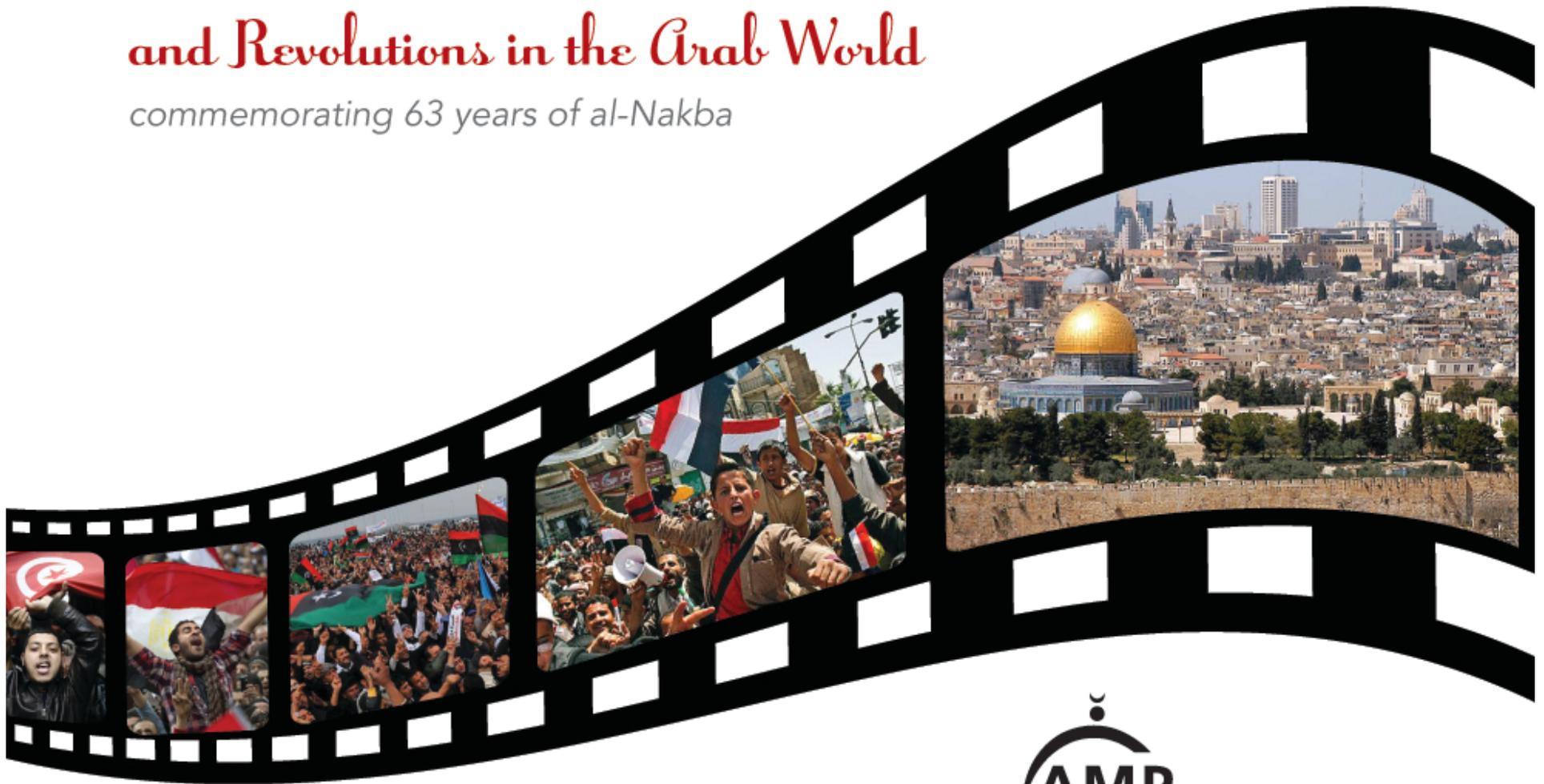


# Palestine

## *and Revolutions in the Arab World*

*commemorating 63 years of al-Nakba*



[www.ampalastine.org](http://www.ampalastine.org)

# Al-Nakba - history

- April 9, 1948 – Deir Yassin massacre
- Deir Yassin is nearly synonymous with Al-Nakba.
- Thought of as the beginning of the dispossession of the Palestinians from Palestine.

