

PALESTINE



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Note: This work is part of the book '*Islamophobia*' written in 2012, hence the data is old but still relevant.

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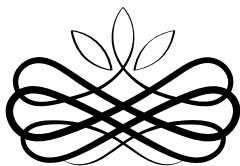
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By way of deception, thou shalt do war.

Motto of the Mossad

If we thought that instead of 200 Palestinian fatalities, 2,000 dead would put an end to the fighting at a stroke, we would use much more force...

Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, Associated Press,
16 November 2000

I would have joined a terrorist organization.

Ehud Barak's response to Gideon Levy, a columnist for the Ha'aretz newspaper, when Barak was asked what he would have done if he had been born a Palestinian.

Peace is the peace of the strong.

Yasir Arafat

O David! Verily! We have placed you as a successor on earth, So Judge you between men in truth (and justice) and follow not your desire—for it will mislead you from the path of Allah. Verily! Those who wander astray from the Path of Allah (shall) have a severe torment, because they forgot the Day of Reckoning.

Al-Qur'an, 38:26

In 1192, Saladin assigned responsibility of the church of the holy Sepulcher to two neighboring Muslim families. The Joudeh were entrusted with the key, and the Nusseibeh, who had been the custodians of the church of the holy Sepulcher since the days of Caliph Umar in 637, retained the position of keeping the door. This arrangement has persisted into modern times. Twice each day, a Joudeh family member brings the key to the door, which is locked and unlocked by a Nusseibeh.

Over the period of 27 December 2008 to the ceasefire of 18 January 2009 Gaza was bombed by land, air and sea. In just short 3 weeks, 1400 Palestinians were killed, nearly half of them children. Over 21,000 houses including schools, hospitals and even United Nations warehouses were destroyed. The scale of attacks matched that meted out to Lebanon in 1982, or indeed, during the 2006 invasion, with similar intensity, ferocity and breaches of international law. It was estimated a million and a half tons of explosives were dropped on Gaza strip. Gaza is 25 miles by 5 miles and home to 1.5 million people. 100,000 people were made homeless. Prior to this, Gaza was completely blockaded and starved for 50 days. (Ang Swee Chai, *From Beirut to Jerusalem*, p. xi, The Other Press, Kuala Lumpur).

First of all, we must realize that the events in Palestine are much more than merely a war between Arabs and Israelis. It is not only a struggle for existence and survival but also an uprising by the Palestinians to safeguard Jerusalem, the Muslims first *Qibla* (direction towards which Muslims pray), Al-Aqsa Mosque—the third holiest mosque and the Dome of the Rock, the site of the Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) miraculous *Miraj* (Accession).

The history of this conflict can be traced back to thousands of years.

There were many generations that appeared after the Prophet Adam (peace be upon him) until the appearance of Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim) (pbuh). Abraham (pbuh) had two wives Sarah and Hagar. Hagar gave birth to Ishmael (Ismail) (pbuh) and ten years later Sarah to Isaac (Ishaaq) (pbuh). Abraham (pbuh) shifted Hagar and Ishmael (pbuh) to Arabia (Makkah) where later they built the 'Ka'abah' the first house of worship.

Isaac (pbuh) remained in Canaan (modern day Palestine). He had two sons Esau and Jacob (Yaqub) (pbuh). Jacob (pbuh) is also known as Israel, he had twelve sons (who later multiplied) into twelve tribes.

However Jacob (pbuh) migrated to Egypt during his son Joseph's (Yusuf) (pbuh) royal appointment. (Jacob's sons are also known as children of Israel). After Joseph's (pbuh) appointment, the children of Israel lived in peace and security in Egypt. After the death of Joseph (pbuh) somehow their condition changed overtime, and Pharaoh (Firaun) treated them with great cruelty. God made Moses (Musa) (pbuh) His prophet during this period and ordered him to lead them out from Egypt. He went to Pharaoh (Firaun) and asked him to give up his pagan beliefs and to surrender to God, and to free the children of Israel, also called Israelites. But Pharaoh (Firaun) responded hostilely towards Moses (pbuh), and to prevent his own followers (his magicians/ sorcerers) from believing in Moses (pbuh) he threatened to cut their opposite hands and feet.

Moses (pbuh) and his people fled Egypt, crossing the sea with Pharaoh and his people in hot pursuit. However, God with his miracles drowned Pharaoh and his men. This happened in approximately 1250 B.C. After escaping the Pharaoh, Moses (pbuh) and his people started settling in Palestine (Canaan), the land that was promised to Moses (pbuh) by God (Exodus 23:31). However, instead of driving out the original inhabitants of Palestine (as per Exodus, 23:31) they actually slew every male (Numbers 31:7) taking captive the women and their little ones and then killing all the women later.

The Israelites under Joshua, nominated by Moses (pbuh) at the time of his death set about trying to wipe out everything that breathed, even burning animals alive (as per Deuteronomy (20:16), “But in the cities of these people that the land your God gives you for an inheritance you shall save alive nothing that breathes.”). The following verses of the Bible mentions some of the acts of violence and killing as follows:

- “*When Israel had finished slaughtering all the inhabitants of Ai (a town in Palestine)... and all who fell that day were 12,000”* (Joshua, 8:24–25).
- “*And Joshua took Makkedah....he utterly destroyed every person in it.”* (Joshua 10:28).
- “*And he smote it Libnah with the edge of the sword and every person in it”* (Joshua, 10: 29–30).
- “*And Joshua smote it (Lochish) with the edge of the sword and every person in it.”* (Joshua, 10:31–32).

- “And Joshua smote them (Haram, king of Gezer) and his people until he left none remaining” (Joshua, 10:33).

The same treatment was administered to Eglon, Hebron, Debir, Hazar and many others until all city-states falling within the boundaries of the Promised Land were utterly destroyed. **In the ocean of blood, therefore, was laid the foundation of the kingdom of Israel. That was some 3,400 years ago.**

The land taken with such bloodshed and large scale massacres failed to keep the Israelites united and degeneration set in very fast. By 1000 B.C.E. the Israelites were completely transformed people, heavily under the influence of the people they had conquered. The Israelites reverted to idolatry and ‘Yahweh’ the God of Abraham (pbuh) Isaac (pbuh) and Moses (pbuh) had now become “the God of all gods.” Laws of Torah were either forgotten or given corrupt forms. The appearance of new Prophets didn’t help either, until the advent of Prophet David (Daud) (pbuh) who became the Israeli King and created a powerful kingdom. During his and his son’s, Solomon(pbuh) reign the Israelite kingdom excelled in many fields particularly architecture. In Jerusalem Solomon (Sulayman) (pbuh) had a magnificent palace and temple build. (*After him such was the degeneration that when Jesus (Isa) (pbuh) appeared nine centuries later, he addressed them thus, “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil speak good things.” (Mathew 12:34).*)

However, it is quite evident that the period covering the reigns of David and Solomon was only a small bright spot in the history of Israel’s continuous decline which seems to have begun with the death of Joshua. And then the final blow came from Babylon in the form of Nebuchadnezzar, who invaded Palestine and captured Jerusalem. Ten years later when the Jews revolted he came back and destroyed Jerusalem altogether, including the Solomon temple.

