



فلسطين

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تاریخ جس زمانہ میں لوگ ایک جگہ رہنے کی بجائے تلاش معاش میں چل پھر کر زندگی بسر کیا کرتے تھے۔ عربستان سے قبیلہ سام کی ایک شاخ جو کنعانی یا فونیقی کہلاتی تھی، 2500 قبل مسیح میں یہاں آکر آباد ہو گئی۔ پھر آج سے 4000 سال پہلے یعنی لگ بھگ 2000 قبل مسیح میں حضرت ابراہیم علیہ السلام عراق کے شہر ار سے جو دریائے فرات کے کنارے آباد تھا ہجرت کر کے یہاں آباد ہوئے۔ حضرت ابراہیم علیہ السلام نے اپنے ایک بیٹے اسحاق علیہ السلام کو بیت المقدس میں، جبکہ دوسرے بیٹے اسمعیل علیہ السلام کو مکہ میں آباد کیا۔ حضرت اسحاق علیہ السلام، کے بیٹے حضرت یعقوب علیہ السلام تھے جن کا نام اسرائیل بھی تھا۔ ان کی اولاد بنی اسرائیل کہلائی۔ حضرت یعقوب علیہ السلام، حضرت یوسف علیہ السلام، حضرت داؤد علیہ السلام، حضرت سلیمان، حضرت یحییٰ علیہ السلام، حضرت موسیٰ علیہ السلام، حضرت عیسیٰ علیہ السلام اور بہت سے دیگر پیغمبر اسی سر زمین میں پیدا ہوئے یا باہر سے آکر یہاں آباد ہوئے۔ اسی مناسبت سے یہ خطہ زمین پیغمبروں کی سر زمین کہلایا۔



Hebrews

ان علاقوں میں عبرانی قومیت کے لوگوں کی آمد کا نشان ولادت مسیح سے لگ بھگ 1100 سال قبل میں ملتا ہے۔ حضرت سیموئیل جو اللہ کے نبی تھے، پہلے اسرائیلی بادشاہ تھے۔ انہوں نے کافی عرصہ حکومت کی اور جب وہ بوڑھے ہو گئے تو انہوں نے اللہ کے حکم سے حضرت طالوت علیہ السلام کو بادشاہ مقرر کیا۔ اس واقعہ کا ذکر قرآن مجید کے پارہ دوم میں سورہ بقرہ کی آیات 247 تا 252 میں ملتا ہے۔



حضرت طالوت علیہ السلام نے 1004 قبل مسیح سے 1020 قبل مسیح تک حکمرانی کی۔ اس دوران انہوں نے جنگ کر کے جالوت Goliath کو مغلوب کیا اور اس سے تابوت سکینہ واپس لیا جس میں حضرت موسیٰ علیہ السلام اور حضرت ہارون علیہ السلام کے تبرکات تھے۔

حضرت طالوت علیہ السلام کی وفات کے بعد حضرت داود علیہ السلام بنی اسرائیل کے بادشاہ بنے۔ انہوں نے پہلے خیبرون اور پھر بیت المقدس میں اپنا دار الحکومت قائم کیا۔ بیت المقدس دنیا کا قدیم ترین شہر ہے۔ یہ دنیا کا واحد شہر ہے جو یہودیوں، مسیحیوں اور مسلمانوں کے لیے یکساں مقدس اور محترم ہے۔ اس شہر کا موجودہ نام ”یروشلم“ حضرت داود علیہ السلام نے رکھا تھا۔

حضرت داود علیہ السلام نے 1004 قبل مسیح سے 965 ق م تک 33 سال حکمرانی کی۔ ان کے بعد ان کے بیٹے حضرت سلیمان علیہ السلام نے 965 ق م میں حکومت سنبھالی جو 926 قبل مسیح تک 39 سال قائم رہی۔



حضرت سلیمان علیہ السلام کی وفات کے بعد اسرائیل کی متحدہ ریاست دو حصوں سامریہ اور یہودیہ میں تقسیم ہو گئی۔ دونوں ریاستیں ایک عرصے تک باہم دست و گریبان رہیں۔