# Al-Nakba - history

- Irgun and the Stern Gang, Jewish terrorist groups lead by Itzhak Rabin and Menachem Begin, attacked the village of Deir Yassin, killing more than 100 women, children and elderly.
- Young, healthy men were rounded up. Some were killed. Others were trucked to open-air prison camps.
- Rabin and Begin went on to become prime ministers of Israel

# Al-Nakba - history

- Zionist leaders used the massacre to spread fear among other villages.
- Tactic was used to force people to flee what they thought would be certain annihilation.
- Evidence exists to refute Zionist claim that Arab leaders told Palestinians to flee.

# Al-Nakba -history

“...Arab radio stations had urged the Palestinians to hold on and be steadfast, whereas it was the Jewish radio stations of the Haganah and the Irgun and Stern Gang, which had been engaged in incessant and strident psychological warfare against the Arab civilian population.”

~ Dr. Walid Khalidi, “All that Remains: The Palestinian Villages Depopulated and Occupied by Israel in 1948”



# Al-Nakba - history

- The United Nations partitioned Palestine in November 1947 with UN Resolution 181.
- Israel declared ‘independence’ on May 14, 1948, the day before British troops left and the British Mandate of Palestine ended
- From November 1947, until Jan. 1, 1949, when the armistice was signed, the following befell the people of Palestine:

# Al-Nakba

- The United Nations gave 54 percent of Palestine to the Jews who owned less than 7 percent of the land.
- 500,000 Palestinians lived in the area given to the Jews for their homeland.
- The Jewish paramilitary group, the Haganah, as well as the terrorist groups – Irgun and the Stern Gang – perpetrated massacre upon massacre.

# Al-Nakba

- 531 villages were depopulated and destroyed or occupied by Jews.
- 750,000 Palestinians were forced into exile.
- 13,000 Palestinians were killed.
- By Jan. 1, 1949, Jews possessed 78 percent of historic Palestine.

~ (Source: Dr. Walid Khalidi, “All that Remains: The Palestinian Villages Depopulated and Occupied by Israel in 1948”)



# Al-Nakba - history

- The United Nations Partition Plan left Jerusalem as an international city, not to be administered by any one group.

# Al-Nakba

## Transfer and ethnic cleansing

- From the beginning of political Zionism, plans were in place to rid Palestine of its indigenous population.
- Plan Dalet was distributed to Haganah troops in March 1947. It contained directives for ethnic cleansing.

# Al-Nakba

## Transfer and ethnic cleansing

- “The concept of ‘transferring’ European Jews to Palestine and ‘transferring’ the Palestinian people out is central to Zionism.”  
~ David Ben-Gurion, 1944.
- Ben-Gurion was Israel’s first prime minister.

# Al-Nakba

## Transfer and ethnic cleansing

“It must be clear that there is no room in the country for both people ... the only solution is a Land of Israel ... without Arabs ...”

~ Yosef Weitz, director of the Jewish National Fund's land department and founder of the Transfer Committee

# Al-Nakba

## Jewish National Fund

- Established in 1901 to purchase land in Palestine for Jewish settlers.
- In the 1940s, it created the Transfer Department, responsible for removing Palestinians from their homeland.
- The JNF illegally expropriated most of the land of 372 Palestinian villages, whose inhabitants had been wiped out or forced into exile by Zionist forces.

Source: Palestine Land Society



# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

- Owners of this land make up more than 50 percent of the refugees registered with the United Nations.
- Today, JNF is a multi-national corporation.
- Receives tax-exempt donations from wealthy Jews around the world.
- Controls 2,500 square km. of Palestinian land, which it leases only to Jews.

(Source: Palestine Land Society)



# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

- JNF's operations are direct violations of international law and Fourth Geneva Convention.
- Fourth Geneva Convention forbids:
  - Confiscation of property
  - Settling occupier's citizens in occupied territories
- Use of tax-exempt money for settlements and other JNF activities violates domestic laws of many countries.

(Source: Palestine Land Society)



# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

- Held by State of Israel as central tool in its ‘Judaization’ of Palestine.
- Fund can lease any acquired land to any Jew, body of Jews and to any company under Jewish control.
- Palestinians prohibited from living or working on JNF land.

(Source: Palestine Land Society)



# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

List of refugee lands 'sold' to JNF in January 1949:

Region	Dunams
Jerusalem corridor	2,000
Northern Negev desert	25,000
Coastal Plain	150,000
Sharon Plain	150,000
Subtotal	552,000
Incl. Hula Baysin and near Baysan	1,101,942

(Source: Palestine Land Society)



# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

- Second 'sale' took place on Oct. 4, 1950.
- Additional land was 1,271,734 Dunams.
- 99 percent of that land was rural.