They had a short period of respite when the Persian King Cyrus, who after conquering Babylon, allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem, the temple was rebuilt, the Torah rewritten, scattered Jews recalled. However, the wound inflicted by Nebuchadnezzar left a permanent scar on the Israeli psyche that can even be detected today according to some observers.

The ownership of Jerusalem meanwhile passed from Babylonians to Greeks (during Alexander’s time) to Seleucids to Jews (for a short

while), and finally to the Romans. Jews continued their struggle against Roman rule, and finally in 70 C.E. they revolted. The Roman governor Titus besieged Jerusalem and the revolt was crushed. Thousands of Jews were slaughtered, the city and its walls were razed to the ground, the temple of Solomon was burned and destroyed again, but this time never to be rebuilt again. However, in 135 C.E., they revolted for the last time, but the Romans after crushing the revolt expelled the Jews altogether not only from Jerusalem but also from the whole of Palestine.

The Christians in the meantime steadily grew in numbers. Roman emperor, Constantine I converted to Christianity and by the end of the 4th century Christianity had become the state religion.

A leading British commentator on comparative religion, Karen Armstrong, says that in 353 C.E. Constantius II enacted new legislations forbidding Christians to convert to Judaism and entering on the empire's official statute books a description of the Jews as "Savage" "Abominable" and "Blasphemous." This was in addition to previous legislation that forbade intermarriage between Jews and Christians and prohibited Jews from owning any slaves, to isolate the Jews and to cripple Jewish industry. (Karen Armstrong, *A History of Jerusalem*, pp. 192–3, Harper Perennial, London).

During Emperor Justinian's (527–65) rule the destruction of Judaism became mandatory—the Jews were virtually deprived of their faith, were forbidden to hold civil or military posts, the use of Hebrew was forbidden in the synagogues, and if Passover fell before Easter, Jews were not allowed to observe the festival on the correct date. In 634, Heraklius commanded all the Jews of his empire to be baptized. (*A History of Jerusalem*, pp. 209–215).

After Rome expelled the Jews out of Palestine, Roman Christians built churches in Jerusalem and transformed it into a Christian city. Palestine remained Roman (Byzantine) territory until the seventh century, when it became part of the Persian empire for a short time. Eventually, the Byzantines reclaimed it.

In the meantime, in the deserts of Arabia a simple and honest man with an outstanding character by the name Muhammad (pbuh) was chosen as the last and final Prophet for mankind and the Qur'an as the final message of the God was revealed to him. He was a descendant of Prophet Ishmael (pbuh), the elder son of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him).

God commanded Muhammad (peace be upon him) to propagate Islam—the religion of Abraham, Moses and Jesus and of all prophets (peace be upon them all) to all of humanity. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) died in 632 C.E., and within five years of his death in 637 C.E. an army of his friends and followers arrived outside the walls of Jerusalem.

The year 637 C.E. represents an important turning point in Palestine's history for after this it came under Muslim control and was to remain under their control for the next 1300 years — except for a period of 88 years—until the defeat of the Ottoman rule—(The Ottoman Caliphate). This event brought peace and harmony to Palestine, which for centuries had been the scene of wars, exile, looting, and massacres. Under Muslim rule, however, its inhabitants, regardless of their beliefs, would live together in peace and harmony.

Palestine came under the control of Muslims in 637–38 C.E. under the caliphate of Umar bin al Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him). Karen Armstrong, in her book *A History of Jerusalem, One City, Three Faiths*, describes the capture of Jerusalem by Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) in these terms, “the Patriarch Sophronius rode out of the city to meet Umar and then escorted the caliph back into Jerusalem. Umar also expressed the monotheistic ideal of compassion more than any previous conqueror of Jerusalem. He presided over the most peaceful and bloodless conquest that the city had yet seen in its long and often tragic history, once the Christians had surrendered, there was no killing, no destruction of property, no burning of rival religious symbols, no expulsions or expropriations and no attempt to force the inhabitants to embrace Islam.”

While Byzantine Emperors had outlawed the Judaism and forced the Jews to the point of baptism, Umar invited them to settle in Jerusalem. The Muslims had not only liberated them from the oppression of Byzantium but had also given them rights of permanent residence in their holy city. “Unlike Christianity which tried to suppress all rival religions, Islam from its very inception maintained a great degree of tolerance towards other faiths, so that members of all three great monotheistic religions of the world were able to live together in relative peace and harmony under the benevolent rule of Islam. The Jews for example, who were being hounded to death or treated as second class citizens in Christian Europe enjoyed a rich cultural renaissance of their own and like the Christians, were allowed full religious liberty throughout

the Islamic Empire.” (Tim Wallace Murphy, *What Islam Did for Us*, p. 2, Watkins Publishing, London).

This peace and harmony lasted until the crusaders invasion in the 11th C.E. Following Pope Urban II’s call on 27 Nov 1095 at the council of Clermont, more than 100,000 Europeans set out for Palestine to free the Holy land from the Muslims and find the fabled wealth of the east. They reached Jerusalem in 1099. The city fell after a siege of nearly five weeks. When the crusaders moved in, they carried out a savage slaughter. For three days the crusaders systematically slaughtered about forty thousand inhabitants of Jerusalem and occupied their houses. Ten thousands Muslims who had sought sanctuary on the roof of the Aqsa Mosque were brutally massacred, and Jews were rounded up into their synagogue and put to the sword. There were scarcely any survivors. The streets literally ran with blood. “Piles of heads, hands and feet were to be seen,” says an eyewitness Raymond of Aguiles (a crusader) with no shame, He says, “if I tell the truth it will exceed your powers of belief. So let it suffice to say this much at least, that in the Temple and the porch of Solomon, men rode in blood up to their knees and bridle reins.” The peace and harmony in Palestine which had lasted since Umar ended in a terrible slaughter.

The crusaders made Jerusalem their capital and established a Latin kingdom stretching from Palestine to Antioch. It was under their occupation for only 88 years, when Saladin defeated them at the Battle of Hattim in 1187. Three months after the Battle of Hattim (2 October 1187), Saladin entered Jerusalem. In contrast to the crusaders “liberation” of Jerusalem, Saladin did not touch one Christian in the city, he merely ordered some Latin Christians to leave Jerusalem. The orthodox Christians who were not crusaders were allowed to stay and worship as they chose. Saladin conquered the city according to the highest Islamic ideals, he did not take revenge for the 1099 massacre.

Saladin also invited the Jews to come back to Jerusalem, from where they had been almost entirely excluded by the crusaders.

He was hailed throughout the Jewish world as a new Cyrus.” (*A History of Jerusalem*, pp. 274–298).

Stanley Lane-Poole writes, “**Fortunate were the merciless, for they obtained mercy at the hands of the Muslim sultan...**” and “**If the taking of Jerusalem were the only fact known about Saladin, it**

were enough to prove him the most chivalrous and great-hearted conqueror of his own, and perhaps of any age.” (Stanley Lane-Poole: *Saladin and the Fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem*, p. 215, The Other Press, Kuala Lumpur).

