

PALESTINE

THE LAND OF MUSLIMS



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PALESTINE - THE LAND OF THE MUSLIMS

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

'...The Palestinian people, already wounded in its body, were submitted to occupation over which floated that falsehood that "Palestine was a land without people." This notion was foisted upon some in the world, whereas in Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations (1919) and in the Treaty of Lausanne (1923), the community of nations had recognized that all the Arab territories, including Palestine, of the formerly Ottoman provinces, were to have granted to them their freedom as provisionally independent nations. Despite the historical injustice inflicted on the Palestinian Arab people resulting in their dispersion and depriving them of their right to self-determination, following upon U.N. General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947), which partitioned Palestine into two states, one Arab, one Jewish, yet it is this Resolution that still provides those conditions of international legitimacy that ensure the right of the Palestinian Arab people to sovereignty.

The willed dispossession and expulsion from their ancestral homes of the majority of Palestine's civilian inhabitants, was achieved by organized terror; those Palestinians who remained, were persecuted and forced to endure the destruction of their national life. Thus were principles of international legitimacy violated. Thus were the Charter of the United Nations and its Resolutions disfigured, for they had recognized the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including the right of Return, the right to independence, the right to sovereignty over territory and homeland.

The massive national uprising, the intifada, as well as the unflinching resistance of the refugee camps outside the homeland, have elevated awareness of the Palestinian truth and right into still higher realms of comprehension and actuality. The intifada has set siege to the mind of official Israel, which has for too long relied exclusively upon myth and terror to deny Palestinian existence altogether.

In pursuance of Resolutions adopted by Arab Summit Conferences and relying on the authority bestowed by international legitimacy as embodied in the Resolutions of the United Nations Organization since 1947; And in exercise by the Palestinian Arab people of its rights to self-determination, political independence and sovereignty over its territory, The Palestine National Council, in the name of God, and in the name of the Palestinian Arab people, hereby proclaims the establishment of the State of Palestine on our Palestinian territory with its capital Jerusalem (Al-Quds Ash-Sharif).'
(Extract from The Palestinian Declaration of Independence)

Res. 469 (May 20, 80): Strongly deplored Israel's failure to observe the Council's order not to deport Palestinians.

Res. 471 (June 5, 80): Expressed deep concern at Israel's failure to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Res. 476 (June 30, 80): Reiterated that Israel's claims to Jerusalem are 'null and void'.

Res. 478 (Aug 20, 80): 'Censured in the strongest terms' Israel for its claim to Jerusalem in its 'basic law'.

Res. 484 (Dec 19, 80): Declared it imperative Israel re-admit two Palestinian mayors.

Res. 487 (June 19, 81): Strongly condemns Israel for its attack on Iraq's nuclear facility.

Res. 497 (Dec 17, 81): Decided Israel's annexation of Syria's Golan Heights is 'null and void' and demanded that Israel rescind its decision forthwith.

Res. 498 (Dec 18, 81): Called on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

Res. 501 (Feb 25, 82): Called on Israel to stop attacks against Lebanon and withdraw its troops.

Res. 508 (June 6, 82): Demanded Israel withdraw its forces forthwith and unconditionally from Lebanon.

Res. 515 (July 29, 82): Demanded Israel lift its siege of Beirut and allow in food.

Res. 517 (Aug 4, 82): Censured Israel for failing to obey UN Resolutions and demanded Israel withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

Res. 518 (Aug 12, 82): Demanded Israel cooperate fully with UN forces in Lebanon.

Res. 520 (Sep 17, 82): Condemned Israel's attack into West Beirut.

Res. 573 (Oct 4, 85): Condemned Israel vigorously for bombing Tunisia in attack on PLO Headquarters.

Res. 587 (Sep 23, 86): Took note of previous calls on Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and urged all parties to withdraw.

Res. 592 (Dec 8, 86): Strongly deplored the killing of Palestinian students at Bir Zeit University by Israeli troops.

Res. 605 (Dec 22, 87): Strongly deplored Israel's policies and practices denying human rights of Palestinians.

Res. 607 (Jan 5, 88): Called on Israel not to deport Palestinians and strongly requested it to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Res. 608 (Jan 14, 88): Deeply regretted that Israel had defied the UN and deported Palestinian civilians.

Res. 636 (July 6, 89): Deeply regretted the Israeli deportation of Palestinians.

Res. 641 (Aug 30, 89): Deplored Israel's continuous deportation of Palestinians.

Res. 672 (Oct 12, 90): Condemned Israel for violence against Palestinians in Jerusalem's Haram Al-Sharif.

Res. 673 (Oct 24, 90): Deplored Israel's refusal to cooperate with the UN.

Res. 681 (Dec 20, 90): Deplored Israel's resumption of deportation of Palestinians.

Res. 694 (May 24, 91): Deplored Israel's deportation of Palestinians and called on it to ensure their safe and immediate return.

Res. 726 (Jan 1, 92): 'Strongly condemned' Israel's decision to resume deportation of Palestinians from 'Palestinian territories including Jerusalem.'

