



Friday 11th to Sunday 20th May 2018

70 YEARS OF NAKBA: WEEK OF ACTION

Palestine Solidarity Campaign
Resource Pack

#Nakba70

www.palestinecampaign.org/campaigns/nakba70



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INTRODUCTION

Palestine Solidarity Campaign is organising a series of events to mark the 70th anniversary of the Palestinians' loss of their homes and land when the state of Israel was created in 1948.

The loss, known by Palestinians as the Nakba or 'catastrophe', was the violent dispossession and removal of the native Palestinian population from their towns and villages.

This pack has been put together to assist you in facilitating your own Nakba Week events. It contains suggestions of films for film screenings, and videos and articles for sharing.

For the full list of our Nakba Week of Action events please see:

www.palestinecampaign.org/70-years-nakba

To share your events and keep updated on social media, use **#Nakba70**



BACKGROUND

Between 1947 and 1949, armed Zionist forces ethnically cleansed and eradicated over 500 villages and cities in Palestine, displacing 750,000 Palestinians and taking over 78% of the land. This mass exodus is known by Palestinians as the **Nakba**, or catastrophe.

1948 saw the worst period of concentrated extermination and destruction. On May 15th, the day Britain ended its mandate in Palestine, Israel's future Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion announced the creation of Israel. Thus, May 15th is marked annually around the world as Nakba Day. But the process that culminated in the events of 1948 began decades earlier.

WHY DID THE NAKBA HAPPEN?

Palestine was part of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire until it fell at the end of World War One in 1918. During the war, in 1916, the British and French governments carved up the Ottoman Empire between them (the Sykes-Picot Agreement); part of Britain's share was Palestine. The population of Palestine at that time was about 800,000, of whom around 90% were Palestinian Arabs.

By the late 19th-century, Zionism, the belief that the Jewish people constitute a national group entitled to realise self-determination by establishing a state in Palestine, established itself as a political ideology in Eastern Europe. In 1896, the Viennese journalist Theodor Herzl gave new life to this movement with the publication of his pamphlet, 'The Jewish State', which advocated for the creation of a Jewish state as a means of protecting European Jews from widespread and systematic anti-Semitism.

Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann, , lobbied British Prime Minister David Lloyd-George and Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour to great effect, securing a pledge from Balfour (known today as the Balfour Declaration) for a Jewish national home in Palestine. This, and subsequent pledges of support from the British establishment for the Zionist project, were not motivated by shared ideological beliefs. Instead, the British saw an opportunity to gather support from US and Russian Jews for the Allied forces, and also to establish control of Palestine. From the start of the British Mandate period (1920-1947) the British facilitated the mass immigration of European Jews to Palestine.

With the rise of fascism and an increase in anti-Semitism across Europe, particularly when the Nazi's took power in Germany, tens of thousands of European Jews had moved to Palestine by 1936, leading to a dramatic increase in the Jewish population to around a quarter of Palestine's population.

Though the British government, who sensed tension growing between Palestinians and Zionist settlers, periodically attempted to halt the immigration of European Jews to Palestine, effective lobbying by Zionist groups ensured that the flow of immigrants continued with little interruption.

The 1936 Arab Revolt was a Palestinian uprising against British rule and its support for the Zionist settler-colonialist project. The British responded to the revolt with brutality, destroying Palestinian homes, deporting Palestinian leaders, and interning civilians and fighters in prison camps, where torture and abuse was rife.

By 1944, armed Zionists had turned on the British, launching several deadly attacks against British administrative personnel. Recognising that it had created a humanitarian disaster, the British handed over responsibility of Palestine to the United Nations in 1947, ending its own period of colonisation in Palestine, and ultimately resulting in the UN adopting Resolution 181 on November 29, 1947, calling for the partition of Palestine into two states, Arab and Jewish.

Though the Jewish population of Palestine accounted for a third of the population, the UN allocated 55% of the land to the Jewish population, including many of Palestine's most culturally, historically, and politically important towns and cities, which contained Palestinian majority populations, as well as the entire coastline from Haifa to Jaffa.