French historian Reve Grousset writes about Saladin:

It is equally true that his generosity, his piety, devoid of fanaticism, that flower of liberality and courtesy, which had been the model of our old chroniclers, won him no less popularity in Frankish Syria than in the lands of Islam.

The fall of Jerusalem into Muslim hands was a severe blow to the Jews who were waiting for a messiah (Prophet) as is prophesized in the Torah. That this prophecy had already come true in the form of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was something they rejected only on the ground that he was not a Jew (from Isaac’s side) but an Arab (from Ishmael’s side) (peace be upon them). Totally frustrated although well tolerated, the Jews slowly began shifting to Europe.

It was under Muslim influence, historians acknowledge, that the growing Christian kingdoms of Europe learned to tolerate the Jews who laid their foundation in Europe. Without land they became artisans and tradesmen, they also took charge of the trade of usury (interest) which was banned for the Christians by the church and were soon controlling trade and commerce to the envy of the Christians.

It was not long, before the Jews discovered that they were not wanted in Europe. A wave of anti Jewish feeling swept through the whole of Western Europe. By the end of thirteen century, Jews were completely expelled from Britain and France. The whole of 14th century witnessed wild massacres of Jews in Spain, a place where they had enjoyed a lot of freedom and peace since the coming of Muslim armies in the 8th century and the subsequent Muslim rule for about 800 years. In 1496, they were expelled from Portugal as well. Thereafter, many adopted Christianity. Some went to Eastern Europe while some opted to go to Muslim Turkey where once again they were well tolerated (they are still there in large numbers).

With the dawn of the 19th century the government and people of Western Europe learnt to tolerate their existence as small minorities. Enterprising Jews took advantage of the situation to move in and carve a place for themselves in the fast growing industrial economy. But the

large masses living in Eastern Europe, Romania, Hungary, East Germany Poland and Russia were assigned to ghettos, discriminated against and hated by the sons of the Renaissance. The Jews accepted their lot with quiet suffering, waiting for the messiah who would lead them to final triumph over the ‘infidels’ and get them back the promised land—Palestine. They finally saw their opportunity when Palestine came under British occupation with the defeat and end of the Ottoman Empire and caliphate in 1917. With this target firmly in mind the Jews began exercising their influence in the European press for a homeland in Palestine. For which they coined a slogan, **A land without people for a people without land**. They would not miss any occasion /opportunity to suggest to the British and French that with their withdrawal sooner or later given the Arab temper all previous exercises carried out to break up the Ottoman empire and Muslim unity would come to naught if a friendly people such as Jews were not left behind in firm control at the heart of Middle East—Palestine. Gradually the idea of a permanent western outpost in the Middle East caught the imagination of politicians in Europe and plans began being laid down to transform the fantasy into reality. Europe had at last found a “Final Solution” to the Jewish problem.

In 1917, England announced in its Balfour Declaration that His Majesty’s government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people... in Palestine. The Balfour Declaration was bitterly opposed by Edwin Montagu, the only Jewish member of the British cabinet at the time. Montagu registered his profound disagreement with Balfour and with the philosophy of Zionism in general. Reflecting on Balfour’s promise, Montagu wrote, “I do not know what this involves, but I assume that it means that Mahomedans (Muslims) and Christians are to make way for the Jews and that the Jews should be put in all positions of preference and should be peculiarly associated with Palestine in the same way that England is with the English or France is with the French, that Turks and other Mahomedans in Palestine will be regarded as foreigners, just in the same way as Jews will hereafter be treated as foreigners in every country but Palestine. Perhaps also citizenship must be granted only as a result of a religious test.” Such a test, he added, “seems to me to be only admitted by those who take a bigoted and narrow view of one epoch of the history of

Palestine, and claim for the Jews a position to which they are not entitled.” (Saree Makdisi, *Palestine Inside Out, (An Everyday Occupation)* p. 238, W. W. Norton & Company, New York, London).

There were mainly four factors that led to the creation of the state of Israel. The first is the disunity among the Arabs/Muslims (who were bitten by the bug of nationalism, which is how Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and all other states of the Gulf including the Yemen were created), which made it easy for the Westerners to create their colonies on Arab lands. The second is the conspiracy and futuristic plan of the US, Europe and even Russia to have a friendly state (Israel) in the midst of oil-rich Arabs to create pressure and blackmail them as and when required. The third reason is the relentless persecution of Jews by the people of Europe, and the fourth is the Jewish belief in the ‘promised land’ that Yahweh (God) had promised to Prophet Abraham (pbuh) (Genesis,17:8).

The greatest hurdle in the creation of Israel was, however, the fact that the Palestine that everyone spoke of was not an empty stretch of land. A survey carried out in 1917 showed that it was inhabited by 700,000 people, 92% Arabs and 8% Jewish. Of the total land area of 26,320,000 acres the Jews owned less than 1% at the beginning of the 20th century.

In 1919 King-Crane Commission appointed by the US President Wilson, report...”No British officer, consulted by the commissioners, believed that the Zionist program could be carried out except by force of arms.” They warned, “The officers generally thought a force of not less than fifty thousand soldiers would be required even to initiate the program. That in itself is evidence of a strong sense of the injustice of the Zionist program.” (*Palestine Inside Out*, pp. 240–1). Despite such great obstacles and impending injustice the US went ahead.

Having received the official support of the Balfour Declaration the Zionist began to encourage Jewish migration to Palestine, even by force when necessary. Approximately 100,000 Jews migrated to Palestine between 1920–29.

The Zionist organizations had complete control over this migration. Jews who set foot in Palestine were met by Zionist groups, who determined where they would stay and what type of work they would do. As a result the Jewish population in Palestine recorded extensive growth in terms of numbers and settlements. According to official records,

the number of Jewish immigrants to Palestine increased from 100,000 in the 1920s to 232,000 in the 1930s. (Royal Institute of International Affairs, Great Britain and Palestine, (London, Chatham House:1946) p. 61). As of 1939, the Palestinian population of 1.5 million included 445,000 Jews. Their numbers, which had represented just about 10% of the population 20 years earlier, now accounted for 30% of the population. Jewish settlements also expanded rapidly, and by 1939 the Jews owned twice the amount of land that they had owned in the 1920s. As of 1947, there were 630,000 Jews in Palestine and 1.3 million Palestinians. On November 29, 1947 a resolution was hurriedly presented by Britain and passed in the newly formed United Nations Organization (under the western influence, that it still is) partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. All western countries, including Russia voted in favor in the count of 33 to 13 with 10 abstention.

The killing of millions of Jews by Hitler created a strong wave of sympathy for Jews and helped them strengthen the creation of Israel.

Before the Israeli government was founded, a reign of terror was let loose by the Jewish terrorist organizations the Haganah, Irgun and Stern gangs, and were responsible for removing the Palestinians from their lands. These terrorist organizations prior to 1948, and the Israeli army after 1948, conducted a terrorist campaign on Arab civilians. Menachem Begin, the Irgun's leader and a future prime minister of Israel played a key role in this campaign and killings of innocent Palestinians. Some of the massacres/killings perpetrated by the Israeli army and terrorist organizations are described briefly below.