598 قبل مسیح میں بابل کے بادشاہ بخت نصر نے حملہ کر کے یروشلم سمیت تمام علاقوں کو فتح کر لیا اور شہر کی اینٹ سے اینٹ بجا کر بادشاہ اور ہزاروں شہریوں کو گرفتار کر کے بابل میں قید کر دیا۔ 539 قبل مسیح میں ایران کے بادشاہ خسرو نے بابل کو فتح کیا اور قیدیوں کو رہا کر کے لوٹا ہوا مال واپس یروشلم بھیج دیا۔

332 قبل مسیح میں یروشلم پر سکندراعظم نے قبضہ کر لیا۔ 168 قبل مسیح میں یہاں ایک یہودی بادشاہت کا قیام عمل میں آیا۔ لیکن اگلی صدی میں روما کی سلطنت نے اسے زیر نگین کر لیا۔ 135 قبل مسیح اور 70 قبل مسیح میں یہودی بغاوتوں کو کچل دیا گیا۔ اس زمانے میں اس خطے کا نام فلسطین پڑ گیا۔

20 اگست 636ء کو عرب فاتحین نے فلسطین کو فتح کر لیا۔ یہ قبضہ پر امن طریقہ سے عمل میں آیا۔ 463 سال تک یہاں عربی زبان اور اسلام کا دور دورہ رہا۔ تاہم یہودی ایک اقلیت کی حیثیت سے موجود رہے۔ گیارہویں صدی کے بعد یہ علاقہ غیر عرب سلجوق، مملوک اور عثمانی سلطنتوں کا حصہ رہا۔ 1189ء میں سلطان صلاح الدین ایوبی نے بیت المقدس کو فتح کیا اور یہاں مسلمانوں کی حکومت قائم ہو گئی۔



چار صدیوں تک عثمانیوں کی حکمرانی کے بعد 1917ء میں برطانیہ نے اس خطے کو اپنی تحویل میں لے لیا اور اعلان بالفور کے ذریعہ یہودیوں کے لیے ایک قومی ریاست کے قیام کا وعدہ کیا گیا۔
فلسطین کی جانب یہودیوں کی نقل مکانی 17 ویں صدی کے اواخر میں شروع ہو گئی۔ 1930ء تک نازی جرمنی کے یہودیوں پر مظالم کی وجہ سے اس میں بہت اضافہ ہو گیا۔ 1920ء، 1921ء، 1929ء اور 1936ء میں عربوں کی طرف سے یہودیوں کی نقل مکانی اور اس علاقے میں آمد کے خلاف پر تشدد مظاہرے ہوئے لیکن یہ سلسلہ جاری رہا۔

1947ء میں اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی نے ایک قرارداد کے ذریعہ فلسطین کو تقسیم کر کے ایک عرب اور ایک اسرائیلی ریاست قائم کرنے کا اعلان کر دیا۔ برطانیہ نے اس علاقے سے 1948ء میں اپنی افواج واپس بلا لیں اور 14 مئی 1948ء کو اسرائیل کی آزاد حکومت کے قیام کا اعلان کر دیا گیا۔ ہونا تو یہ چاہیے تھا کہ اس کے ساتھ ہی فلسطینی ریاست بھی قائم کر دی جاتی لیکن ایسا نہ ہوا۔ عربوں نے تقسیم کو نا منظور کر دیا اور مصر، اردن، شام، لبنان، عراق اور سعودی عرب نے نئی اسرائیلی ریاست پر حملہ کر دیا، تاہم وہ اسے ختم کرنے میں ناکام رہے۔ بلکہ اس حملے کی وجہ سے یہودی ریاست کے رقبے میں اور اضافہ ہو گیا۔



1949ء میں اسرائیل نے عربوں کے ساتھ الگ الگ صلح کے معاہدے کیے اس کے بعد اردن نے غرب اردن کے علاقے پر قبضہ کر لیا جب کہ مصر نے غزہ کی پٹی اپنی تحویل میں لے لی۔ تاہم ان دونوں عرب ممالک نے فلسطینیوں کو اٹانومی سے محروم رکھا۔