Palestinians rejected the partition plan, though the plan was accepted by the Zionists (as a temporary tactical measure.)

From March 1948 the Zionists put a carefully prepared strategy into effect (Plan Dalet), the purpose of which was to seize all the military hardware and installations left by the British, to use force to remove as many Palestinians as possible from their land, to destroy their villages and to take over the main towns.

Zionist paramilitary groups orchestrated a brutal and extensive process of ethnic cleansing through massacres and mass expulsions of Palestinians from their towns and cities, in an attempt to remove Palestinians from the land designated to them by the UN, and to extend the boundaries of the Jewish state.

Some Palestinians were forcibly transferred to villages within Israel's new borders, while others were taken to the West Bank in trucks or marched at gunpoint across the borders. Many of those who tried to return home, to find missing relatives, harvest crops or recover possessions were shot, including women and children.

On May 15th, 1948, following the end of the British mandate period and a 'declaration of independence' by Zionist forces, Egyptian, Iraqi, Jordanian, Lebanese and Syrian forces invaded Zionist-occupied territories and launched a war that would last until March 1949. By August, around 750,000 Palestinians had been made refugees.

Many of those who fled went to Lebanon and Syria, believing they would return within weeks. **Now, those refugees number around 7 million people, and are scattered around the world** . Over two million refugees live in 27 refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza served by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA was founded in order to respond to the humanitarian crisis that resulted from the Nakba. A further 35 camps in neighbouring Syria, Lebanon and Jordan house around 3 million Palestinians who are denied the right to return by Israel.

WHEN DID THE NAKBA END?

The massacres, land theft and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians did not halt with the creation of Israel. By 1951, 200 new Hebrew names were issued for Palestinian villages and cities which had been destroyed and entirely erased from the map. Since 1948, Israel has created 30 laws to transfer Palestinian land to the Israeli government.

The Nakba continues today

Israel is ethnically cleansing and displacing Palestinians from within Israel and from the territories recognised as occupied under International law. Israel has been militarily occupying the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza since 1967, and Gaza has been living under a crippling siege since 2007.

In violation of international law, Israel routinely demolishes homes and villages, denies access to land and residency, colonises the land through unlawful settlement building, and uses lethal violence against civilians.

FACTSHEETS

Palestine Solidarity Campaign:

Israel's 'Independence' and Palestine's catastrophe

www.palestinecampaign.org/resources/factsheets/nakba

The Palestinian Right of Return

www.palestinecampaign.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/right-to-return-factsheet.pdf

Britain in Palestine – 100 years of intervention

www.palestinecampaign.org/resources/factsheets/palestine-britains-legacy

Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights:

1) What you need to know about Palestinian refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

www.badil.org/en/publication/faq.html

2) The Biennial Survey on Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

www.badil.org/en/publication/survey-of-refugees.html

Palestinian women narrate displacement

www.almashriq.hiof.no/palestine/300/301/voices/israel.html

“Expelling people from their homes is a war crime. As well as preventing them from returning. Israel didn't just commit a war crime in 1948 but continues to commit one to this day.”

*-Salman Abu Sitta, author,
Atlas Of Palestine 1948*

INFOGRAPHICS AND MAPS

-**Salman Abu Sitta's The Atlas of Palestine (1917-1966)** can be accessed [here](#)

-**Palestinian Journeys**, a project of the Palestinian Museum, the Institute for Palestine Studies and Visualizing Palestine, can be accessed [here](#)

-**Zochrot, and its iNakba app** can be accessed [here](#)

-**Decolonizer** has produced excellent resources including maps demonstrating the impact of the Zionist migration since the late 19th century, which can be accessed [here](#)

Some other resources:

An Ongoing Displacement (Visualising Palestine)

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/ongoingnakba-powerful-infographic-visualizing-palestine-showscentury-land-theft>