The King David Hotel Massacre, 1946 (92 dead)

This attack was carried out by the Irgun terrorist organization. A total of 92 people consisting of Britons, Palestinians, and Jews were killed, and 45 seriously injured.

Baldat Al-Shaikh Massacre, 1947 (60 dead)

Sixty Palestinians, among them women, children and the elderly, lost their lives in sleep as a result of this attack, which was carried out by Zionist terrorists. The attack began at 2:00 am and lasted for 4 hours.

Yehida Massacre, 1947 (13 dead)

At Yehida, one of the first Zionist settlements, Zionist assailants dressed as British soldiers opened fire on Muslims.

Khisas Massacre, 1947 (10 dead)

Two cars full of Haganah terrorists entered the village of Khisas on the Lebanese border and opened fire on everyone who crossed their paths.

Qazaza Massacre, 1947 (5 children dead)

Five children lost their lives in this episode, in which Jewish terrorists attacked a house randomly.

The Seminamis Hotel Massacre, 1948 (19 dead)

In an operation aimed at making the Palestinians uneasy and forcing them out of Jerusalem, a group of Jewish terrorists directed by Israel's first president, David Ben Gurion, blew up the hotel. Nineteen people were killed.

Naser al din Massacre, 1948

A group of Jewish terrorists dressed as Arab soldiers opened fire on those people who left their home to greet them. Only 40 people escaped the carnage, and the village was wiped off the map.

The Tantura Massacre, 1948 (200 dead)

Tantura was the site of 'one of the biggest massacres' of Muslims in 1948, according to Israeli historian Teddy Katz.

The Dahmash Mosque Massacre, 1948 (100 dead)

Israeli 89th Commando Battalion led by the future Minister of Defense Moshe Dayan, announced to the villagers that they would be safe only if they assembled at the mosque. However, the 100 Muslims who sought refuge there, were slaughtered. The terrified residents of Lydda and Ramalah abandoned their lands. Approximately 60,000 Palestinians emigrated, and 350 more died en route due to hardships.

Dawayma Massacre, 1948 (100 dead)

A majority of those killed had assembled at the mosque for Friday prayers. Women were raped during the attack, and homes were dynamited with people inside them.

Houla Massacre, 1948 (85 dead)

Israeli soldiers forced 85 people into a house and then set it on fire. Afterwards, most of the terrified residents fled to Beirut. Of the 12,000 original residents of Houla, only 1200 remained.

Salha Massacre 1948 (105 dead)

After residents of the village were forced into the mosque the people were fired upon until not a single person remained alive.

Deir Yassin Massacre, 1948 (254 dead)

This is one of the many such incidents and was carried out by the terrorist gang Irgun and Stern on the night of April 9, 1948. The Red cross and United Nations investigations conducted at the scene showed that houses were set on fire and that all people trying to escape the flames were shot dead. During the attack, pregnant women were bayoneted in their abdomens while still alive. The victim's organs were mutilated, and even children were beaten and raped. Throughout the Deir Yassin massacre, 52 children were maimed under the eyes of their own mothers, and then they were slain and their heads cut off. More than 60 women were killed and their bodies mutilated. An eyewitness related the incident of a soldier grabbing her sister who was nine months pregnant, pointed a gun at her neck, emptied its bullets into her body, took a knife ripped open her stomach and took out the slaughtered child. (Massacres Committed by the Jews in Palestine, www.hatedbooks.com/book/2.htm.)

Not satisfied with just the massacre, the terrorists then rounded up all the women and girls who remained alive, removed all their clothes, put them in open cars, driving them naked through the streets of the Jewish section of Jerusalem. During the course of the attack most of the girls had been raped before their execution, and the boy's genitals had been cut off. The Deir Yashin massacre was carried out under the direct leadership of Menachem Begin, the future Prime Minister of Israel. Begin described this inhuman operation in these words, "The massacre was not only justified but there would not have been a state of Israel without the 'victory' at Dier Yassin" (Palestinian History. <http://www.nilemedia.com/Topics/History>). He was later awarded Nobel prize for 'peace.'

Israel proclaimed independence at one minute past midnight May, 15, 1948—one day before the slated British withdrawal (the job of assisting the Jews completed). Ten minutes later United States of America announced its recognition of the state of Israel. Soviet Russia was next. This is how the state of Israel was created in the ocean of blood with large scale massacres, a striking resemblance of what happened when its first kingdom was laid more than 3000 years ago.

With the recognition of the state of Israel by the superpowers, Israel immediately began to flush out Palestinians in order to make room for fresh arrival of Jews and to gain absolute majority in the territories occupied so far. Another reign of terror was let loose on the Palestinians.

More than 400 villages were wiped off the map during 1948–49. During this time the number of Palestinians living in 500 cities towns and villages dropped from 950,000 to 138,000 as a result of attacks and massacres. Some were killed, others were thrown out. The property left behind by the Palestinians was seized by the Jews, and allotted to Jewish agencies for construction. At the site of Lifta, for example, now stands the Israel Knesset and the new Hilton Hotel. Moshe Dayan is reported by an Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* (April 4, 1969) as saying to the students of the Haifa Technical School in an address: “There is not a single Jewish village in this country that has not been built on the site of an Arab village...” In 1948, several thousand fully furnished private houses were forcibly taken over by the Israelis, although the Palestinian owners still hold the title deeds for these properties.

In this way the Jews seized/occupied the properties of the Palestinians. Until 1947, Jewish land ownership in Palestine was 6%. By the time the state of Israel was formally established, it had sequestered 90% of the land.

Approximately 850,000 Palestinians who could not stand this oppression and cruelty left their land and homes behind and settled in the West Bank, the Gaza strip, and along the borders of Lebanon and Jordan. More than a million Palestinians still live in those refugee camps while another 3.5 million live as refugees far away from their homeland. This is how the Jews paid back their benefactors (Palestinians/ Muslims). Those who wanted to return to their homes were not allowed to do so—not even today. The U.N. mediator in Palestine, Count Folke Bernadotte, pleaded with the Israeli government to allow even some of the refugees, already suffering terrible conditions in makeshift camps, to return to their empty homes. “It would be an offence against the principles of elementary justice if these innocent victims of the conflict were denied the right to return to their homes while Jewish immigrants flow into Palestine and, indeed, at least after the threat of permanent replacement of the Arab refugees,” Bernadotte wrote. He was shortly afterward assassinated (on 17 September 1948) by the Stern gang under the leadership of future Israeli Prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, and

discussion of the fate of the refugees was deferred indefinitely. (*Palestine Inside Out*, p. 255–6). Expelling the Palestinian population in time of war was one thing; not letting them return (in time of peace) quite another, especially since United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 demanded so, in December 1948, that “the refugees wishing to return to their homes... should be permitted to do so....” “It was not the brutality and horrors of war that haunted the departing refugees and nurtured their hatred,” writes Meron Benvenisty, “but an abiding sense of injustice of their being barred from returning home.” (*Palestine Inside Out*, p. 253–4).

Well this is not the end of the Jewish atrocities; they continue unabated even today. Some of them are listed as under.

