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On the anniversary of our First Nakba... The Nakba unfolds again, only more severe
A Report by Land Research Center on the 77th Anniversary of the First Palestinian Nakba (1948)
15 May 2025

"After they shot her husband and her five-year-old son before her eyes, she pleaded them to let her two-year-old son to live, and promised to leave the house immediately. The soldier released a wicked smile as he shot the two year-old, indifferent to his screams or his mother's cries. They then slit her abdomen while she was still alive, and ribbed her unborn child, and finally killed her, to silence the screams and cries that had disturbed them..."

— Testimony of an Israeli soldier, Deir Yassin Massacre, 9 April 1948.

This is a glimpse of the First Palestinian Nakba. The settler militias stole land, destroyed cities and villages, forcibly displaced, killed and tormented the Indigenous People, brutally violated and raped Palestinian women. The barbarity of 1948 mirrors the massacre unfolding today in Gaza. From one Nakba to the other, the Palestinian tragedy has only deepened, and Israeli crimes only become more brutal, and none of the leaders of modern colonial powers, led by the United States, blinked an eye at these bloodthirsty Israeli crimes. They have rendered international law in tatters, worthless in the eyes of leaders such as Biden, Trump, von der Leyen and Netanyahu.

War crimes committed by the British Mandate army and Zionist militias in the First Nakba, the 1948 war and the establishment of the settler colony named "Israel":

- Around 25,000 Palestinians killed—approximately 2% of the population at the time (1948).
- 774 communities, about 60% of all Palestinian urban and rural centers (531 Palestinian villages destroyed, with 243 other towns/villages) either demolished and/or depopulated by force.
- Some 154–156,000 Palestinian homes (about 70% of all Palestinian homes in 1948) destroyed or emptied (to favor incoming Jewish settlers).
- 932,000 Palestinians forcedly displaced from their homes and farmlands (650,000 fled or were expelled abroad, 250,000 took refuge in the West Bank and truncated Gaza Governorate, including 32,000 displaced during the British Mandate), totaling about 72% of the Palestinian population at the time.

In the post-Nakba years, Israel consolidated its military doctrine of targeting Palestinian homes, shelters and shelter seekers, which it pursues to this day. From 1951 to 1953, Israeli forces forcibly transferred Palestinians in the southern Naqab into a tight enclosure upon demolishing 108 villages and village points across the region. Israel expanding attacks on Palestinian homes and villages across the Jordanian border provoked the 1967 War.

Israeli Crimes during the 1967 War:

- Any Palestinian who happened to be outside the West Bank during the war, whether for work, education, or military service in the Jordanian army, was denied right of return, which affected around 30 thousand Palestinian, most of their families had also to flee Palestine.
- The Occupation forces demolished 127 houses, shops, and two mosques, displacing 750 people from Jerusalem's historical Old City – Sharaf Neighborhood and the Moroccan Quarter – important historical communities in Jerusalem.
- The Occupation Forces demolished 5,000 homes in the Latrun-area villages (Imwas, Bayt Nuba, Yalu) under Yitzhak Rabin's command, displacing 10,000 people.
- 42% of homes in Qalqilya city were destroyed (850 homes according to UN reports), displacing 6,000 people internally.
- Partial destruction in the villages of Bayt 'Awwa, Bayt Marsam, and Surīk.
- The refugee camps of Aqabat Jabir and `Ayn al-Sultan in the Jordan Valley were evacuated.
- 294,000 Palestinians were forcedly displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip including: 245,000 to Jordan, 11,000 to Egypt, 32,000 to Syria, 6,000 were internally displaced. (Population of West Bank before 1967 is estimated to be 900 thousand people, while Gaza Strip populated 465 thousand).
- About 21.5% of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza were displaced in 1967 War to surrounding countries.

Since that war came to an end until the end of April 2025, the occupation demolished Palestinian houses in large numbers, including:

- **7,354 houses demolished in east Jerusalem alone**, affecting 17% of Palestinian houses at the city between 1967 and 2025, resulting in the internal displacement of 48,000 Palestinians (20% of Jerusalem's Palestinian population) between 1967 and 2025.
- **13,885 houses demolished in other West Bank Governorate – excluding Jerusalem**, about 4.8% of the average of estimated number of houses between 1967 and 2025.
- About 91,600 internally displaced (about 5.2% of the average population growth of the area) from other West Bank governorates, excluding Jerusalem, between 1967 and 2025.
- **457,000 homes destroyed in the Gaza Strip alone** between 1967 and 2025, which are about 231% of estimated number of houses at the Strip. (Israel destroyed many houses several times after being rebuilt during the seven vicious wars on Gaza, which explains the apparent duplication in the percentage).
- **At least 1.8 million** Palestinians in Gaza internally displaced, about 130% of Gaza's population between 1967 and 2025 (indicating that many were displaced more than once).
- Overall displacement (internal and external) from the British Mandate to 2025 shows that 77% of all Palestinians have been displaced at least once.