Res. 799 (Dec 19, 92): Deplored Israel's mass deportation of some 400 Palestinians and called for their immediate return.

UN Security Council Resolutions on Israel since 1948

Res. 101 (Nov 24, 53): Expressed 'strongest censure' of Israel for the first time because of its raid on Qibya.

Res. 106 (Mar 29, 55): Condemned Israel for Ghazzah raid.

Res. 111 (Jan 19, 56): Condemned Israel for raid on Syria that killed 56 people.

Res. 127 (Jan 22, 58): Recommended Israel to suspend its no-man's zone in Jerusalem.

Res. 162 (Apr 11, 61): Urged Israel to comply with UN decisions.

Res. 171 (Apr 9, 62): Determined 'flagrant violation' by Israel in its attack on Syria.

Res. 228 (Nov 25, 66): Censured Israel for its attack on Samu in Jordan.

Res. 237 (June 14, 67): Urged Israel to allow return of new 1967 Palestinian refugees.

Res. 248 (Mar 24, 68): Condemned Israel for its massive attack on Karameh in Jordan. Res. 250 (Apr 27, 68): Called on Israel to refrain from holding military parade in Jerusalem.

Res. 251 (May 2, 68): Deeply deplored Israel's military parade in Jerusalem and declared invalid Israel's acts to unify Jerusalem as its capital.

Res. 256 (Aug 16, 68): Condemned Israeli raids on Jordan as 'flagrant violation'.

Res. 259 (Sep 27, 68): Deplored Israel's refusal to accept UN mission to probe occupation.

Res. 262 (Dec 31, 68): Condemned Israel's attack on Beirut airport destroying the entire fleet of Middle East Airlines.

Res. 265 (Apr 1, 69): Condemned Israel for air attacks on Salt in Jordan.

Res. 267 (July 3, 69): Censured Israel for administrative acts to change status of Jerusalem.

Res. 270 (Aug. 26, 69): Condemned Israel for air attack on villages in southern Lebanon.

Res. 271 (Sep 15, 69): Condemned Israel's failure to comply with UN Resolutions on Jerusalem.

Res. 279 (May 12, 70): Demanded withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Res. 280 (May 19, 70): Condemned Israeli attacks against Lebanon.

Res. 285 (Sep 5, 70): Demanded immediate Israeli troop withdrawal from Lebanon.

Res. 298 (Sep 25, 71): Deplored Israel's change of status of Jerusalem.

Res. 313 (Aug 8, 72): Demanded Israel stop attacks against Lebanon.

Res. 316 (June 26, 72): Condemned Israel for repeated attacks on Lebanon.

Res. 317 (July 21, 72): Deplored Israel's refusal to release Arabs abducted from Lebanon.

Res. 332 (Apr 21, 73): Condemned Israel's repeated attacks against Lebanon.

Res. 337 (Aug 15, 73): Condemned Israel for violating Lebanon's sovereignty.

Res. 347 (Apr 24, 74): Condemned Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Res. 425 (Mar 19, 78): Called on Israel to withdraw its forces unconditionally from Lebanon.

Res. 427 (May 3, 78): Called on Israel to complete its withdrawal from Lebanon.

Res. 444 (Jan 19, 79): Deplored Israel's lack of cooperation with UN peace forces.

Res. 446 (Mar 22, 79): Determined Israeli settlements as a 'serious obstruction' to peace, and called on Israel to abide by the Geneva Conventions.

Res. 450 (June 14, 79): Called on Israel to stop attacking Lebanon.

Res. 452 (July 20, 79): Called on Israel to cease building settlements in occupied territories.

Res. 465 (Mar 1, 80): Deplored Israel's settlements and asked all member States not to assist Israel's settlement programme.

Res. 467 (Apr 24, 80): Condemned Israel's military intervention in Lebanon.

Res. 468 (May 8, 80): Called on Israel to Rescind illegal expulsion of two Palestinian Mayors and a Judge, and to facilitate their return.

The History of Palestine 1895 - 1992

1895 The total population of Palestine was 500,000 of whom 47,000 were Jews who owned 0.5% of the land.

1896 Following the appearance of anti-Semitism in Europe, Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism tried to find a political solution for the problem in his book, 'The Jewish State'. He advocated the creation of a Jewish state in Argentina or Palestine.

1897 The first Zionist Congress was held in Switzerland, which issued the Basle programme on the colonisation of Palestine and the establishment of the World Zionist Organisation (WZO).

1904 Fourth Zionist Congress decided to establish a national home for Jews in Argentina.

1906 The Zionist congress decided the Jewish homeland should be Palestine.

1914 With the outbreak of World War I, Britain promised the independence of Arab lands under Ottoman rule, including Palestine, in return for Arab support against Turkey which had entered the war on the side of Germany.

1916 Britain and France signed the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which divided the Arab region into zones of influence. Lebanon and Syria were assigned to France, Jordan and Iraq to Britain and Palestine was to be internationalised.