The Massacre at Qibya, 1953 (96 dead)

The “101” unit that killed 96 civilians, majority of who were women and children, was led by Ariel Sharon, another future Prime minister of Israel. He later said, “The order was utterly clear: Qibya was to be an example to everyone.” (*The Memoirs of Ariel Sharon*, Beirut, Maktabat Bisan, 1991, p. 110.). Ralph Gormen, the editor of the famous Catholic journal *The Sign*, explained his thoughts as follows: “Terror was a political weapon of the Nazis. But the Nazis never used terror in a more cold-blooded and wanton manner than the Israelis in the massacre at Kibya.” (Massacres Committed by the Jews in Palestine, (www.hatedbooks.com/book/2.ht)

Kafr Qasem Massacre, 1956 (49 dead)

In October 29, 1956, 49 innocent civilians, men, women and children were brutally murdered.

Khan Yunis Massacre, 1956 (275 dead)

The Israeli soldiers who attacked the refugee camp in Khan Yunis, murdered 275 people. UN officials who conducted an onsite investigation discovered that victims who had been shot in the back of the head had their hands tied. (Michael Palumbo, *Imperial Israel*, London, Bloomsbury Publishing, 1990. pp.30–32; citing U.N. General Assembly: Official Record, 11th Session Supplement).

The Massacre in Gaza City, 1956 (60 dead)

In this attack, Israelis killed 60 people, including women and children.

Fakhani Massacre, 1981 (150 dead)

As a result of Israeli air attack on this Lebanese region, 150 people died and 600 were wounded. (Israeli Massacres: www.ummah.net/unity/palestine/massacres.htm).

Sabra and Shatilla Massacre, 1982 (2000-plus dead)

Israel's attack on refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla during the invasion of Lebanon in 1982 will go down in history as one of the worst acts of Israeli genocide ever committed. During the attack more than 2000 people, mostly women and children were murdered. Subsequent research and investigation showed that Ariel Sharon, at that time Israel's defense minister was responsible for the operation. Due to this attack he is still known as The Butcher of Sabra and Shatilla.

Journalist and Middle east expert Robert Fisk reported on the horrifying scenes he saw immediately after the attack in an article written after Sharon was elected Prime Minister: "For everyone who stood in the Sabra and shatilla refugee camps in Beirut on 18 September 1982 his (Ariel Sharon) name is synonymous with butchery; with bloated corpses and disemboweled women and dead babies, with rape and pillage and murder ...just up the lane, I came across two women sitting upright with their brains blown out, next to a cooking pot ... one of the women appeared to have had her stomach slit open. A few meters away, I discovered the first babies, scattered across the road like rubbish... then there was this pretty girl, her head surrounded by a halo of clothes pegs, her blood still running from a hole in her back." (Robert Fisk, *The Legacy of Ariel Sharon*, *The Independent*, February 6, 2001). Most of the murdered women had been raped. Pregnant women had been sliced upon so that their babies could be ripped out. Children barely 3 or 4 years old had been murdered in front of their parents.

A news report about the massacres appeared in the French *Le Monde* newspaper on February 13, 2001. Nihad Hamad a survivor describes what happened: "...a woman's screams pierced the silence. Her hair was tangled mess, her tattered clothes covered in blood. She had the manner of someone who had lost her mind. At her feet were children whose throats had been slit... after they finished their work at the camps, they finished their dirty work at the Gaza Hospital. They dragged the doctors, nurses, and wounded out of the hospital and killed them. We learned that between 3,000 and 3,500 people had been killed."

The Ibrahini Mosque Massacre, 1994 (29 dead)

‘On 25 February 1994, one of the settlers from Kiryat arba, Baruch Goldstein (born and raised in Brooklyn, as is the case with a sizeable proportion of the settlers in Hebron and elsewhere in the West bank), stormed into the Ibrahimi Mosque during prayers. He opened fire on the worshipers with his assault rifle, which most settlers carry with them at all times. He killed 29 Palestinians and wounded dozens of others before unarmed Palestinians managed to overcome him and beat him to death. Ever since the massacre, Goldstein has been something of a saint... “Here lies the saint, Dr Baruch Keppel Goldstein” his tombstone in Kiryat arba reads, “blessed be the memory of this righteous and holy man, may the Lord avenge his blood, who devoted his soul to the Jews, Jewish religion Jewish land. His hands are innocent and his heart is pure. He was killed as a martyr of God on the 14th of Adar, Purin, in the year 5754 (*Palestine Inside Out*, p. 219).”’

Qana Massacre, 1996 (109 dead)

More than 100 people lost their lives in the Qana refugee camp when it was bombed by the Israeli air force. A UN inspection team determined that the massacre was deliberate.

The Jenin Refugee Camp Raid/Massacre, 2002 (52 dead)

What was referred to as “The Second Massacre of Sabra and Shatilla” was the raid against the Jenin refugee camp. This refugee camp has been set up for Palestinians driven off their land in 1948. Justine Higgler of *The Independent* severely criticizes the world’s turning a blind eye to this overt massacre in his article “The Camp that Became a Slaughterhouse.” He writes: For nine days, Jenin camp, spread over a square kilometer and home for fifteen thousand Palestinians was the target of the Israeli helicopters and tanks that rained down rockets and shells into the camp. The wounded were left to die. The Israeli army refused to allow ambulances in to treat them, which is a war crime under the Geneva Convention. The Red Cross has publicly said people have died because Israel blocked the ambulances. The Israeli authorities may be able to hide the evidence but they cannot silence the stories that have been pouring out of those who managed to escape the carnage in the camp... Munir Washashi bled to death over several hours after a helicopter round came through the wall of his home. When an ambulance came for him, Israeli soldiers shot at it. Munir’s mother, Maryam, ran

into the streets screaming for help for her son and was shot in the head by Israeli soldiers. (*The Independent*, April 14, 2002).

While speaking to the Israeli Knesset the then Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted that the Israeli army had committed a massacre: “When the world sees the picture of what we have done there, it will do us immense damage... There is no justification for causing such great destruction.” (“Peres Calls IDF Operations in Jenin a Massacre,” *Ha’aretz*, April 9, 2002).

When the United Nations assembled a high-level team to investigate the charges of war crime in Jenin, the Israelis at first stalled it, then they refused to cooperate, then they refused access to the U.N. team altogether; the United states threatened to use its veto (*as always*), Kofi Annan disbanded the team and that was end of that. (*Palestine Inside Out*, p. 183).

Another shocking display of unparalleled barbarianism was witnessed by a journalist on assignment in Khan Younis (Gaza) in 2001. The *New York Times* reporter Chris Hedges witnessed Israeli soldiers not just firing at Palestinian demonstrators, but actually taunting Palestinian children and then killing them as they got within firing range:

‘It is still. The camp waits, as if holding its breath. And then, out of dry furnace air, disembodied voice booms in Arabic, “Where are all the dogs of Khan Younis? Come! Come!” I stand up. I walk outside the hut. The invective continues to spew, “Son of a bitch!” “Son of a w****!” Your mother’s c***!” Provoked, the boys dart in small packs up the sloping dunes to the electric fence that separates the camp from the Jewish settlement. They lob rocks toward two armoured jeeps parked on top of the dune and mounted with loudspeakers. Three ambulances line the road below the dunes, in anticipation of what is to come. A percussion grenade explodes. The boys, most no more than ten or eleven years old, scatter, running clumsily across the heavy sand. They descend out of sight behind a sandbank in front of me. There are no sound of gunfire. The soldiers shoot with silencers. The bullets from the M-16 rifles tumble end over end through the children’s slight bodies. Later in hospital I will see the destruction: the stomach ripped out, the gaping holes in limbs and torsos.