29 اکتوبر 1958ء کو اسرائیل نے صحرائے سینا پر حملہ کر کے اسے مصر سے چھین لیا۔ اس حملے میں برطانیہ اور فرانس کی حکومتوں نے اسرائیل کا ساتھ دیا۔ 6 نومبر کو جنگ بندی عمل میں آئی۔ عربوں اور اسرائیل کے درمیان ایک عارضی صلح کا معاہدہ اقوام متحدہ کی نگرانی میں ہوا جو 19 مئی 1967ء تک قائم رہا جب مصر کے مطالبے پر اقوام متحدہ کے فوجی دستے واپس بلا لیے گئے۔ مصری افواج نے غزہ کی پٹی پر قبضہ کر لیا اور خلیج عقبہ میں اسرائیلی جہازوں کی آمد و رفت پر پابندی لگا دی۔

5 جون 1967ء کو چھ روزہ عرب اسرائیل جنگ شروع ہو گئی۔ اسرائیلیوں نے غزہ کی پٹی کے علاوہ صحرائے سینا پر قبضہ کر لیا۔ اس کے علاوہ انہوں نے مشرقی یروشلم کا علاقہ، شام کی گولان کی پہاڑیاں اور غرب اردن کا علاقہ بھی اپنے قبضہ میں کر لیا۔ 10 جون کو اقوام متحدہ نے جنگ بندی کرادی اور معاہدے پر دستخط ہو گئے۔



16 اکتوبر 1973ء کو یہودیوں کے مقدس دن ”یوم کپور“ کے موقع پر مصر اور شام نے اسرائیل پر حملہ کر دیا۔ اسرائیل نے جوابی کارروائی کرتے ہوئے شامیوں کو پسپائی پر مجبور کر دیا اور نہر سویز عبور کر کے مصر پر حملہ آور ہو گیا۔ 24 اکتوبر 1973ء کو جنگ بندی عمل میں آئی اور اقوام متحدہ کی امن فوج نے چارج سنبھال لیا۔ 18 جنوری 1974ء کو اسرائیل نہر سویز کے مغربی کنارے سے واپس چلا گیا۔

3 جولائی 1976ء کو اسرائیلی دستوں نے یوگنڈا میں انٹی بیکی ہوئی اڈے پر یلغار کر کے 103 یرغمالیوں کو آزاد کرالیا جنہیں عرب اور جرمن شدت پسندوں نے اغواء کر لیا تھا۔

نومبر 1977ء میں مصر کے صدر انور السادات نے اسرائیل کا دورہ کیا اور 26 مارچ 1979ء کو مصر اور اسرائیل نے ایک امن معاہدے پر دستخط کر کے 30 سالہ جنگ کا خاتمہ کر دیا۔ اس کے ساتھ ہی دونوں ممالک میں سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہو گئے۔ (تین سال بعد 1982ء میں اسرائیل نے مصر کو صحرائے سینا کا علاقہ واپس کر دیا۔)

جولائی 1980ء میں اسرائیل نے مشرقی یروشلم سمیت پورے یروشلم کو اسرائیل کا دارالحکومت قرار دیدیا۔ 7 جون 1981ء کو اسرائیلی جیٹ جہازوں نے بغداد کے قریب عراق کا ایک ایٹمی ری ایکٹر تباہ کر دیا۔ 6 جون 1982ء کو اسرائیلی فوج نے پی ایل او کی مرکزیت کو تباہ کرنے کے لیے لبنان پر حملہ کر دیا۔ مغربی بیروت پر اسرائیل کی تباہ کن بمباری کے بعد پی ایل او نے شہر کو خالی کرنے پر رضامندی ظاہر کی۔ اسی سال 14 ستمبر کو لبنان کے نو منتخب صدر بشیر جمائل کو قتل کر دیا گیا۔



So aren't **Israelis** and **Palestinians** just fighting over **religion**?

They are not '**fighting**', **Israelis** are the **oppressors** and **Palestinians** are the **oppressed** and the situation is about anything but religion.

Isn't it just an argument over land between Muslims and Jews though?