(Source: Palestine Land Society)



# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

Usage of the 'Second Million' of Dunams of refugee land purchased in 1950

Usage	Dunams
Completing construction of new settlements	500,000
Expanding existing settlements	500,000
Afforestation	160,000
Various agricultural projects	100,000
Settlement housing	16,200
Urban housing	2,000
TOTAL	1,278,200

(Source: Palestine Land Society)



# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

- American Jews crucial to JNF funding.
- Between 1910 and 1948, American Jews – through United Jewish Appeal – donated a total of \$86 million.
- Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association of San Francisco provided \$15 million loan.

(Source: Palestine Land Society)



# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

- As of October 2004, the JNF was in possession of 2.6 million Dunams of Palestinian land.

(Source: Palestine Land Society)

# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

- JNF activities violated Nuremberg Charter, which was created to deal with the crimes of the Holocaust.
- Nuremberg Charter defines war crimes as ... plunder of public or private property, (and) wanton destruction of cities, towns or villages.

(Source: Palestine Land Society)

# Al-Nakba - Jewish National Fund

JNF Land Department Director Yosef Weitz wrote in his diary on Dec. 20, 1940:

“If the Arabs leave it, the country will become wide and spacious for us ... There is no way but to transfer the Arabs from here to the neighboring countries, to transfer all of them, save a few.”

(Source: Palestine Land Society)



# Al-Nakba - JNF Transfer Committee

Objectives formulated on June 4, 1948:

- Destruction of villages as much as possible during military operations.
- Prevention of any cultivation of land by them, including reaping, collection, picking and so on.
- Settlement of Jews in a number of villages and towns so that no vacuum is created.
- Enacting legislation [geared toward barring return].

(Source: Palestine Land Society)

# Al-Nakba today

- In 1967, Israel launched the Six Day War.
- 350,000 Palestinians were forced into exile, some for the second time since Al-Nakba.
- Israel illegally occupied Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula.

# Al-Nakba Today

“Al-Nakba is a process that developed the systematic dispossession of the Palestinians; it’s the destruction of a civil society for the intended purposes of a colonial enterprise to be set in its place.”

~ Dr. Hatem Bazian, AMP chairman



# Al-Nakba today

- Evidence abounds that the policy of ethnic cleansing is continuing.
- Operation Cast Lead, the siege on Gaza, the Apartheid Wall, restriction on the freedom of movement and random arrests and detentions are all part of a large plan to rid Palestine of its remaining indigenous population.

# Al-Nakba today

“I believe that it should have been stronger! ... the extermination of a city ... I want the Arabs of Gaza to flee to Egypt.”

~ Reserve Colonel Yoav Gal, an Israeli Air Force pilot, told Army Radio during Operation Cast Lead on Jan. 11, 2009



# Al-Nakba today

“It is a duty of Israel to explain to public opinion, clearly and courageously, a certain number of facts that are forgotten with time. The first of these is that there is no Zionism, colonialism, or Jewish State without which the eviction of the Arabs and the expropriation of their lands.”

~ Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, quoted in the Agence France Presse, Nov. 15, 1998.



# Al-Nakba today

- The complete blockade of Gaza began in June 2007.
- More than 360 people have died because of access to adequate medical care.
- More than 90 percent of Gaza residents depend upon the United Nations for food aid.
- Israel allows in less than 25 percent of humanitarian supplies needed, according to United Nations.

(Source: "Rising From the Ashes: Gaza's Indestructible Spirit," AMP 2010)



# Al-Nakba today

- 1.7 million people are trapped in open-air prison
- Fuel, clean water and electricity are in short supply or non-existent in some areas.
- The blockade has prohibited the shipment of books, paper, pens and other school supplies
- Students are barred from leaving Gaza to finish their degrees or from studying abroad

# Al-Nakba today

- Israel killed 1,409 Palestinians – including 355 children – during Operation Cast Lead in December 2008 and January 2009
- More than 25,000 people remain homeless because Israel prohibits the delivery of construction supplies such as cement and glass
- The siege amounts to collective punishment and is in direct contravention of international law

(Source: “Rising From the Ashes: Gaza’s Indestructible Spirit,” AMP 2010)



# Al-Nakba today

- The transfer of Palestinians continues today.
- Between 1967 and 1986, for instance, 21,000 Palestinians per year were displaced from their homes, according to human rights organization Badil.
- Home demolitions continue.
- Between 1967 and January 2009, Israel has destroyed nearly 24,000 homes.