Yesterday at this spot the Israelis shot eight young men, six of whom were under the age of eighteen. One was twelve. This afternoon

they kill an eleven year old boy, Ali Murad, and seriously wound four more...

Children have been shot in other conflicts I have covered—death squads gunned them down in El Salvador and Guatemala, mother and infants lined up and massacred in Algeria, and Serb snipers put children in their sights and watched them crumble onto the pavement in Sarajevo—but I have never before watched soldiers entice children like a mice into a trap and murder them for sport.” (*Palestine Inside Out*, p. 266).

The cruelty and brutality described here has occurred continuously on Palestinians on Palestinian soil for the past 65 years. Moreover, the incidents cited above are merely those massacres/acts of brutality during which many Palestinians lost their lives in a single day. Beyond these, several people have been killed or maimed everyday for years. And everyday houses are still destroyed, olive and date orchards are uprooted (sometimes they take away the whole trees with roots to plant it in area of their choice), agriculture land—the means of livelihood are taken over—thus forcing them to become laborers. The few small farms that the Palestinians still own are subjected to frequent attacks by settlers, who burn and cut down all the trees they can find. Clearly, Israel’s ultimate goal is to intimidate the Palestinians, drive them off their land, and bend them to their will through a systematic policy of ethnic cleansing.

The WFP, the UNO world food programme agency, filed an official complaint against the Israeli army for its deliberate destruction of more than five hundred tons of food aid donated by the European commission. This food, stored in Gaza, was meant to be distributed to 42,000 needy people. On 3 Dec 2002 soldiers surrounded the building with armoured vehicles, put down sticks of dynamite and, despite the protests of the people in charge, who asked to be allowed to remove the food first, blew it up. During the operation two Palestinian civilians who tried to intervene were killed and 20 injured. These are not isolated or accidental acts. On 30 January 2003, two tanks and two bulldozers razed the al-Menara food market in Hebron- a city under curfew in which a large proportion of the population are going hungry (Kenize Mourad, *Our Sacred Land*, pp. 104–5 Oneworld Publications, Oxford).

“To understand what is going on (in Palestine), one has to have waited for hours behind a checkpoint, in the scorching heat, amid lorries of rotting vegetables and stalled ambulances, listening to mothers

pleading with implacable, sometimes mocking soldiers to let their sick child through; one has to have seen the father turning away to weep for his eight year old son, killed while running after an escaped chicken; or the little boy paralysed in a hospital bed, explaining that he was on his way back from school when three soldiers ‘shot him for fun.’” (*Our Sacred Land*, p. 2).

The entire world looks on as this community is murdered, as it is subjected to blatant genocide. For some reason, most governments have, and continue to, ignore these brutal and inhuman practices and apply no sanctions (as they do very often against those/states that does not suit or fulfill their vested interest) other than the occasional “condemnation.”

WHY DO ISRAELIS HATE PALESTINIANS?

In an answer to the above, Ilan Pappe, a famous Jewish academic has the following to say:

“It is the fruits of a very long process of indoctrination starting in the kindergarten accompanying all Jewish boys and girls throughout their life. You don’t uproot easily such an attitude which was planted there by a very powerful indoctrination machine, giving a racist perception of the other, who is described as primitive, almost non-existing, hostile—he is hostile, but the explanation given is that he was born primitive, Islamic, anti- Semite, not that someone has taken his land.” (“An Interview of Ilan Pappe,” November 29, 1999. <http://msanews.mynet.net/scholars/loos/pappe.html>).

Such indoctrination is evident in the speeches/sayings of their leaders.

Heilburn (the chairman of the committee for the re-election of General Shlomo Lohet, the Mayor of the Tel Aviv): “we have to kill all the Palestinians unless they are resigned to live here as slaves.” (Ralph Schoeman, *The Hidden History of Zionism*, Veritass Press, 1988).

Former Prime Minister Ehud Barak: “I don’t care how many Palestinians have died. The only thing I care is the security of my people.” (*Zaman*, Turkish daily, 14 October 2000).

Eitan (a general in the Israeli army): “We don’t regret anything that we have done. Our soldiers have been given the order to fire on the Palestinian protesters. We must drive fear into their hearts by firing at their chests and heads.” (*Zaman*, Turkish daily 14, October 2000).

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef (considered one of the “learned men” of the right-wing Shas Party, a partner in Sharon’s National Unity coalition): “It is forbidden to be merciful to them, you must give them missiles, with relish—annihilate them. Evil ones, damnable ones.” (*The Times*, Tuesday 10 April 2001).

In 1975 following the United Nation’s approval of a resolution describing Zionism as a type of racism, Yitzhak Shamir the famous Israeli leader revealed how he viewed not only the Palestinian people, but all the other people of the world as well. “It is unacceptable that nations made up of people who have only just come down from the trees should take themselves for world leaders... How can such primitive beings have an opinion of their own?” (*Yehidot Achronot*, November 14, 1975).

Sharon has made no secret of his policy: when he came to power, he declared: “We need to build more and more settlements so that it will impossible to give the territories back to Palestinians people.” Benny Allon, a minister in the government, said, “We must make their life so difficult that they will leave of their own accord.” (*Our Sacred Land*, pp. 14–15).

In a press statement, Sharon said, “We must cause them losses, casualties, so that they understand they will gain nothing...” (*The Economist*, March, 7, 2002).

VIEWS OF SOME PROMINENT JEWS

It is not that Israel’s policies are endorsed by all, criticism for its actions have been quite forthcoming from some eminent Jews as well.

Prof. Jonathan Sacks, Britain’s Chief Rabbi, in an interview, published in *The Guardian* on August 27, 2002, sternly criticized Israel, arguing that the country was adopting a stance “incompatible” with the deepest ideals of Judaism, and that the current conflict with the Palestinians was corrupting Israeli society. He says, “I regard the current situation as nothing less than tragic. It is forcing Israel into postures that are incompatible in the long run with our deepest ideals.” He adds, “there are things that happen on a daily basis which make me feel very uncomfortable as a Jew.” He notes that Israelis, “who have lived centuries in dispersion, should very well understand the plight of Palestinians; you cannot ignore a command that is repeated 36 times in the Mosaic books—you were exiled in order to know what it feels like to be an exile.”

Israel Shehak, a Polish born Jewish chemistry professor who spent 40 years in Israel and passed away in 2001, criticizes Israel's Zionist anti-human rights policies. In his book *Jewish History, Jewish Religion and the Weight of Three Thousand Years*, he describes the extent to which Zionism constitutes a threat to humanity: "In my view, Israel as a Jewish state constitutes a danger not only to itself and its inhabitants, but to all Jews and to all other peoples and states in the middle east and beyond."