No it is not. Before the creation of '**Israel**' only 73 years ago, **Palestinian Christians, Jews and Muslims** all peacefully co-existed in **Palestine**. The **Palestinian Christian** community is the oldest **Christian** community in the world.



Oh there are
**Palestinian
Christians?**

Yes there are, there are also
Palestinian Jews, like the
Samaritans who reside in Nablus,
both are oppressed by **'Israel'**. The
point is, making the suffering of
Palestinians seem like a religious
conflict is factually incorrect.

So if they're not
fighting over religion
what are they
fighting over?

There is no 'fighting', there is only
**Israeli colonisation, ethnic cleansing,
military occupation, and apartheid.**
When I say **'Israel'** I am referring
to a group of people, a group
of **settlers**, who are colonising
Palestine.



'Israel' isn't a country?

No, they are a **settler colony**. **Settler colonialism** is a form of colonialism that seeks to replace the **native population** of the colonised land with a new society of settlers. This is what 'Israel' is. **Palestine** is the country they are colonising.

How are they able to do that to **Palestinians**?

It's because they have the support of other settler colonies like the **United States, Australia, Canada** and also support from former colonial powers like the **UK, France, Belgium and others**. For them to call out 'Israel', they would have to start to answer questions about their own existence, about reparations and justice, for the people they colonised.



So why did I think it was a conflict over religion?

'Israel' tends to spread misinformation about its own short settler colonial existence, in order to conceal the reality on the ground. It is a lot easier to disassociate yourself from a situation that has been wrongfully minimised to a 'religious conflict happening since the beginning of time'.

What are 'Israel' trying to conceal by saying its a religious conflict?

Everything. The fact that they didn't exist before 1948, and they only exist because of **Zionist terrorist groups** who ethnically cleansed, massacred and destroyed over **540+ Palestinian towns and villages**, and...



They massacred and destroyed over 540+ Palestinian towns and villages?!

Yes. They're also responsible for the displacement of over **7.2 million Palestinian refugees**, and deny them their legal right of return. Saying it's a 'religious conflict' **denies Palestinians their right to liberation, freedom, and justice.**

'Israel' is responsible for over **7.2 million Palestinians** being refugees?

Yes. 'Israel' tries to minimise what's happening to a 'religious conflict' to draw attention away from the fact they are a **settler colony** still in the process of **brutally colonising Palestine.**



1/9

Palestine v Israel

what does Israel want?



#1

Colonial Settler-State

2/9

Israel wants the world to forget the story of its creation. The Palestinians call it the 'Nakba' (Catastrophe). In 1948, 700,000 Palestinians were expelled and escaped in terror as Jewish and Zionist militants invaded villages, towns and cities. Most had arrived from Europe after the second world war. Many Palestinians thought this was a temporary war and they could return to their homes.

In 1967, 250,000 more Palestinians were removed from their lands, homes, towns and villages by Israel as they escaped the violence and threat to their life from Israeli forces in Gaza and the West Bank.

Israel wants everyone to forget that it was founded on ethnic cleansing.



3/9

#2

Colonial Settler-State

Israel wants to give every Jew in the world the right, no matter where he or she is from, to take land (or in some cases take free land) in Palestine. Why? To settle and help expand the territories and populations of the Jewish state of Israel. Israel doesn't want you to know that most Jews already living in Israel, either live in homes that were once Palestinian or on built on Palestinian land after the Palestinians were expelled by force. This is called 'Colonial Settlement' based on ethnic cleansing.

4/9

#3

Land Theft

Israel wants ALL of Palestine. Only 15% of what we today call 'Historic' Palestine remains. That means 85% of Palestinian land is already occupied, settled and controlled by Israel. This isn't a religious conflict for the Palestinians. This is a fight for survival and the right to live in a place they have called home for hundreds of years. Israel wants you to forget it is an occupying power. Let me show you what an occupation that continues to grow looks like.



#4

5/9

No Two-State Solution

Israel also wants ALL of Jerusalem. It does not agree with only having West Jerusalem. It want's the Eastern side too. Why is this a problem? Because East Jerusalem is seen as the potential capital city of a future Palestine state. Israel is already planning to shift its capital city from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The theft of Palestinian homes in Sheikh Jarrah is part of this plan. Israel want's no viable capital city for a future Palestine.