(Source: Badil)



# Al-Nakba Today

- There are currently 121 illegal Jewish colonial settlements on Palestinian land.
- There are approximately 500,000 illegal Jewish colonial settlers.
- Illegal colonial settlements comprise more than 40 percent of occupied Palestinian territories.

(Source: Palestine Monitor, 2008)

# Al-Nakba today

- Settler populations have grown annually between 4 percent to 6 percent over the past 20 years, a much higher growth rate than the 1.5 percent growth rate for Israeli society as a whole.
- Nearly 400,000 illegal colonial settlers will be in 80 colonial settlements between the Apartheid Wall and the 1948 Green Line.

(Source: Palestine Monitor, 2008)

# Al-Nakba today

- Settlements are connected by more than 800 km. of Jewish-only bypass roads.
- Underground roads and tunnels are being constructed for Palestinians.
- Jewish bypass roads have at least a 150 meter buffer zone, further eroding Palestinians' rights to their own land.

(Source: Palestine Monitor, 2008)

# Al-Nakba today – Apartheid Wall

- In East Jerusalem, the Apartheid Wall confiscated land belonging to 19.2 percent of Palestinian families.
- When complete, 86 percent of the Wall will be inside the West Bank.
- Nearly 300,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem will be trapped between the Wall and the Green Line, a virtual no-man's land for them.

(Source: Palestine Monitor)



# Al-Nakba today – Apartheid Wall

- The wall will surround about 125,000 Palestinians in 28 communities on three sides.
- The wall will surround about 26,000 Palestinians in eight communities on all four sides. These communities will have a tunnel or road connection.
- Had Israel built the wall on the 1948 Green Line, it would have saved nearly \$2 billion.

(Source: Palestine Monitor)

# Al-Nakba today - checkpoints

- As of 2008, 74 percent of West Bank roads are controlled by checkpoints or blocked entirely
- There are nearly 600 checkpoints, closures and other obstacles in the West Bank

(Source: Palestine Monitor, 2008)

# Al-Nakba today – Arrests and Detentions

- Palestinian prisoners are held in 30 detention centers within historic Palestine (Israel).
- This violates international law – especially the Fourth Geneva Convention
- Each month there are close to 9,500 Palestinian prisoners, according to Adameer
- 750 are ‘administrative’ detentions
- 75 are women
- 47 are Palestinian parliamentarians
- Each year, about 700 Palestinian children – some as young as 12 – are arrested and prosecuted in Israeli military courts
- Between Jan. 1, 2004 and June 30, 2009, at least 3,850 Palestinian children had been detained

(Sources: Palestine Monitor and Defence for Children International – Palestine Section)



# Al-Nakba today – Military order on ‘infiltrators’

- In April 2010, a new Israeli military order went into effect, allowing the military to expel ‘infiltrators’
- The order affects tens of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank
- According to the provisions, "a person is presumed to be an infiltrator if he is present in the area without a document or permit which attest to his lawful presence in the area without reasonable justification."

(Source, “IDF order will enable mass deportation from West Bank,” Haaretz, April 11, 2010)



# Al-Nakba today – Military order on ‘infiltrators’

- The order does not stipulate what permits are acceptable
- The military will be responsible for distributing these permits
- Order could pave the way for the expulsion of ‘tens of thousands’ of Palestinians from the West Bank

(Source, “IDF order will enable mass deportation from West Bank,”  
Haaretz, April 11, 2010)

# What you can do

- Educate yourself about Al-Nakba and other issues related to the occupation.
- Go to [www.ampalastine.org](http://www.ampalastine.org) for information, reading lists and other sources.
- Participate in the many lectures, seminars and workshops offered by AMP across the country throughout the year.
- Help stop the JNF. Ask the IRS to revoke its charity tax-exempt status. Go to [www.stopthejnf.org](http://www.stopthejnf.org).



# What you can do

- Support the Global BDS Movement, a movement started in Palestine and taking hold around the world

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/>

- Support the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel and the Palestinian Student Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel

<http://www.pacbi.org/>



# What you can do

- Invite AMP to your mosques, churches, civic groups and universities for lectures or workshops.
- Sign up for AMP' s email list to keep up on news and events.
- Join AMP' s Media Team and make a difference online and in print. Send an email to [media@ampalastine.org](mailto:media@ampalastine.org)
- Go to [www.ampalastine.org](http://www.ampalastine.org)

