative.

To begin with, Israel’s economy is not and has never been built on the back of Palestinian resources. Unlike the colonial powers of old, Israel does not mine West Bank gold, pump Gazan oil (none exists), or conscript Palestinian labour into imperial production. Israel’s GDP is driven by innovation - its biotech labs, software firms, pharmaceuticals, AI start-ups, and cybersecurity powerhouses. Tel Aviv does not owe its skyline to the plundering of Palestinian wealth. It owes it to Nobel Prizes, code, and ideas.⁹

The economic intertwinement between Israel and the Palestinian territories, such as it is, was not engineered in some sinister Zionist backroom. It is the result of history, geography, and necessity. Water, electricity, medical aid - Israel provides them, often without payment, and often under fire. The electricity powering Gaza’s hospitals? Israeli. The water piped to homes and schools? Israeli. The aid shipments, even while rockets arc over the border? Facilitated by Israel, often sabotaged by Hamas.

Crucially, these exchanges were not imposed by force. They were negotiated. The Oslo Accords - airbrushed from Albanese’s narrative - were signed in good faith and codified mechanisms of economic cooperation, resource sharing, and civil administration. That the UN’s appointed expert would erase such diplomatic history reveals not only intellectual dishonesty, but a deliberate effort to falsify the record.

She points to the economic disparity between Israel and the territories as proof of exploitation. But to blame this entirely on Israeli policy is both lazy and dishonest. Take, for example, the infamous greenhouses. In 2005, upon Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza, over 3,000 high-tech agricultural greenhouses were left behind - many donated by international philanthropists - to form the basis of a thriving Palestinian agricultural industry. They were looted, smashed, and razed by local militias within days. A microcosm, if one were needed, of opportunity squandered not by Zionism, but by nihilism.

⁹ OECD, *OECD Economic Surveys: Israel 2020*, March 2020, <https://www.oecd.org/economy/surveys/Israel-2020-OECD-economic-survey-overview.pdf>; Start-Up Nation Central, “The Israeli Tech Ecosystem,” accessed July 4, 2025, <https://startupnationcentral.org>.

What of the decades of corruption within the Palestinian Authority? The international community, including the very UN agencies Albanese so selectively quotes, has long documented economic stagnation driven not by Israeli policy but by monopolies, nepotism, and factional mismanagement. A 2023 report from the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights explicitly flagged governance failures by the PA as “significant contributors to economic stagnation.” But this, too, is absent from Albanese’s text - because her argument is not shaped by data, but by dogma.

Her disdain extends to firms - Israeli, international, and collaborative. Even the Jerusalem Light Rail is dragged into the dock. This tram system, which links East and West Jerusalem, serving Arab and Jewish communities alike, is recast as a tool of apartheid. That it brings thousands of East Jerusalemites to jobs, hospitals, and schools is, apparently, irrelevant. Integration, it seems, is now a form of colonial aggression.

Albanese condemns agritech pioneers like Netafim and food distributors like Tnuva, accusing them of “genocidal capitalism.” These are companies whose technologies have made deserts bloom and water go further. Their crime is not exploitation—it is origin. The message is clear: whatever Israel does, it must be framed as malevolent.

And what of economic cooperation? What of the Israeli and Palestinian entrepreneurs who have jointly developed aquaponic farms or shared irrigation models? What of the thousands of Palestinians employed in Israel’s private sector, earning wages that sustain families and communities? Albanese has no room for these stories. They are inconvenient. They suggest that coexistence is possible - and possibility is fatal to the grievance industry.

Indeed, Albanese’s real goal becomes unmistakable: to affix a scarlet letter to any enterprise associated with Israel, and thus justify a campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanction cloaked in the respectability of international law. But her foundation is cracked. Even Norway - a government not known for slavish alignment with Israel - has pushed back. The Norwegian Finance Ministry recently warned against arbitrarily blacklisting companies on faulty legal premises, cautioning that it may expose European firms to lawsuits and economic retaliation.

This is not advocacy. It is economic sabotage, dressed up as solidarity.

Let us be precise: if your foundational premise is that Israel is genocidal, then any commerce, any venture, any handshake becomes morally obscene. This is not legal reasoning. It is ideological excommunication. It draws on old and dangerous instincts. For when, in Jewish history, were we ever allowed to trade, to work, to profit—without suspicion?

And this is the truly dangerous part. Francesca Albanese does not just twist the facts. She weaponises language with the precision of a propagandist. To brand economic interdependence as genocidal profiteering is to say, in effect: do not trade with the Jews, for their touch is death.

