# Israel Katz vows to build Jewish Israeli state amid new West Bank settlements despite international sanctions



Israel's Defence Minister, Israel Katz, has made headlines by declaring a commitment to build a "Jewish Israeli state" in the occupied West Bank, following the government’s recent announcement of 22 new settlements in the region. Katz's remarks were presented as a bold statement directed towards international leaders, particularly French President Emmanuel Macron, who had labelled the recognition of a Palestinian state, albeit under certain conditions, as a "moral duty."

This development surfaces amidst heightened tensions, following threats from Britain, France, and Canada regarding potential sanctions aimed at Israel unless it scales back its military operations in Gaza. The UK government has initiated the suspension of free trade negotiations with Israel, citing the nation’s actions in the occupied territories as "egregious." Foreign Secretary David Lammy articulated this stance, emphasising that while existing trade agreements will remain in place, the UK cannot engage with a government advancing policies that undermines peace.

During a recent visit to the contested Sa-Nur settlement, Katz affirmed that the latest settlement announcements represent a "decisive response" to what he termed "terrorist organisations" that pose a threat to Israel's sovereignty. He remarked that while international recognition of a Palestinian state might emerge "on paper," Israel’s tangible actions would solidify its position on the ground, insisting, "We will build the Jewish-Israeli state" despite international pressures.

The settlements, described by Israeli officials as a historic step in reinforcing Israeli sovereignty, mark a significant escalation in territory contention. The current wave of expansion includes nine new settlements and the formal legalisation of twelve existing outposts, positioning the Israeli government firmly against the backdrop of ongoing disputes regarding territorial claims and rights under international law. Critics, ranging from the Palestinian Authority to various human rights organisations, have condemned these actions, viewing them as flagrant violations that jeopardise any hope for a negotiated two-state solution.

International response has been sharp and critical. Macron’s condemnation of the humanitarian situation in Gaza further complicates the discourse, prompting accusations from Israeli officials that he is launching a "crusade against the Jewish state." The Israeli foreign ministry has rebuffed the notion of a humanitarian blockade, asserting that it has made significant efforts to allow aid into Gaza despite ongoing hostilities.

As tensions mount, an upcoming international conference at the UN headquarters aims to reignite discussions surrounding the two-state solution. Diplomatic sources in Paris suggest that this effort could facilitate broader recognition of a Palestinian state, amidst an evolving geopolitical landscape where nations like France have hinted at potential recognition as early as June. Yet, with the UK’s characterisation of the establishment of new settlements as a "deliberate obstacle" to Palestinian statehood, the path forward seems fraught with challenges.

Katz's recent statements underscore a broader narrative within Israeli politics, where hardline stances dominate discussions regarding security and sovereignty. As the Israeli government proceeds with its settlement policies, the sentiment amongst proponents remains one of resilience against international criticism and a continued assertion of national identity in a region marked by conflict.

The reality on the ground remains complex, as increased settlement activity not only heightens tensions with the Palestinians but also complicates relations with the international community, leaving many to wonder about the future of peace efforts in the region. The next steps in both Israel's domestic policy and international diplomacy will be pivotal in shaping the landscape of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the months to come.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14765031/We-build-Jewish-Israeli-state-West-Bank-Netanyahus-defence-minister-declares-calling-clear-message-Emmanuel-Macron-associates.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/d16403324646ee4689872b61725882e0), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/f66432d0-16b8-4c6c-bab3-f571943c85dc)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14765031/We-build-Jewish-Israeli-state-West-Bank-Netanyahus-defence-minister-declares-calling-clear-message-Emmanuel-Macron-associates.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-announces-new-west-bank-settlements-despite-sanctions-threat-2025-05-29/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://time.com/7289555/israel-expansion-settlements-west-bank/), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Katz)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/f66432d0-16b8-4c6c-bab3-f571943c85dc), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/d16403324646ee4689872b61725882e0)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/d16403324646ee4689872b61725882e0), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-announces-new-west-bank-settlements-despite-sanctions-threat-2025-05-29/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14765031/We-build-Jewish-Israeli-state-West-Bank-Netanyahus-defence-minister-declares-calling-clear-message-Emmanuel-Macron-associates.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/f66432d0-16b8-4c6c-bab3-f571943c85dc)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14765031/We-build-Jewish-Israeli-state-West-Bank-Netanyahus-defence-minister-declares-calling-clear-message-Emmanuel-Macron-associates.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/d16403324646ee4689872b61725882e0> - On May 29, 2025, Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz announced the approval of 22 new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. Katz described this decision as a strategic move to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state and to reinforce Israeli sovereignty over the territory. The international community, including Britain, France, and Canada, condemned the expansion, viewing it as a significant obstacle to the two-state solution. Human rights groups also criticised the move, arguing it exacerbates tensions and undermines peace efforts. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/d16403324646ee4689872b61725882e0?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://time.com/7289555/israel-expansion-settlements-west-bank/> - On May 29, 2025, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced the creation and legalization of 22 new settlements in the occupied West Bank. This expansion includes nine new settlements and the legalization of twelve existing outposts. Israeli officials, including Defence Minister Israel Katz, described the move as historic and aimed at reinforcing Israeli sovereignty and countering Palestinian statehood ambitions. However, the international community, including the UK and Jordan, criticised the action as illegal under international law and a threat to the two-state solution. ([time.com](https://time.com/7289555/israel-expansion-settlements-west-bank/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-announces-new-west-bank-settlements-despite-sanctions-threat-2025-05-29/> - On May 29, 2025, Israel's government approved the establishment of 22 new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, including the legalization of existing outposts. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich confirmed the decision, stating that the settlements would be built in the northern West Bank. The move has been criticised by the Palestinian Authority, human rights organisations, and international actors, including Britain, France, and Canada, who have warned of potential targeted sanctions. Critics argue that the expansion undermines efforts for a two-state solution and escalates tensions in the region. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-announces-new-west-bank-settlements-despite-sanctions-threat-2025-05-29/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/f66432d0-16b8-4c6c-bab3-f571943c85dc> - Israel has announced plans to establish 22 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, marking its largest expansion in years. The move, presented by Defence Minister Israel Katz and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, is described as a strategic response to Palestinian militancy and a step towards full annexation of the territory. The ministers argue the settlements bolster national security and hinder the creation of a Palestinian state. The international community widely considers the settlements illegal and a major obstacle to a two-state solution, with countries like the UK, France, and Canada issuing strong condemnations. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/f66432d0-16b8-4c6c-bab3-f571943c85dc?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Katz> - Israel Katz is an Israeli politician who has served in various governmental roles, including as Defence Minister. He is known for his hardline stance on peace and security matters, advocating for the annexation of the West Bank and opposing the two-state solution. Katz supports continued settlement construction and extending full Israeli sovereignty to the West Bank. He also opposes any territorial retreat from the Golan Heights, considering it vital for Israel's security. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Katz?utm_source=openai))