1917 Lord Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary sent a letter to the Zionist leader Lord Rothschild which later became known as "The Balfour declaration". He stated that Britain would use its best endeavours to facilitate the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people. At that time the population of Palestine was 700,000 of which 574,000 were Muslims, 74,000 were Christian, and 56,000 were Jews.

1919 The Palestinians convened their first National Conference and expressed their opposition to the Balfour Declaration.

1920 The San Remo Conference granted Britain a mandate over Palestine and two years later Palestine was effectively under British administration, and Sir Herbert Samuel, a declared Zionist, was sent as Britain's first High Commissioner to Palestine.

1936 The Palestinians held a six-month General Strike to protest against the confiscation of land and Jewish immigration.

1939 The British government published a new White Paper restricting Jewish immigration and offering independence for Palestine within ten years. This was rejected by the Zionists, who then organised terrorist groups and launched a bloody campaign against the British and the Palestinians. The aim was to drive them both out of Palestine and to pave the way for the establishment of the Zionist state.

1947 The United Nations approved the partition under which the Palestinian Arabs, who accounted for 70% of the population and owned 92% of the land, were allocated 47% of the country.

1948 British forces withdrew from Palestine in May and the Zionists proclaimed the state of Israel without defining its borders. Arab armies moved to defend the Palestinians.

1949 A cease fire was finally agreed. The Zionists controlled 77% of Palestinian land and over 1 million Palestinians were forced to leave their country. The West Bank was put under Jordanian control and the Gaza Strip under Egyptian control.

1964 The Palestine Liberation Organisation was established.

1965 The Palestine 'Revolution' began on 1 January.

1967 Israel launched a new war against the Arabs and seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Syrian Golan Heights and the Egyptian Sinai peninsula

1973 The October War between Israel and the Arab states broke out.

1974 The Arab Summit in Rabat recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. At the United Nations General Assembly, the UN reaffirmed its commitment to an independent sovereign state in Palestine and gave the PLO observer status at the United Nations. Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations.

1977 Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Agreement under the auspices of the United States.

1982 Israel invaded Lebanon with the aim of destroying the PLO. Tens of thousands were killed and made homeless in the wake of the invasion which culminated in the massacres of Sabra and Shatilla.

1983 The United Nations called for the convening of a Peace Conference with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with the other delegates as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

1987 The 18th Session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) supported the convening of a UN- sponsored conference. In December the Intifada- the Palestine Uprising - in the Occupied Territories began.

1988 Abu Jihad, Palestinian leader, was gunned down in his home in Tunis on 14 April by the Israeli Mossad.

July 31 Jordanian disengagement - King Hussein of Jordan said he no longer considered the West Bank as part of his kingdom.

Nov 15 The PNC meeting in Algiers declared the State of Palestine as outlined in the UN Partition Plan 181.

Dec 9 British Junior Foreign Minister William Waldegrave met with Bassam Abu Sharif President Arafat's adviser, thus upgrading Britain's relations with the PLO.

Following the US government refusing President Arafat a visa to enter the US, the UN General Assembly held a special session on the question of Palestine in Geneva. US/PLO dialogue began

1989 June 28: EEC Madrid Conference issued a new declaration calling for the PLO to be involved in any peace negotiations.

August 3: Fateh, the mainstream PLO organisation, at their 5th Conference endorsed the PLO strategy adopted at the PNC in Algiers in November 1988.

1990 May 20: Seven Palestinian workers from Gaza were massacred by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv. Yasser Arafat addressed the UN Security Council in Geneva after the massacre in which he called for the deployment of a UN emergency force to provide international protection for the Palestinian people to safeguard their lives, properties and holy places.

The US vetoed a motion which called for the Security Council to send a fact finding mission to the area. At the end of their hunger strike, Palestinian leaders in the Occupied Territories decided to boycott the US.

The Arab Summit in Baghdad pledged support for the Palestinian Intifada and strongly denounced the settlement of Soviet Jews within the Occupied Territories.

June 20: The US suspended its dialogue with the PLO after the PLO refused to denounce a military operation in the sea by the PLF.

June 26: The EEC in Dublin issued a new declaration on the Middle East which condemned Israeli human rights violations and the settlement of Soviet Jews in the Occupied Territories. It also doubled its economic aid programme to the Occupied Territories.

August 2: The Gulf Crisis erupted.

December 20: UN Security Council adopted Resolution 681.

1990 January 16: War in the Gulf started.

February 17: Cease fire agreed in War in the Gulf. - 23 September: The PNC met in Algiers and paved the way for the Palestinian delegation to participate in the Middle East Peace Conference.

October 30: The Middle East Peace Conference convened in Madrid.

December 3: The bi-lateral talks between Israel and the Palestinians, Syrians, Jordanians and Lebanese started in Washington.

1992 June 23: Israeli Labour Party won the election in Israel and formed a Labour coalition government.

August 24: The sixth round of the bi-lateral talks started in Washington.

(Sources: Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, Washington, DC)