

Indictment of Otzma Yehudit

Racism, supremacy, and apartheid are not “opinions.” Fascism is not a “political position.” They are crimes - crimes against human dignity, crimes against equality, and crimes against humanity itself.

In most democracies, any movement openly advocating racial or religious supremacy is treated as criminal. A party calling itself “White Power” in the United States or “Christian Power” in Europe would be outlawed and prosecuted. Yet in Israel, **Otzma Yehudit** (“**Jewish Power**”) - a party whose ideology is the Jewish equivalent of such movements - sits inside government.

Led by **Itamar Ben-Gvir**, a convicted racist agitator, Otzma Yehudit is the modern incarnation of **Kahanism**, a fascist ideology founded by Rabbi Meir Kahane and outlawed for its racism and terrorism. Today, what was once banned as terrorism has been mainstreamed into government, defended by Western leaders who, in their own countries, would never tolerate such a movement.

This is not simply hypocrisy. It is complicity.

From Kach to Otzma Yehudit: Outlawed Terror, Rebranded

Rabbi **Meir Kahane**, born in Brooklyn, founded **Kach** in 1971 after leading the violent Jewish Defense League in the U.S. Kach’s platform was blunt:

- Arabs must be stripped of citizenship and expelled from Israel and the occupied territories.
- Israel must become a Jewish theocracy governed by *halakhah* (Jewish law).
- “Greater Israel” must be established, annexing lands from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Kach entered the Knesset in 1984, winning a single seat. But its presence shook Israel’s political establishment. Kahane openly called for mass expulsions of Arabs, using the language of ethnic cleansing from the parliamentary podium itself. He denounced democracy as weakness and equality as treason.

The reaction was swift. In **1985**, Israel amended **Basic Law: The Knesset (Section 7A)**, adding a provision that barred parties which incite racism or reject Israel as a democratic state. In **1988**, the Supreme Court upheld this amendment to disqualify Kach from elections, declaring its program fundamentally racist and incompatible with democracy.

Still, Kach’s followers continued their activism. In **1994**, the inevitable happened: one of them, **Baruch Goldstein**, carried out the Hebron massacre, murdering 29 Palestinians

during Ramadan prayers. Instead of condemning the atrocity, many Kahanists praised Goldstein as a hero. The Israeli government, under immense pressure, then outlawed Kach and its offshoot Kahane Chai as **terrorist organizations**. The U.S., Canada, and other governments followed suit.

By every measure, Kahanism was recognized as an ideology of **racism, terrorism, and fascism**.

But Kahanism did not die. It adapted. In 2012, alumni of Kach founded **Otzma Yehudit**, a party that presents itself as “new” but carries forward the same core ideology: deport “dis-loyal” Arabs, annex Palestinian land without rights, and entrench Jewish supremacy.

What the Israeli Supreme Court once banned as racist, and the government once outlawed as terror, now sits at the heart of power.

Kahanist Ideology as Crime

The **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court** and the **Genocide Convention** make clear: Otzma Yehudit’s program is not politics. It is criminal.

1. **Apartheid (Rome Statute, Art. 7(1)(j))**

- Defined as domination by one racial group over another through systematic oppression.
- Otzma Yehudit’s policies - dual legal regimes, settlement expansion, denial of equality - are apartheid.

2. **Forcible Transfer (Fourth Geneva Convention, Art. 49)**

- Forbids the expulsion or transfer of populations under occupation.
- Otzma Yehudit openly advocates “transfer,” i.e., expelling Palestinians and “dis-loyal” Arab citizens.

3. **Persecution (Rome Statute, Art. 7(1)(h))**

- Severe deprivation of rights against a group on racial or ethnic grounds.
- The party’s program to strip Arabs of rights qualifies as persecution.

4. **Incitement to Genocide (Genocide Convention, Art. III(c))**

- Direct and public incitement to commit genocide is punishable whether or not genocide occurs.
- Chants of “*Death to Arabs*”, endorsed by party leaders, fit this definition exactly.

The Flag March: Fascism in Plain Sight

The annual **Jerusalem Flag March** lays bare Otzma Yehudit’s criminality.

