

AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE  
**EMPOWERMENT** through  
**EDUCATION** and **ACTION**

## AL-NAKBA

The Nakba, or Catastrophe, began with the Deir Yassin massacre of April 9, 1948. It marks the beginning of the dispossession of the Palestinian people from Palestine at the hands of Zionist Jews, who until today employ methods of ethnic cleansing in attempts to create a state that is by, for, and of Jews only.

The Nakba is not a one-time event. It is still occurring as evidenced by Israel's illegal siege on Gaza; Operation Cast Lead of December 2008 and January 2009, Israel's deadly military attack that killed more than 1,400 people, including 355 children, and critically wounded more than 5,300; restriction of movement; the Apartheid Wall; and numerous arrests and detentions.

It is impossible to quantify how many Palestinians have been displaced and killed by Israelis since 1948, when 750,000 Palestinians were forced into exile after their 531 villages were depopulated. More than 13,000 of them were killed in 1948. In Israel's Six Day War in 1967, a further 350,000 Palestinians were forced from their homeland.

### TIMELINE

**1882** – First Zionist settlement in Palestine is founded with help from Edmond James de Rothschild.

**1896** – Theodore Herzl publishes Der Judenstaat (The Jewish State), espousing his ideas for a Zionist state

**1897** – Political Zionism is founded at Basel Congress

**1901** – Creation of the Jewish National Fund, founded to purchase land in Ottoman Palestine for Jewish settlements. Later was responsible for the transfer of Palestinians out of Palestine

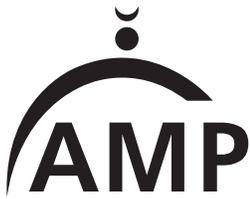
**1917** – Balfour Declaration supports a home for Jews in Palestine. The declaration came in the form of a letter from Arthur J. Balfour, the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to Lord L Walter Rothschild, a British banker and member of the wealthy Rothschild financial dynasty. The letter was written in response to heavy lobbying by Zionist leadership, especially Chaim Weizmann.

**1917** – The British Mandate of Palestine begins at the end of World War I and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire

**1935** – Terrorist Zionist gang, Irgun, is founded by Menachem Begin, who became the Israeli prime minister in 1977

**1940** – The Stern Gang breaks away from Irgun. It is lead by Yitzhak Shamir, who later became an Israeli prime minister

**1947** – Plan Dalet is given to the paramilitary group the Haganah. Plan Dalet outlines the guidelines for the takeover of Palestine, including plans for ethnic cleansing and the transfer of the indigenous population



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**1947** – With Resolution 181, the United Nations partitions Palestine, giving 54 percent of the country to the Jews, who at that time owned less than 7 percent of the land and who had lived there for less than 10 years

**1948** – Jewish terrorist gangs – the Haganah, Irgun and the Stern Gang – commit numerous massacres, the most infamous being the Deir Yassin massacre of April 9, 1948. This constitutes the beginning of the Nakba, the forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians from Palestine

**1948** – Zionist Jews declare the state of Israel – May 15, 1948

**1949** – Armistice agreement is signed between Arab leaders and Zionists. By Jan. 1, 1949, the Jews had claimed 78 percent of historic Palestine and depopulated more than 530 Palestinian villages.

## REFUGEES

**750,000** – The number of Palestinians who were forced into exile during the Nakba from 1947 to 1949 at the hands of Jewish terrorist and paramilitary gangs

**13,000** – The number of Palestinians killed during the Nakba

**350,000** – The number of Palestinians forced into exile during the Six Day War in 1967

**9 MILLION** – The number of Palestinian refugees and Internally Displaced Persons today

**40 PERCENT** of the world's refugees today are Palestinian

**74 PERCENT** of today's Palestinian population is refugees

**80 PERCENT** of all Palestinian refugees live outside camps operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

**4.6 MILLION** refugees are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in 2008. Nearly one-third of them live in 58 recognized refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

(Sources: Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency & Refugee Rights; 1948: Lest We Forget; All That Remains: The Palestinian Villages Occupied and Depopulated by Israel in 1948; 1948: Lest We Forget)

The American Muslims for Palestine is a national, grassroots nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate the American public about issues pertaining to Palestine and its rich, cultural heritage.

For more information, go to [www.ampalastine.org](http://www.ampalastine.org).