



Friday 12th to Thursday 18th May 2017

FROM BALFOUR TO THE NAKBA: WEEK OF ACTION

Palestine Solidarity Campaign
Resource Pack

[www.palestinecampaign.org/campaigns/
balfour2nakba](http://www.palestinecampaign.org/campaigns/balfour2nakba)

“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



#Balfour2Nakba

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Introduction to the Week of Action

Palestine Solidarity Campaign will be launching a series of events to mark the 69th 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 year also marks the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, when the UK government pledged its support for the Zionist movement's desire for a Jewish state in Palestine. British complicity in Israel's racist violence and land theft continues to this day.

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/campaigns/balfour2nakba



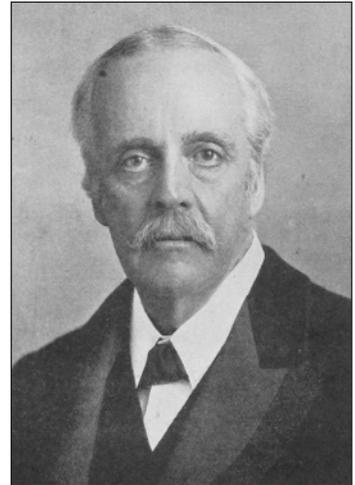
Background

Every year Palestinians mark the Nakba – “catastrophe” in English – when in 1948 around 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes during the creation of the state of Israel. 500 villages were destroyed in a premeditated campaign, and their inhabitants never allowed to return. Zionist militias, who later became the “Israel Defence Forces” (IDF), committed massacres in the villages of Deir Yassin, Lydda, Tantura and dozens of other Palestinian communities.

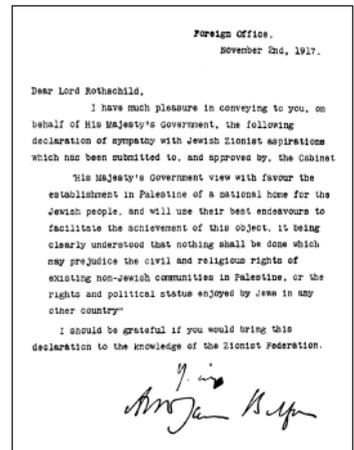
The Nakba came just thirty years after the Balfour Declaration, when British Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour wrote to the Zionist movement pledging UK government support for a Jewish state in Palestine. The declaration famously stated that “nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine”. The existing ‘non-Jewish communities’ were the Palestinians. They constituted 94% of the population, and were not consulted when their land was given away. This was a typically colonial British act of the time.

The Declaration began the process where one group of people (the British) pledged the land belonging to a second group (the Palestinians) to a third group of people (the Jewish people). The British Mandate followed (1922–1947) with the bloody suppression of the Palestinian campaign for self-determination. The Nakba of 1948 was a direct consequence of British policies.

A critical understanding of the Nakba is essential as it continues to shape Palestinians’ experiences. Palestinian society was all but destroyed, with refugees scattered around neighbouring states and



Arthur Balfour



across the world. The ethnic cleansing never ended, and continues today, with hundreds of Palestinians losing their homes due to Israel's demolition policies in Occupied East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and the Palestinian Bedouin suffering repeated dispossession and displacement in the Naqab/Negev desert in Israel.

Israel continues to deny Palestinians their fundamental rights, including, crucially, the right of return. While Israel's Law of Return entitles automatic citizenship to Jewish people born anywhere in the world, Palestinian refugees are denied the right to return to their homes and land, from which they were expelled.

Millions of Palestinians live in refugee camps in Israel's neighbouring countries, and the occupied Palestinian territory, with many having been made refugees two or more times. Many Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip are refugees from the ethnic cleansing of 1948. Palestinian citizens of Israel (the minority who remained following the ethnic cleansing of 1948) are today subjected to dozens of discriminatory laws and other forms of systematic racism.

Well over half a million Jewish Israeli settlers continue to colonise Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, with settlement expansion rising dramatically under the Netanyahu government. These illegal settlements displace Palestinians, cutting them off from their land, monopolising scarce water resources and subjecting them to frequent attacks from armed settlers, who are protected by the Israeli forces.

The ongoing centrality of the Nakba to the Palestinian struggle was underlined by a 2016 Pew poll, which found that almost half of Jewish Israelis believe Palestinian citizens of Israel should be expelled. Israel continues to deny the historical facts of the Nakba through every legal, cultural, and political means possible.

Join us to commemorate the Nakba around the country and say 'no more'.

“The weak point of our position is of course that in the case of Palestine we deliberately and rightly decline to accept the principle of self-determination”.

Arthur Balfour, 1919

Factsheets

Palestine Solidarity Campaign:

Israel's 'Independence' and Palestine's catastrophe

<http://www.palestinecampaign.org/resources/factsheets/nakba/> [updated]

Britain in Palestine – 100 years of intervention

<https://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

<http://badil.org/en/publication/faq.html>

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

<http://badil.org/en/publication/survey-of-refugees.html>

3) Palestinian women narrate displacement

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/palestine/300/301/voices/israel.html>

4) Further factsheets

<http://badil.org/en/campaigning-networking/campaigning/2015-11-16-09-04-23/brochurs.html>

“[I]n Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country... The Four Great Powers are committed to Zionism.

And Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad, is rooted in age-long traditions, in present needs, in future hopes, of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land.”

Arthur Balfour, 1919

Infographics and maps

An Ongoing Displacement (Visualising Palestine)

<https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/ongoing-nakba-powerful-infographic-visualizing-palestine-shows-century-land-theft>

Nakba Fact Sheet (Middle East Eye)

<http://www.middleeye.net/news/nakba-fact-sheet-209828913>

Palestine 1948 (Salman Abu Sitta)

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

Shrinking Palestine (Visualising Palestine)

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

“If the Israelis and others want to know why the conflict still persists today, they can review the information here [The Atlas of Palestine 1948] and wake up from their collective amnesia about what really happened in Palestine in 1948.”

Salman Abu Sitta, author,
Atlas Of Palestine 1948



Recommended articles

The Balfour Project – *There is a large amount of material available on the Balfour Declaration here:*

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

Ben White: *The Nakba: From 1948 to Today*

<https://www.palestinecampaign.org/article-ben-white-nakba-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>

Bernard Regan: *The Palestine Nakba* (book review)

<http://www.redpepper.org.uk/review-the-palestine-nakba/>

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

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

Professor Kamel Hawwash – Britain should apologise for the Balfour Declaration, not 'celebrate' it

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20160806-britain-should-apologise-for-the-balfour-declaration-not-celebrate-it/>

“By a stroke of the imperial pen, the Promised land [thus] became twice promised. Even by the standards of Perfidious Albion, this was an extraordinary tale of double-dealing and betrayal, a tale that continued to haunt Britain throughout the 30 years of its rule in Palestine.”

Avi Shlaim, historian

Short videos and testimonies

Britain in Palestine 1917-1948

<http://www.balfourproject.org/film-of-britain-in-palestine-1917-1948/>

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

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

<https://vimeo.com/badilresourcecenter>

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

Moneeb Sobhiyya,
Palestinian Refugee

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

Episode 1

www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7FML0wzj6A

Episode 2

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI2D5Fsd9lg

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/>

Set in Aida refugee camp, it opens with the sound of dripping water. The narrators explain how Palestinian water is redirected to Israel and the illegal settlements. A man examining an empty, dry and rusted storage tank swears to God his main concern is “the water and the water, every night... Yesterday we commemorated the Nakba, every day we have the Nakba, this is the biggest Nakba...”

Our Story by Dr. Mustafa Barghouti

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

A definitive account of Palestinian history, charting occupation and displacement from 1948 up until today. This documentary features shocking accounts from the Gaza war and daily acts of aggression and apartheid against the Palestinian people. By Dr. Mustafa Barghouti.

The Nakba from a feminist perspective

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

A monthly Social TV panel with Tammi Molad Hayo, Nahed Sakis, Dr. Safa Aburabia and Rawan Bisharat discusses the Nakba as it relates to women, militarism and peace.

“We must do everything to insure they [the Palestinians] never do return... The old will die and the young will forget.”

David Ben Gurion, 1948



Suggestions for film screenings

Below is a list of recommended films on the subject of the Nakba. Films may be subject to availability and screening fees.

***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 (*The Land Speaks Arabic*, 2007) 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. These rarely heard testimonies provide a unique perspective on cosmopolitan life in the wealthy urban centres of Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem during the colonial era.

***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, socio-economic 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 labeled '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.

Recommended books

Bernard Regan: *The Balfour Declaration: Empire, the Mandate and Resistance in Palestine* (November 2017)

Ilan Pappé: *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*

Nur Masalha: *The Palestine Nakba: Decolonising History, Narrating the Subaltern, Reclaiming Memory*

Ghada Karmi: *Return, A Palestinian Memoir*

Salman Abu Sitta: *The Return Journey*

Salman Abu Sitta: *Mapping My Return*

Susan Abulhawa: *The Blue Between Sky and Water*

Further reading list:

Nakba day – a Verso reading list

<http://www.versobooks.com/blogs/1590-nakba-day-a-verso-reading-list>



Land grabs and ethnic cleansing continue with the building of the Wall, deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice and the UN

“[T]he story of 1948... is the simple but horrific story of the ethnic cleansing of Palestine... Retrieving it from oblivion is incumbent upon us, not just as a greatly overdue act of historiographical reconstruction or professional duty; it is... the very first step we must take if we ever want reconciliation to have a chance, and peace to take root, in the torn lands of Palestine and Israel.”

Ilan Pappé, Israeli historian,
The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine

Images, poems and music

UNWRA Photo archive

<https://unrwa.photoshelter.com/galleries/C00009xWZSJER24M/G0000UP5ButuCiYs/I1948-First-Arab-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! The full list is here: www.palestinecampaign.org/events/balfour2nakba
- Get involved with PSC to campaign for Palestinian human rights all year round!

Join PSC and take action for a new mass 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

Join us throughout 2017:

12–18 May: From Balfour to Nakba

Local activities around the country

Saturday 10 June: Just Walk to Jerusalem Send-off

With cultural rally in central London

8–9 July: Palestine Expo

Two days of talks, events, exhibitions and more in London

Saturday 4 November: National Rally in Central London

To mark 100 years since the Balfour Declaration

Get in touch

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