#5

6/9

No Two-State Solution

Israel wants all Palestinians gone. Wiped. While it is impossible to kill all Palestinians, and let's be clear Israel is very efficient at warfare, it want's as many of them out of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories. How? Make life unbearable. Millions of Palestinians have lived in neighbouring countries Jordan and Lebanon already with a huge diaspora in Europe and the US.



#6

No Right of Return

Israel does NOT want any Palestinian to return to claim their land. While Jews have heavily argued they deserve the 'right to return' to Palestine, as they claim it is their ancestral home as promised by God, they do not want any other person or persons to have the same right.

7/9



#7

'Holocaust Industry'

Israel want's you to think this is about anti-semitism. It want's you to think this is about Arab/Muslim hatred for Judaism. Israel want's you to think they are on the brink of destruction, that another 'holocaust' is around the corner. Using fear and deception, Israel will convince you and the world they are the victims, while they destroy any possible chances of a future Palestinian state.

8/9



#8

9/9

Never Peace at any cost!

What does Israel not want? Peace agreements. Defined borders. A future Palestine. Every serious scholar on the Palestine-Israel conflict will tell you. Each time an opportunity for a peace agreement came, Israel backed out or set such demanding conditions, the Palestinians could not agree.



Slow Factory Foundation

1/7

What is happening in Palestine is not complicated; it's settler colonialism & ethnic cleansing.

Debunking misinformation around Palestine.



Image Source: Gaza under attack during Israeli strikes, by Mahmud Hams / Associated Foreign Press.

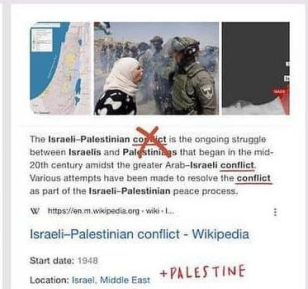
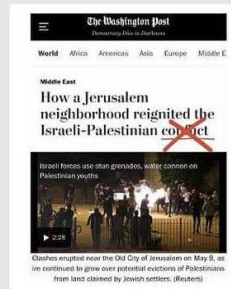
Myth

Palestine and Israel are in "conflict."



Fact

What is happening in Palestine is settler colonialism, military occupation, land theft and ethnic cleansing. A conflict means there is equal footing, which is not the case. There is an active oppressor (Israel) and an oppressed (Palestine). A colonizer (Israel) and a colonized (Palestine). This is not a conflict.





Myth

Before Israel came to Palestine, it was “just a desert.” Israel made the desert green. ❌

Fact

Before the occupation of Israel, Palestine had green, rich and lush land. In fact, Palestine respected the biodiversity of their Indigenous land: Palestinians were producing 92% of Palestine’s grain, 99% of its olives and 95% of its melons to name a few. ✅

Since Israel’s occupation, biodiversity has decreased. Israel removed Indigenous plants from the land to plant European invasive species. This phenomenon is called **green colonialism**, which has been discussed in depth by many, including Naomi Klein in “Let Them Drown.”

Note: According to the Congressional Research Service,

Israeli military occupation has been supported by US aid with \$3.8bn a year paid for by U.S. tax dollars since 2016 for the next 10 years. ✅

It’s also supported by other colonial countries including Canada, Australia, France and Belgium.



Myth (cont'd.)

Sheikh Jarrah is the only neighborhood in Palestine that is in danger.

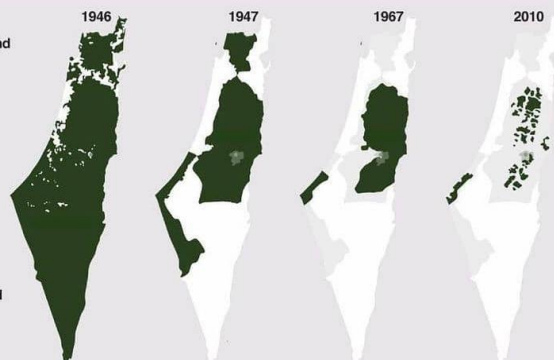


Fact

Over the past few decades, the state of Israel has continued the settler colonial project, and Sheikh Jarrah is the latest and not the last neighborhood being violently threatened with dispossession, which Israel has no legal right to do.