An Israeli lawyer, Lea Tsemel says, "The Palestinians did not know what hate was. We taught them. We are good teachers..." (*Our Sacred Land*, p. 114).

She became a Palestinian sympathizer because she says she is "neither blind nor deaf to what is going on around me..., I volunteered for army service when I was 22 years old. I had the rock solid belief that Israel wanted peace but that we were forced into fighting the Arabs because they wanted to drive us into the sea. But when I saw the way in which these people, including elderly people, women and children, were forced out of their homes, terrorized and mistreated, with the obvious aim of making them flee to Jordan, I understood that Israel was not seeking peace. The Arabs had so little with which to protect themselves and Israel clearly had the means of imposing peace but did not want to do so, finding pretexts to annex the territories. I found the violence and humiliation that we inflicted on the Palestinians intolerable" (*Our Sacred Land*, p. 225).

Michel Warsawski, who has been a campaigner for Israeli-Palestinian peace since 1968, and is president of the Alternative Information Centre in Jerusalem says: "The perversity of the Israeli approach is that they have wiped out the whole history of what happened before the invasion and occupation, with its succession of cruelties and humiliations. They use a volley of stones as a pretext, saying, 'We have been attacked, we need to defend ourselves,' while saying nothing about the fact that this attack is nothing but a response, and a very weak one at that, to a much greater aggression. What they are doing is so huge that if one analysed what has happened, from the beginning, one would not believe it; the imbalance of power and of actions is so great that one cannot understand why the world does not see the screaming injustice of it. The Palestinians are helpless at getting information across while the Israelis are past masters in the art of propaganda and media manipulation."

Israeli filmmaker Moshe Misrahi says, “It’s true that if I were a Palestinian, I would find it unjust if people came to my home, asked if they could rent a room, to which I agreed, asked if they could rent another, to which I also agreed, then rented the whole house and ended up taking over and driving me out.” (*Our Sacred Land*, p. 203).

Yitzhak Frankenthal, chairman of the Families Forum, made the following speech at a rally in Jerusalem on 27 July 2002, outside the Prime Minister’s residence: “... My beloved son Arik was murdered by a Palestinian... it is unethical to kill innocent Israeli or Palestinian women and children. It is also unethical to control another nation and lead it to lose its humanity. It is patently unethical to drop a bomb that kills innocent Palestinians. A nation that cannot draw a line is doomed eventually to apply unethical measures against its own people. The worst in my mind is not what has already happened but what I am sure one day will. And it will—because ethics are now being twisted and the political and military leadership does not even have the most basic integrity to say, “We are sorry.” We lost sight of our ethics long before the suicidal bombings. The breaking point was when we started to control another nation. My son Arik was born into a democracy with a chance for a decent, settled life. Arik’s killer was born into an appalling occupation, into an ethical chaos. Had my son been born in his stead, he may have ended up doing the same. Had I myself been into the political and ethical chaos that is the Palestinian’s daily reality, I would certainly have tried to kill and hurt the occupier; had I not I would have betrayed my essence as a free man. Let all the self-righteous who speak of ruthless Palestinian murderers take a look in the mirror and ask themselves what they would have done had they been living under occupation. I can say for myself that I, Yitzhak Frankenthal would have killed as many on the side as I possibly could. It is this depraved hypocrisy that pushes the Palestinians to fight us relentlessly. Our double standard that allows us to boast the highest military ethics, while the same military slays innocent children. This lack of ethics is bound to corrupt us. My son Arik was murdered when he was a soldier, by Palestinian fighters who believed in the ethical basis of their struggle against the occupation. My son Arik was not murdered because he was Jewish but because he was part of one nation that occupies the territory of another... As much as I would like to do so, I cannot say that the Palestinians are to blame for my son’s death. That would be the easy way out, but it is we Israelis, who are to blame, because of the

occupation. Anyone who refuses to heed this awful truth will eventually lead to our destruction.

The Palestinians cannot drive us away—they have long acknowledged our existence. They have been ready to make peace with us; it is we who are unwilling to make peace with them. It is we who insist on maintaining our control over them; it is we who escalate the situation in the region and feed the cycle of bloodshed. I regret to say it, but the blame is entirely ours. I do not mean to absolve the Palestinian and by no means to justify attack on Israeli civilians. No attack against civilians can be condoned. But as an occupation force it is we who trample over human dignity, it is we who crush the liberty of Palestinians and it is we who push an entire nation to crazy acts of despair" (*Our Sacred Land*, pp. 235–7).

"The Middle East peace process may well be the most spectacular deception in modern diplomatic history," writes Henry Siegman, the former head of American Jewish Congress. "Since the failed Camp David Summit of 2000, and actually well before it, Israel's interest in the peace process—other than the purpose of obtaining Palestinian and international acceptance of the status quo—has been a fiction that has served primarily to cover for its systematic confiscation of Palestinian land" (*Palestine Inside Out*, p. 92).

In Britain, a leading Jewish MP Gerald Kaufman, wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in which he reminded the Israeli leader that the symbol of the Star of David was not the property of the state of Israel, it was the symbol of worldwide Jewry, one that Sharon had no right to besmirch with the blood of innocent Palestinian civilians (Tim Wallace-Murphy, *What Islam Did for Us*, pp. 211–2).

VIEWS OF SOME EMINENT PERSONALITIES

In a 1997 speech on the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People, Mandela reaffirmed his support for Palestinian rights.

"We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians." (Nelson Mandela)

"Let there be no doubt: the situation for the Palestinian people is intolerable." (President Obama, *The Telegraph*, 5 June 2009).

“Palestinians have right to homeland—after decades of suffering, they had a right to a sovereign homeland in the land of your forefathers.” (Pope Benedict XVI, *The Telegraph*, 14 May 2009).

A group of German Bishops compared Israel’s treatment of the Palestinian with the Nazi’s maltreatment of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto... Cardinal Joachim Meisner, archbishop of Cologne, said, “This is something done to animals, not people” (*The Telegraph*, 8 March 2007).

According to Jimmy Carter (former president of the United States of America), United States and Israel decided to punish all the people of Palestine and did everything they could to deter a compromise between Hamas and Fatah... (Saree Makdisi, *Palestine Inside Out*, p. 275).

In February 2008 the Reverend Jeremiah Wright (President Obama’s pastor) stated Israel has committed “State Terrorism against the Palestinians.” (Washington Post.com, March 18, 2008).

In January 2009, Bill Moyers of Public Broadcasting Service stated that by waging war on an entire population “Israel’s military activity is state terrorism,” equating Israeli military activity to the use of B-52 and napalm in Vietnam and ‘Shock and Awe’ in Iraq by the United states (Bill Moyers transcript pbs.org January 9, 2009).

“The Palestine of the Biblical conception is not a geographic tract. It is in their (Jewish) hearts. But if, they must look to Palestine of geography as their national home, it is wrong to enter it under the shadow of British gun. A religious act cannot be performed with the bayonet or the bomb.” (Mahatma Gandhi: *My Non-Violence*, Edited by Satish Kumar).