Other Israeli violations in the West Bank alone:

- The Israeli Occupation took over 21 million dunums (77% of historical Palestine); 40% of the West Bank area and Gaza fall completely in the hands of the occupation controlled to prevent the rise of an independent Palestinian state and to serve Zionist colonization.

- The Israeli occupation and army uprooted 2,736,660 fruit-bearing trees, 60–70% of which were ancient Palestinian olive trees.
- Segregation and expansion wall is about 781.5 km long.
- About 900 military checkpoints, gates, blockades, roadblocks, and earth mounds around the West Bank.

Israeli Colonization of the 1967-occupied territories:

- 518 settlements and outposts established.
- Around 1 million settlers reside in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (reported estimations).
- 1,015 km of bypass roads constructed exclusively for settlers and Zionist colonization.

Summary and reflection:

Israel has demolished twice the number of Palestinian homes currently standing.

Israeli colonization and occupation have displaced Palestinians multiple times, totaling numbers displacements exceeding the current population.

Israel has not relented in variously dispossessing and demolishing Palestinian communities on both sides of the 1948–49 Armistice Lines. For example, the Jewish National Fund's afforestation of non-native Aleppo pines—now famously prone to drought and wildfires—is routinely used as a premise to claim Palestinian lands as "nature reserves" to deny Palestinian agriculture and physical development. Consequently, Israel has conducted the militarized bulldozing demolition of the Naqab village of al-`Araqib at least 236 times. Militarily enforced plantings around Umm al-Hiran accompanied the incremental demolition of that Naqab village, which culminated in bulldozing every last Arab Bedouin Palestinian home there in November 2024.

Israeli institutions and their enforcement agents demolished four other historic Bedouin settlements already in 2024 as part of a larger plan to raze "unrecognized villages" and build new Jewish communities in their place. Another 14 villages in the area that are home to some 9,000 Bedouin are at risk of demolition.

Meanwhile, West Bank Palestinian villages undergo pogroms carried out daily by Zionist settlers, often with the reinforcement of Israel's occupation army.

Against this backdrop of relatively under-reported destruction and dispossession, today's massacres in Gaza are unfolding in full view of the world, without shame or accountability.

Benjamin Netanyahu declared any hope Palestinian citizens of Israel might have for equality with Jewish Israelis is a "**foolish illusion**" (March 2015). In April 2025, he called the establishment of a Palestinian state "**a silly idea**."

Since its proclamation as a state, Israel has denied the Palestinian people the inalienable right to self-determination, and its parliament has resolved overwhelmingly to reject establishment of a Palestinian state (July 2024).

Ministers under Netanyahu government, including Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, **have called for Palestinians to leave, if they wish to live in peace**!

Meanwhile, the U.S. government continues to support Israeli actions, issuing increasingly radical statements and punishing the persecuted Palestinian people.

Among many such videos, an Israeli soldier films himself killing Palestinian children and saying "I wish I killed all of them" and proudly dedicates the video to his fiancée in her birthday, while the so-called "free world" watches and listens in silence.

Conclusion and Recommendation:

The Palestinian population around the world stands at approximately 14 million. Despite decades of massacres, home demolitions, and forced displacement, and despite large numbers of Jewish immigrants brought into Palestine, 7 million Palestinians remain on the Palestinian land, a number equal to that of Israeli settlers.

The world shall remember that Palestine exposed the Western lie of international humanitarian law.

Israel has flouted international legitimacy, disregarded U.N. resolutions, and trampled on human rights.

Global peace has never existed since Israel's conquest of Palestine in 1948, and will not be realized until justice is achieved for the Palestinian people.

Today, Palestinians stand alone in defense of humanity, supported only by voices of conscience students, writers, artists, journalists, unions, and oppressed peoples who carry the moral weight of justice.

The world now faces a historic crossroads: Either it stands with human dignity and the very principles it spent centuries accumulating, or it allows these human rights to be crushed under the boots of an extremist army that claims, through false religious narratives, a divine entitlement to enslave other humans.

Either the world will be liberated today along with Palestine, or humanity will fall into a deep darkness for centuries, only God knows.

Stand with justice, so that humanity may prevail

Arab Studies Society – Land Research Center (LRC) – Jerusalem
Main Road, Halhul, West Bank, Palestine, P.O. Box 35
Tel: +972 (0)2 221–7239, Fax: +972 (0)2 229–0918
E-mail: info@lrcj.org, URL: www.lrcj.org