- Israeli Land
- Occupied Palestinian Land
- Palestinian Land



Please note: more territory has been stolen and occupied than this map shows.

Map Source: Wikipedia

Myth

Sheikh Jarrah is the only neighborhood in Palestine that is in danger.



Fact

Israel has been gradually stealing Palestinian land, destroying and ethnically cleansing entire Palestinian villages, violently displacing families and building illegal settlements on top them since the first Nakba ('catastrophe' in Arabic) in 1948, where almost 600 Palestinian villages were destroyed, Palestinian history erased and half the Palestinian population were expelled from their homes.





Sources & Suggested Reading

“Freedom Is a Constant Struggle”, Angela Davis

“Let Them Drown”, Naomi Klein

“Black Power and Palestine”, Michael Fischbach

“Orientalism”, Edward Said

“The Question of Palestine”, Edward Said

“Palestine”, Joe Sacco

**“Zionist Logic – Malcolm X on Zionism”,
The Egyptian Gazette, Sept. 17, 1964**

“On Palestine”, Noam Chomsky & Ilan Pappé

“The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine”, Ilan Pappé



Understanding
Palestine with
Key Definitions

Settler Colonialism

what is happening in Palestine is
a form of colonialism that seeks
to replace the original population
of the colonized territory with
a new ^{invasive} society of settlers. As with
all forms of colonialism, it is based
on exogenous domination, typically
organized or supported by an
imperial authority.



Crime of Apartheid

Defined as inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing & maintaining domination by one racial group over another and systematically oppressing them.

Crime of Apartheid

In order to maintain forceful domination over Palestinians & expand its sovereignty, Israel continues to commit inhuman acts of oppression against the indigenous population of Palestine which includes Muslims, Christians & even Jews.



Genocide & Ethnic Cleansing

Israel's actions in Palestine are characterized by deliberate mass expulsion and killings of native Palestinians with the aim of destroying a nation & expanding their own.

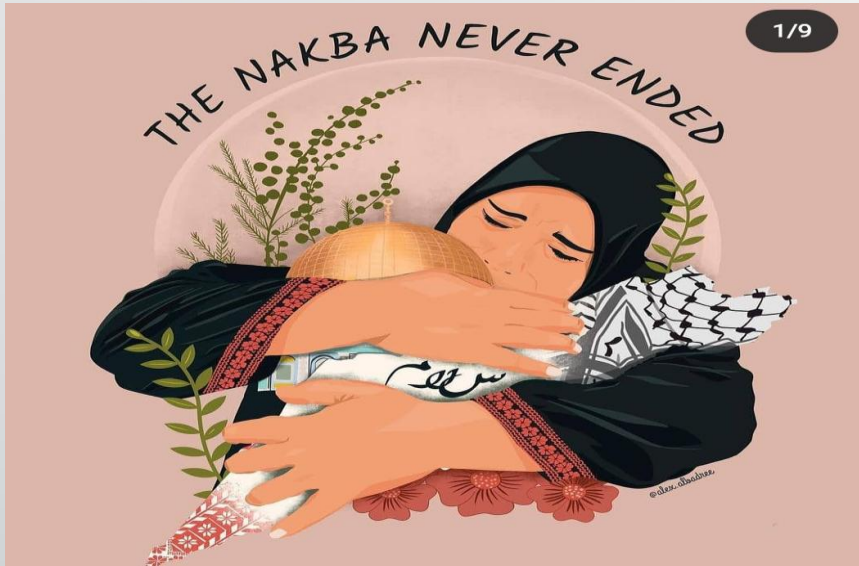
Israel is an
Apartheid state

and

"Apartheid states aren't democracies." (AOC)



#IstandwithPalestine



ETHNIC CLEANSING

/ˈeθnik klenziŋ/

noun

The mass expulsion or killing of members of an unwanted ethnic or religious group in a society.