Nakba Fact Sheet (Middle East Eye)

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/nakba-factsheet-209828913>

Palestine 1948 (Salman Abu Sitta)

<http://zochrot.org/en/article/56337>

Shrinking Palestine (Visualising Palestine)

<http://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/shrinking-palestine>



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RECOMMENDED ARTICLES

Ben White: The Nakba: From 1948 to Today

<https://www.palestinecampaign.org/article-ben-whitenakba-1948-today>

Umar al Ghubari: How Israel Erases Arabic from the public landscape

<http://zochrot.org/en/article/56366>

Eitan Bronstein Aparicio: From Gaza to Salameh: A Palestinian refugee's journey home <http://zochrot.org/en/article/56330>

Lisa Goldman: Classified: Politicizing the Nakba in Israel's state archives

<http://zochrot.org/en/article/56388>

Karina Goulordava: Scores of Palestinian books – the Nakba's lesser known victims

<http://972mag.com/documenting-scores-of-palestinianbooks-nakbas-lesser-known-victims/34169>

*“Without a homeland,
something will always be
missing. We'll never have
dignity.”*

*-Moneeb Sobhiyya,
Palestinian refugee*

VIDEOS AND TESIMONIES

Zochrot and Badil: Resource Center have many video testimonies from refugees.

<http://zochrot.org/en/testimony/all>

<https://vimeo.com/badilresourcecenter>

Al Jazeera: Al-Nakba (4-part series)

Episode 1 www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7FML0wzJ6A

Episode 2 www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI2D5Fsd9Ilg

Episode 3 www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SKECszemmA

Episode 4 www.youtube.com/watch?v=0m__A7MIDrk

Everyday Nakba by Mohammad al Azza

<http://mondoweiss.net/2013/04/targeting-talent>

Our Story by Dr. Mustafa Barghouti

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-xfftfpync

The Nakba from a feminist perspective

<http://972mag.com/watch-the-nakba-from-a-feministperspective/107093>

Re-framing the Narrative for Palestinian Rights and Justice

<https://al-shabaka.org/talks/8086/>





Nakba: A People's History

This year, PSC has created a digital archive documenting the ethnic cleansing and expulsion of Palestinians in 1948, and exploring what it means to Palestinians today, who continue to suffer ethnic cleansing and displacement.

How is this archive to be used?

1. **As a historic record** about the Nakba and what it means today, and a means of contextualising the current Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality.
2. **As an educational resource** for understanding the processes that took place during the Nakba, and how the founding of Israel relied on the planned, systematic expulsions of Palestinians from their homeland .
3. **As a platform for Palestinians** to share their personal experiences of the Nakba, in whatever form they wish. This is a platform for the descendants of those who experienced the Nakba too.
4. **As a tool for collective memory-building** among Palestinians to share what they know and to learn more about the Nakba.

You can view the archive and submit content on nakba.palestinecampaign.org

SUGGESTIONS FOR FILM SCREENINGS

Encounter With a Lost Land by Maryse Gargour (2013)

French citizens who lived in Palestine from the 1920s recall life before 1948 through previously unseen personal and diplomatic archives. Drawing on private and consular correspondences, rare audio-visual records, newspapers, diaries, and first-hand testimonies, Maryse Gargour delivers a rich portrait of the cultural and social life of Mandate Palestine as experienced by French nationals – the sons and daughters of diplomats, priests, surgeons, and traders who lived in Palestine between the 1920s and 1950s.

All That Remains (Ma Tabqa Lakum) by Nada El Yassir (2005)

Palestinian Arab Bedouins once peopled the entire Naqab (Negev) Desert, a region which accounts for 60% of historic Palestine. With the creation of Israel in 1948, the majority of these Palestinians were uprooted. Those who remain are either being forcibly concentrated within one of seven designated townships or, if they refuse to abandon their lifestyle and economy, end up living in one of 46 'unrecognised villages' lacking water, electricity, schools, roads or medical services.

