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**What is the Nakba?**

**Why we call it the ongoing Nakba?**

**What is the solution for the long suffering?**

**What Palestinians call the ‘Nakba’ the Arabic for ‘Catastrophe’.**

It refers to the first round of massive population transfer undertaken by the Zionist movement. Early Zionist leader **Israel Zangwill** spoke of “a people without land returning to a land without people.”

The Nakba was an act of forced population transfer (ethnic cleansing) undertaken for the purpose of establishing Israel as a state that would ensure permanent dominance of Jewish settler-immigrants over the indigenous Arab people of Palestine. 58 villages and cities present. More than 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes and lands during these original Nakba years.

While we commemorate the Nakba the Israelis celebrate the creation of the state of Israel and the independence day with a series of events celebrating a Jewish ‘homecoming’ to the land and the birth of the Jewish state as achievements of the Zionist dream for ‘Eretz Israel’ (all of Mandate Palestine). As Israel celebrates, it entirely disavows any responsibility for the destruction of the homeland of the Palestinian people and their forced displacement.

Since 1948 the establishment of Israel has lacked a formal constitution.

**Why do we call it the ongoing Nakba**

Because of the Israeli laws

**1951-Basic laws**

- a. Human dignity
- b Freedom of occupation

**The superiority of the Jewish majority over the Palestinian minority.**

**It never mentions the right of equality between the Jewish citizens and the Arabs.**

The discriminatory laws

- 1- The law of return to any Jewish children and grand children
- 2- Citizenship automatic for the Jewish immigrants but article 3 deprives the Palestinians
- 3- No family unification for Palestinians in Israel

Palestinian refugees after 1950

- 1- UNHCR established, with relief and protection mandate
- 2- Displacement after 1967 war
- 3- Black September 1970 Jordan
- 4- Israeli invasion of Lebanon- many Palestinians left to Tunisia
- 4- Sabra and Chatila massacre
- 5- 1978 The intifada, many house demolitions, land confiscation
- 6- 1990 Gulf war, many Palestinian from Koweit expelled
- 7- 1991 The Iraqi invasion in Kuwait, then they expelled the Palestinians
- 8- 1993 Oslo. Secret negotiations -2 states
- 9- 1995 Gadafi expelled Palestinians from Lybia
- 10- 2000 Al-Aqsa Intifada
- 11- The apartheid wall starts being build in 2001
- 12- Jenine-Massacre: The camp in the northern Westbank was destroyed
- 13- The invasion of Iraq: 2003 more than 80,000 were forced to leave to different countries
- 14- 2008 2009-Gaza war, more than 1300 killed
- 15- 2011 The war in Syria

Increasing of UNHCR operation in the region and outside the region.

2003 the Palestinians attached in the border between Syria and Iraq and now with the Palestinians in Turkey.

### **Denial of the Nakba, Denial of Refugee Return**

The Ongoing Nakba refers to Israel's ongoing denial of the rights of displaced Palestinians to return to the lands from which they were displaced, as well as the ongoing experience of forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinians from their homelands that has continued since the original Nakba years as a result of Israel's policies and practices, namely Israeli apartheid, colonization and military occupation.

The on going forcible displacement

- 1- Loss of land –between 1946-2014
- 2- 130,000 remained in the areas of Palestine which became Israel now
- 3- 40% were internally displaced and forbidden to return to their cities or villages like Oqrut a and kofor Borom
- 4- IN 1967 35% of the population in west bank and Jerusalem and Gaza were forcible expelled

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Examples of problems faced the refugees:-

Before the war in Syria started in 2011, Yarmouk camp was home to the largest Palestinian refugee community in the country. Established in 1957, it hosted more than 148,500 registered refugees, in an area of 2 km<sup>2</sup> distant 8km from Damascus center. UNRWA ran 28 schools and 3 health centres in there.

Accordingly to the UN the camp was overcrowded with cement block homes and was densely populated.

After the start of the hostilities in Syria, the living conditions dramatically deteriorated in Yarmouk.

**Conclusions,**

**66 years in to the Nakba and 47 years into Israeli occupation of the OPT,**

**There is an urgent need to re-examine the nature of the Israeli legal and political regime over the indigenous Palestinian**

**It is a system of systematic discrimination.**

**The state of Israel must be held accountable to the legal obligations, Impunity for its massive and systematic violations of international law and treating as an exception above the law of nations must be ended**

**Growing movement for holding Israeli government officials who commit violations against Palestinian s accountable**

**Only thus can justice and dignity be restored to the Palestinian people-**

As states and the UN have lacked political will for effective action, the wider international community in particular, Unions, Churches Ngos, , cultural and academic figures, and independent experts are called upon to develop and the UN to respect their legal obligations. Effective measures such as the civil society champagne (BDS) and legal action, that we can create political will among states

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