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION

According to figures from USAID, and American aid organization for international development, in August 2002 (a), 30% of Palestinian children suffered from chronic malnutrition and 20% from acute malnutrition—a massive increase from the figures of 2000, which were 7.5% and 2.5% respectively.

Two recent reports by the United Nations and the World Bank reveal that a large majority of Palestinians are now unemployed and that 60% survive on less than two dollars a day, when life in Palestine is just as expensive as in any western European country. These reports conclude

that the devastation of the Palestinian economy is due to measures imposed by the Israeli army: curfews, checkpoints, all the restrictions on farming and the transport of goods as well as general work restrictions.

According to Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, 120,000 Palestinian application for family unification are pending since 2000, violating Article 16 of UN's universal declaration of human rights that recognizes that "men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and form a family. But, as a recent B'Tselem report puts it, the result of the new Israeli policy is "the forced break-up of the family unit" (*Palestine Inside Out*, p. 4).

"A study cited by the World Bank report estimates that 17 percent of West Bank families are adversely affected by Israel's family unification policies" (*Palestine Inside Out*, p. 5).

"According to Amnesty International there are about 5,000 Israeli military orders regulating Palestinian life in the occupied territories. In many cases, a Palestinian cannot work, travel, study, tend crops, transport goods, dig for water, start business, obtain medical care or even visit relatives in the next town without obtaining the appropriate permission from the Israeli authorities. And beyond that her life is subject to an ever changing and unpredictable web of curfews, checkpoints, roadblocks, ditches, walls fences, closures and isolation. This is not to mention the formidable set of permanent physical obstacles in the form sprawling Jewish settlements, and road network for the Jewish settlers, built on Palestinian land, to which Palestinians are denied access. The result of Israel's military hyper regulation of everyday life has been catastrophic for the Palestinians, as the May 2007 World Bank report makes clear..." whereas according to Geneva Convention, an occupying power has the obligation to ensure well-being of the occupied people, their medical care, freedom of movement, access to food, water, work and educational institutions: obligations that Israel has not fulfilled. The fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to which Israel is a signatory, spells out precisely what an occupying power can and cannot do. "Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs," according to Article 27 of the Convention. Outrages upon personal dignity; extrajudicial execution; torture; violence to life and person; hostage taking; coercion to extract information;

reprisals; individual or mass transfer of population; settlement and colonization; the wanton destruction of private or public property; collective punishment—these are all specifically forbidden by the Convention. Yet U.N. and human rights report make it clear that they are all also routine aspects of Israel's occupation policy. Israel has tried to claim that the Geneva Conventions do not apply to the Palestinian territories it occupies, but this claim has been dismissed not only by international legal scholars but by a series of U.N. security council resolutions affirming the applicability of the Conventions to the Israeli occupied territories. Security Council Resolution 465 of 1980, for example, reiterates that “ all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, or any part thereof have no legal validity and that Israel's policy and practices of settling part of its population and new immigrants in those territories constitute a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war and also constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East... In its advisory opinion of July 2004, the International Court of Justice in the Hague also unanimously reaffirmed the applicability of the Geneva Convention to the Israeli-occupied territories and added that all of the agreements entered into by the Israeli and Palestinians since 1993 “have done nothing to alter” the fact that “all these territories remain occupied territories and Israel has continued to have the status of occupying power.”

(Palestine Inside Out, pp. 7–20).

The table below accounts for the military presence and their activities in Palestine.

Year	Number of Israeli Raids Conducted	No. of Prisoners Taken
2005	1878	2293
2006	5666	5244

Children are the worst sufferers of this military activity. The following statistics gives credence to their attitude towards children:

Number of children being held prisoner by Israel, late 2006	400
Number of Palestinian children killed by Israeli army, 2000–2007	854
Percentage of Palestinian children living in fear, according to 2003 USAID study	93%
Number of Israeli assaults on Palestinian schools, 2003–5	180
Number of students and teachers killed as a result	181
School days lost due to Israeli closures in West bank and Gaza, 2003–5	1525
Number of registered physically disabled people in Gaza	2400
Number who can freely move around the West bank	0

ANALYSIS

Any Jew who knows the history of his people will accept Jews have been protected by Muslims for fifty generations (while the same has not been the situation under the Christian rule). In Muslim Spain, Jews were ministers, poets, scientists. In Muslim Toledo, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim scholars worked together, translating Greek philosophical and scientific texts. That was indeed the Golden Age.

When the Catholics re-conquered Spain from the Muslims they instituted a reign of religious terror. The Jews and Muslims were presented with a cruel choice: to become Christians, to be massacred or to leave. And where did the hundreds of thousands of Jews who refused to abandon their faith, escape? Almost all of them were received with open arms in Muslim countries. Jews settled all over the Muslim world, from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east, from Bulgaria (Then part of the Ottoman Empire) in the north to Sudan in the south. Nowhere were they persecuted.

So now the question is WHY ARE THE JEWS TORTURING THE MUSLIMS AND FORCIBLY EVICTING THEM FROM THEIR HOMELAND—PALESTINE?

Surely it is not to claim the “The Promised Land” which God Promised to Abraham (pbuh) and his descendants Isaac (pbuh) (Genesis 17:8). Had this been the case Abraham’s (pbuh) other son Ismail (pbuh) would have an equal right on this (Genesis 25:9,16:15, 17:23, 17:25, 17:26, 25:9,25:12).

This is a part of a very big conspiracy of the vested interests who want to destabilize the region to have complete control over the rich petroleum resources. And also have a strong foothold in this region to control middle-east and the east economically and militarily. **AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO DO THIS THAN BRAND PALESTINIANS’ STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDANCE AND DIGNITY OF LIFE AS ACTS OF TERRORISM?**

AND WHY DOES AMERICA AND OTHER SUPER POWERS LOOK THE OTHER WAY?

America the biggest advocate of “human rights” and “right for self determination” has always encouraged Israel, its atrocities, notwithstanding. George Bush Sr. as Vice President of USA, while speaking on Palestinian rights, said, “We favor self determination. But we don’t like to see self determination where it is predetermined” (Tel Aviv, 30 July 1986). What makes the American soft paddle with Jews/ Israel so much? The answer is the ‘Jewish Lobby’ in the USA. There are about six million Jews in America of a total US population of 240 million. About 20% of all millionaires are said to be Jewish, and they know how to use their money, their number and their brain. No American can ever aspire to become the President of the United States of America, without the tacit support of the Jews. The situation of the Palestinians was rightly expressed by Charlie Ruse in *Orlando Sentinel*, “Palestinians won’t get their independence until Americans get theirs.” The United States foreign policy is all but decided in Tel Aviv, where the interests of Israel is paramount. As Donald Bergus, a former US ambassador to Sudan and now a retired diplomat said, “At the state department we used to predict that if Israel’s Prime Minister should announce that the world is flat, within 24 hours Congress would pass a resolution congratulating him on his discovery”. A classic case of the tail wagging the dog (Preface, p. xiv, *International Jew*, Henry Ford, The Other Press, Kuala Lumpur, 2002).