Chronicles of a Refugee by Perla Issa, Aseel Mansour and Adam Shapiro, 2008

Filmed in 17 countries, 18 refugee camps, 36 cities, with more than 300 interviews, *Chronicles of a Refugee* gives voice to Palestinian refugees displaced in 1948 and their descendants. It is a 6-part documentary film series looking at the global Palestinian refugee experience over the last 60 years, and includes a wide range of age, socioeconomic status, cultural and education levels.

The Time That Remains by Elia Suleiman, 2009

It gives an account of the creation of the Israeli state from 1948 to the present. In four episodes, Suleiman recounts family stories inspired by his father Fuad's private diaries starting from when he was a resistance fighter in 1948, and his mother's letters to family members who were forced to leave the country during the same period. Suleiman also combines his own memories in an attempt to provide a portrait of the daily life of the Palestinians who were labelled 'Israeli Arabs' after they chose to remain in their country and become a minority.

Voices Across the Divide by Alice Rothchild, 2014

Explores the history of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict through rarely heard personal stories from 1948 and 1967. The Director interviews Palestinian refugees who directly experienced al Nakba in 1948, and younger family members whose families were forced out of their homes into refugee camps and other Middle Eastern countries (where they were born) before coming to Canada or the US.

IMAGES, POEMS & MUSIC

UNWRA Photo archive

[https://unrwa.photoshelter.com/galleries/
C00009xWZSJER24M/G0000UP5ButuCiYs/1948-FirstArab-Israeli-conflict](https://unrwa.photoshelter.com/galleries/C00009xWZSJER24M/G0000UP5ButuCiYs/1948-FirstArab-Israeli-conflict)

Remi Kanazi: Return

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlhCDRvr5_w

Gerald Clark: Nakba

<https://theinterruptingsheep.bandcamp.com/album/nakba>

Checkpoint 303: In 1948

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mul7fVuWSZw>



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Use the resources in this pack to talk to your friends, colleagues, family about the Nakba.

- Share the articles, infographics and videos in this pack on social media.
- Join us at the events held around the country – or organise your own!
- Get involved with PSC to campaign for Palestinian human rights all year round!

Join PSC and become part of the anti-Apartheid movement for Palestine

- Help us build international support and a mass movement
- Join one of sixty local PSC branches
- Raise the issue of Palestine in your area/club/ union – we can supply resources: materials, speakers, etc
- Join our events, such as lobbying, demonstrations and talks
- Support the campaign for boycott, divestment and sanctions on Israel
- Tell your MP to take action, use our easy e-tools:
www.palestinecampaign.org
- Follow PSC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Contact the PSC about your plans:
info@palestinecampaign.org
- Use **#Nakba70** to follow this year's commemorations online

JOIN US DURING NAKBA WEEK

MAY 11 | National demonstration | 70 Years of Nakba - Stand up for Gaza - Stop the Killing

5.30pm to 7pm, Opposite the Israeli Embassy, London, closest Underground: High Street Kensington

MAY 20 | PSC Conference- @70: Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return

The conference aims to provide the tools and education necessary for activists in the UK to continue to campaign for the right of return of Palestinian refugees, as enshrined in international law. Speakers include Dr Ghada Karmi, Hazem Jamjoum, Dr Ruba Salih, Eitan Bronstein, Amjad Iraqi, Mohamad Fahed, Sarona Bedwan, Tareq Baconi, and PSC Director Ben Jamal.

MAY 14-20 | @70: Celebration of Contemporary Palestinian Culture

This week-long festival of theatre, dance, films and talks commemorates the Palestinian experience of dispossession and loss of a homeland.

Tickets are available [here](#)

A list of events taking place around the UK can be viewed [here](#)

GET IN TOUCH

info@palestinecampaign.org

020 7700 6192

Box BM PSA, London, WC1N 3X

www.palestinecampaign.org

twitter.com/PSCupdates

facebook.com/palestinesolidarityuk