Such libels must be met with moral clarity. When international institutions become echo chambers for anti-Israel paranoia, they discredit not only themselves but the entire concept of human rights advocacy. They turn law into theatre, and theatre into theatre of the absurd.

Economic ties - imperfect, uneven, but real - remain one of the last remaining threads connecting Israelis and Palestinians. To cut them is to amputate the very limb from which peace might yet grow.

This report is not a legal document. It is a pamphlet. A polemic. A brief for Hamas dressed in human rights robes. It does not advance justice. It strangles it.

If the UN wishes to retain even a shred of moral seriousness, it must repudiate this libel and turn its attention to the hard, necessary work of building economic bridges. It must listen not to those who thrive on grievance, but to those who dare to build - even amid ruin.

Apartheid Accusation and Israel's Pluralistic Reality

If you want to poison a cause, inject it with the wrong vocabulary. And in no corner of modern discourse is this more evident than in the relentless attempt to brand Israel as an apartheid state. The charge is not only historically illiterate — it is a slander so corrosive that it infects all reasonable discussion of peace, rights, and diplomacy.

And yet it reappears — with deadening predictability — in every UN-sponsored screed. Francesca Albanese's latest contribution to the genre (*From the Economy of Occupation to the Economy of Genocide*) is a masterclass in ideological seduction: emotionally potent, legally imprecise, and intellectually fraudulent.

The comparison to apartheid South Africa is not simply inaccurate. It is obscene.

To begin with, let us recall that “apartheid” is not a synonym for “segregation” or “inequality.” Under international law (specifically, the 1973 Apartheid Convention and the 1998 Rome Statute), it refers to *systematic, institutionalised racial oppression by one group over another*. The system must be enforced by law, with intent to dominate and suppress.

None of this is present in Israel.

Arabs make up roughly 21% of Israel's citizenry. They vote. They serve as judges — including on the Supreme Court. They hold parliamentary seats. Arabic was, until recently, an official language. Israeli Arabs serve in the military (on a voluntary basis), run hospitals, lead universities, and preside over courtrooms. The current head of

emergency medicine at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital — one of the largest in the country — is an Israeli Arab.¹⁰

What apartheid state in history gave the supposed “oppressed class” the power to adjudicate over the oppressor?

Here is a less comfortable but more accurate truth: if there is a system of apartheid in the Palestinian territories, it is not one enforced by Israel — but by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

In Gaza, homosexuality is illegal. Christians are harassed. Women are veiled by diktat, not choice. In both Gaza and the West Bank, the sale of land to a Jew is punishable by death — yes, death. In PA-administered areas, Jews may not live. Not one. Contrast that with Israel, where Arab neighbourhoods flourish and Arab citizens thrive.

So let us ask plainly: which side is practising ethnic exclusion? Which society refuses to tolerate the Other?

Albanese and her ideological kin regularly claim that Israel operates a system of “two laws for two peoples” in the West Bank. But this, too, is deliberate distortion. In the West Bank, Israeli settlers — as citizens of Israel — are governed by Israeli civil law. Palestinians, not being citizens of Israel but residents of disputed territories under the governance of the Palestinian Authority, are governed under a different legal regime.

This is not apartheid. It is the legal result of an unresolved conflict.

And the bifurcation of legal regimes is not unique to Israel. Take, for instance, Northern Cyprus - occupied by Turkey since 1974. Turkish settlers there live under Turkish law; Greek Cypriots displaced from the north are governed under different statutes. The international community, while calling for a settlement, has never accused Turkey of practising apartheid.

Why is Israel held to a different standard?

Another cornerstone of the apartheid libel is the claim that Israel is a “Jewish state,” and therefore necessarily discriminatory. But here lies a gross intellectual sleight of hand.

Israel defines itself as the nation-state of the Jewish people, just as France defines itself as the homeland of the French, Greece of the Greeks, and so forth. This has *no bearing* on the rights of non-Jewish citizens. The Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People - often cited as “proof” of apartheid - explicitly preserves individual rights

¹⁰ Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, “Population of Israel on the Eve of 2024,” January 1, 2024, <https://www.cbs.gov.il>;

The Abraham Initiatives, *Equality Index of Arab Citizens of Israel 2023*, <https://abrahaminitiatives.org/en/equality-index>;

Ichilov Hospital (Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center), “Meet Our Team,” accessed July 4, 2025, <https://www.tasmc.org.il>.

and refers only to national self-determination. That is, it affirms Israel as a Jewish *national* home, not a Jewish *ethnocracy*.

Moreover, Jewish national identity is not racial. The Jewish people include Ethiopians, Yemenites, Russians, and converts from around the world. If Zionism were an apartheid project, it is a spectacularly incompetent one.

