

Palestine Nakba Day

**Commemoration in Stuttgart, Germany
Schlossplatz, Saturday, 7th May 2016 – 1 pm to 6 pm**

Remembering the expulsion of Palestinians 68 years ago



*Palestinian refugees, Galilee 1948
Source: wikipedia.org*

Contributors to the event:

Patron of the event is Felicia Langer, Alternative Nobel Prize Laureate and Recipient of The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

Pianist Aeham Ahmed

Palestinian musician from Yarmuk refugee camp in Syria who was awarded the International Beethoven Prize

Muhammad Tamim

Palestinian singer and actor from Yarmuk refugee camp in Syria and member of the Palestinian vocal band Al Asheqeen

George Rashmawi

Palestinian Community Germany

Shir Hever

Jewish Voice for a Just Peace in the Middle-East

Attia Rajab, Stuttgart Palestine Solidarity Committee

Reiner Weigand actor and cabaret artist

He will read poems by Mahmoud Darwish and Erich Fried

Annette Groth,

German MP for the party DIE LINKE

Palestinian dance group Yalla Dabke

from Munich

We will be showing the exhibition:

Flight and Expulsion of the Palestinians in 1948

Enjoy tasty Arab food and drinks and much more.

Live reporting by Aljazeera Mubasher

Organisers:

Palestine Solidarity Committee Stuttgart

Palestinian Community Germany - Stuttgart

Palestinians are protesting the ongoing ethnic cleansing in Palestine by the State of Israel. They demand self-determination and the implementation of their right of return.

The need to address the Palestinian question has become more obvious to Germans as tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees have arrived over the last few months from Iraq and Syria. These Palestinians, whose families were expelled from their homeland by Zionist militias, have now been forced to flee once again. After three devastating wars and ten years of blockade inflicted on Gaza by the Israeli state, many refugees from Gaza have also arrived here, unable to endure the harsh conditions there any longer and seeking refuge in Europe. Baden-Württemberg's Minister-President Winfried Kretschmann and the Mayor of Stuttgart, Fritz Kuhn will be supporting in May the „Israel Birthday“ celebration of the Israel lobby (German-Israeli Society.) They ignore the fact that the establishment of the state of Israel offers no reason to celebrate.

The so-called Near East has suffered for over 150 years from colonialism and the intervention of foreign powers. The current “refugee crisis“ that we are now experiencing here in Germany, is one of the consequences.

A decisive turning point in the history of this region was the year 1948. The foundation of the state of Israel went hand in hand with the targeted and militarily-planned ethnic cleansing of Palestine.

The expulsion of Palestinian women, men and children and the grabbing of their land continues unabated today, along with the denial of Palestinian refugees' rights.

The expulsion of Palestinians was not an effect of armed conflict. By mid-May 1948, that is before the British had left the country and Arab troops intervened to stop the ethnic cleansing, the Zionist militias Haganah, Irgun and Lehi had already overrun the Palestinian cities of Jaffa, Haifa, Akko, Safed, Tiberias and Bissan and forced 300,000 Palestinians to flee their cities and villages. To achieve this, these militias perpetrated dozens of massacres in Deir Yassin, Tantura, Dayameh and in many other towns and villages.

By spring 1949, more than 750,000, and thus almost 85% of the Palestinian population, had been expelled. As a result, 94% of the land inside the Armistice Line of 1948 fell into the hands of the state of Israel.

Considering this land grab, the UN again stressed the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their original homes in their Resolution 194 of November 1948.

The majority of the seven million Palestinian refugees now lives in the states neighbouring Palestine – in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon or in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip (two thirds of the Gazan population are refugees from the expulsions of 1948).

Some 300,000 Palestinians with an Israeli identity card are so-called internally displaced persons. Despite their Israeli citizenship, they are forbidden to return to their original places of residence, their villages and their homes. All over historical Palestine, Palestinian women, men and children are nowadays under threat of ethnic cleansing as a result of Zionist apartheid laws and apartheid settlements within and outside the 1948 Armistice Line. They are victims of house



Inhabitants of Yarmuk refugee camp in Syria awaiting UN-aid supplies near Damascus, 2014

demolitions, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the prevention of any kind of economic development, the theft of water and land, and by many further instruments of oppression.

In 2005, Palestinian civil society organisations and trade unions launched a boycott initiative, Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, (BDS) against the Israeli apartheid state, modeled on the successful international campaign against the former apartheid regime in South Africa.

The state of Israel and its racist institutions – as well as all who profit from it – should be boycotted until the rights of the Palestinians are achieved.

Numerous Jewish groups in the country and internationally have also joined the movement and have achieved some notable successes. The state of Israel and its lobby are trying to stop the movement by means of repression und defamiation, including death threats from leading Israeli politicians. We consider this international civil rights movement an important basis for a future without apartheid and racism in Palestine. Together, we want to commemorate the Nakba and show the way to a better future.