Every year, ultranationalists parade through the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem’s Old City, chanting “*Death to Arabs*” and “*May your village burn.*” They attack Palestinian merchants, vandalize property, and terrorize residents. Instead of being restrained, they are protected by police escorts.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, now Minister of National Security, is not an outside agitator. He is a regular participant. His presence is an endorsement - and a signal that this incitement has the blessing of the state.

In **any democracy**, such an event - shouting death to a minority - would be banned. Participants would be arrested, organizers prosecuted for hate crimes. In Israel, it is sanctified as patriotism.

On **26 January 2024**, the **International Court of Justice** ordered Israel, as a provisional measure in *South Africa v. Israel*, to “*prevent and punish direct and public incitement to commit genocide*.” The Flag March is the very embodiment of such incitement. By allowing it, and worse, by joining it, Israel stands in open violation of the ICJ's binding order.

The implication is unmistakable: compliance requires banning the Flag March, criminalizing Kahanism, and outlawing Otzma Yehudit - just as Germany after 1945 was required to criminalize Nazism.

The Criminal Responsibility of Itamar Ben-Gvir

Ben-Gvir's record is a catalogue of extremism:

- Convicted in 2007 of **incitement to racism** and **support for a terrorist organization (Kach)**.
- Threatened Prime Minister Rabin in 1995, boasting on television with Rabin's stolen car emblem: “*We got to his car - we'll get to him too.*” Weeks later, Rabin was assassinated.
- Idolized Hebron mass murderer Baruch Goldstein, keeping his portrait in his home for years.
- Has led chants of “Death to Arabs” at rallies.
- As Minister of National Security, oversees police who protect racist mobs instead of suppressing them, while arming settlers and repressing Palestinians.

Under the **Rome Statute**, Ben-Gvir could face ICC prosecution for:

- **Persecution as a crime against humanity** (Art. 7(1)(h)).
- **Apartheid** (Art. 7(1)(j)).
- **Direct and public incitement to genocide** (Art. 25(3)(e)).

Reports suggest sealed ICC warrants against Israeli officials may already exist. Ben-Gvir, given his role, would be a prime candidate.

Western Hypocrisy: Defending Fascism Abroad, Condemning It at Home

The gravest scandal is not only that Otzma Yehudit exists but that it is tolerated - and even defended - by Western governments.

- A “White Power” party in Europe would be banned outright.
- A march chanting “Death to Jews” would be condemned as fascism and broken up by police.
- Politicians participating would be disgraced and barred from office.

Yet **“Jewish Power” is normalized**. Western leaders, who proclaim their opposition to racism and fascism, continue to arm and defend a government that includes Otzma Yehudit. They denounce supremacists at home while embracing them abroad.

This hypocrisy reveals the emptiness of their human rights rhetoric. By tolerating Jewish supremacy while condemning white supremacy, Western governments betray the very universality of human rights.

Conclusion: The Verdict

The facts are undeniable:

- **Otzma Yehudit** is the direct heir of Kach, banned as racist and terroristic.
- Its ideology, **Kahanism**, is fascism: supremacist, racist, and violent.
- Its policies constitute apartheid, forcible transfer, persecution, and incitement to genocide under international law.
- The **Jerusalem Flag March**, endorsed by its leaders, is a state-protected hate rally in direct violation of the ICJ’s binding order of January 2024.
- Its leader, **Itamar Ben-Gvir**, bears individual criminal responsibility and may face ICC prosecution.
- Western leaders who tolerate and defend Otzma Yehudit are complicit in the normalization of fascism.

The precedent is clear. After Nuremberg, Nazism was outlawed in Germany - not as “politics” but as a criminal conspiracy. The same principle applies today: **Kahanism must be criminalized**. Otzma Yehudit must be ostracized, banned, and remembered as the warning it is.

Verdict: Otzma Yehudit is not a political party. It is a fascist organization guilty of propagating crimes against humanity.

Moral imperative: To tolerate Otzma Yehudit is to betray humanity itself. Fascism in any form - white, Christian, or Jewish - is not an opinion. It is a crime. And it must be opposed, criminalized, and defeated.