Much of the apartheid libel is driven by another unspoken assumption - that Jews should be a minority in their own state, and that any effort to maintain a Jewish majority is inherently racist. But let us interrogate this.

The preservation of national character is a recognised aim in international law and political philosophy. Many countries enforce immigration quotas to preserve cultural cohesion - including Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland. Only when Jews do it is it called apartheid.

One might well conclude that what offends the critics is not Israel's policies - but Israel's *existence*.

So why do figures like Francesca Albanese persist in flogging this dead rhetorical horse?

Because it works.

"Apartheid" is a word that electrifies. It calls to mind images of black South Africans dragged from their homes and shot in the street. It transforms a complex national conflict into a simple moral binary. And it delegitimises - completely - the Jewish state. After all, if Israel is apartheid, it must be dismantled, not reformed.

And herein lies the goal: not to end occupation, but to erase Israel.

The apartheid libel does more than slander a democracy. It harms Palestinians by perpetuating false hope that Israel's international standing can be destroyed by rhetoric alone. It poisons public discourse by replacing dialogue with denunciation. And it cheapens the legacy of South Africa's struggle - a unique historical evil now diluted into a tool of propaganda.

To say Israel is not perfect is an understatement. But to say it is an apartheid state is an abomination. It is the intellectual equivalent of arson - a calculated attempt to burn down the possibility of peace in order to parade on the ashes.

Let those who care for justice speak plainly. Israel is not South Africa. And Francesca Albanese is not Desmond Tutu.

Toward Balance and Accountability

There comes a point at which rhetoric ceases to illuminate and begins instead to obscure - to obfuscate, distort, and finally, to incite. That point was long passed in Francesca Albanese's July 2025 report to the UN Human Rights Council, grandly titled *From the Economy of Occupation to the Economy of Genocide*. The title alone offers a preview of the intellectual dishonesty within. It is a document not of measured legal scrutiny, but of incendiary indictment - a manifesto masquerading as a mandate.

Let us call it what it is: a prosecutorial polemic whose true purpose is not peace, but pariahdom. In Albanese's rendering, Israel is not a state facing existential threats or defending itself from blood-soaked aggressors; it is a "genocidal machine" engineered to oppress, exploit, and exterminate. Genocide, apartheid, colonial extraction — every available libel is dredged up, hurled with abandon, and curiously left unexplained in any meaningful legal or historical terms. The accusations are not merely flawed; they are designed to replace fact with fury, law with slogan, and diplomacy with delegitimation.

The report's methodology - if one can call it that — hinges not on rigorous legal analysis but on a deliberate erasure of context. Nowhere does it mention the 7 October pogrom, the most savage mass killing of Jews since the Holocaust, nor the stated genocidal aims of the perpetrators, nor the vast architecture of Hamas terror, nor the decades of rejectionism by Palestinian leadership. None of this appears. Instead, Israel is simply villainous, ab initio - a crime in and of itself.

And that is the point. For Albanese, this is not about policy but ontology. Israel is not criticised for what it does, but for what it is. The goal here is not to curb excess or encourage peace, but to so morally scandalise Israel's very existence that the only acceptable remedy becomes dismantlement. That is why the term "genocide" is repeated 57 times. Not once does the word "Hamas" appear.

This is not oversight. It is theatre.

To be clear: none of this is to deny Palestinian suffering. The conditions in Gaza are dire, the weight of occupation real, and Israeli actions - especially in war - are not immune to error or excess. A mature nation accepts criticism, especially from friends. But criticism that obliterates nuance is not critique; it is propaganda.

Let us take the "apartheid" libel. As this rebuttal has already demonstrated, Israel is a country in which Arab citizens vote, sit in parliament, serve as judges, command hospitals and universities, and live freely alongside their Jewish compatriots. If that constitutes apartheid, then the word has lost all meaning - and with it, the historical gravity of the South African experience. The purpose of such terminology is to evoke revulsion, to end the conversation, to brand Israel's very DNA as contaminated and unworthy of redemption.

The genocide allegation is worse still. There is no serious legal scholar - outside of those already committed to the cause - who believes that Israel's actions meet the UN

definition of genocide. One would think that a “genocidal regime” might at least succeed in reducing the population of those it seeks to annihilate. And yet Palestinian demographics have risen sharply. Israel, despite being at war, still facilitates humanitarian aid into Gaza - even while being shelled from it. It is a peculiar kind of genocide that involves electricity, medical supplies, and SMS warnings before airstrikes.

But Albanese’s report is not interested in contradictions. It is not an attempt to solve the conflict; it is an attempt to make it unsolvable. By casting Israel as uniquely wicked - uniquely colonial, uniquely racist, uniquely genocidal.