THE NAKBA



Every year on May 15th, Palestinians around the world commemorate the **Nakba** (النكبة), which refers to the ethnic cleansing of indigenous Palestinians from 1947-1949. Zionist militias and Israeli forces systematically destroyed and depopulated approximately 530 Palestinian villages. In total, over 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes, died resisting, or were massacred.

Today, the millions of dispossessed Palestinian refugees, both in refugee camps inside Palestine and those scattered across the globe in Diaspora, continue to struggle for the right to return to their homeland 73 years later.

THE NAKBA NEVER ENDED

The Nakba isn't simply an event of the past. 73 years later, Palestinians continue to face expulsion, home demolitions, and land confiscation. From Sheikh Jarrah to Gaza to Lydd, the colonization and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians never ended. But just as the Nakba never ended, neither has the struggle for freedom and liberation.

Israel has shown that no matter how Palestinians protest and resist, they will be shot, beaten, tortured, and bombed by the Israeli state.



SHEIKH JARRAH & JERUSALEM DISPOSSESSION

The planned ethnic cleansing of the neighborhood Sheikh Jarrah represents a systematic effort to push all Palestinians out of occupied Jerusalem. Israel's policies aim to reduce the Palestinian population through a process called the "Judaization," which encourages Jewish-only settlements and involves revoking Palestinians' residency rights, restricting them from building or expanding their homes, and limiting their freedom of worship.

The attacks on the families and their allies in Sheikh Jarrah and the attacks on worshippers in Al-Aqsa mosque this past week sparked the uprising we are seeing across the region. Currently in occupied Jerusalem, Palestinians are facing heavy militarized violence from Israeli police and settlers.

To learn more about the situation in Jerusalem, visit grassrootsalquds.net.

THE SIEGE OF GAZA

As of this writing, Israel is bombing the Gaza Strip and firing missiles at residential homes with families trapped inside. Enduring a fourth mass bombing campaign in 12 years, over 2 million Palestinians remain trapped in an open-air prison with no shelters, nowhere to hide, and nowhere to run to.

On top of all of this, Palestinians are still facing a deadly pandemic and 70% of the population are refugees, 56% live in poverty, 64% of youth are unemployed, 80% are reliant on international aid, and 100% of the 2.5 million Palestinians in Gaza live under unending Israeli siege, occupation, and endless bombing campaigns.



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WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

Millions of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank are living under Israeli military occupation and are subjected to home demolitions, land grabs, and settlement expansion. Separating and isolating West Bank cities and villages from one another, Israel restricts Palestinian movement through walls and checkpoints, which deny Palestinians access to employment, education and healthcare.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank are again rising up for their freedom, only to be met with live fire by Israeli police and settlers, which have killed and wounded dozens.



DISCRIMINATION AND EXCLUSION OF PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL

Palestinian citizens of Israel make up **over 20%** of the population. Remaining after the Nakba in 1948, they were subjected to martial law for 18 years. With no democracy in sight, there are more than 65 Israeli laws that systematically discriminate against Palestinians, essentially making them second-class citizens.

In the past week, Palestinian citizens of Israel have took to the streets in an unprecedented way, from Haifa to Lydd. Their chants for justice are being responded with attacks by police and Israeli lynch mobs assaulting Palestinians on the streets and torching homes.

Learn about the plight of Palestinian citizens of Israel, visit adalah.org.

COMING TOGETHER FOR FREEDOM

Despite the Israeli governments attempts to divide, expel, murder, and disposess Palestinians for almost a century, Palestinians have united across borders in a single cause, each struggling on their own front whether in Gaza, the West Bank, as Palestinian citizens of Israel or as Palestinians in exile.

*Israel cannot continue its ethnic cleansing of Palestinians without the support of other settler-colonies like the United States. Palestinians need solidarity and collective action. Let your friends, your loved ones, your neighbors, your elected officials, your schools and universities, your faith communities know that you **demand** an end to this ongoing Nakba, and that you stand with the struggle for Palestinian freedom.*



Let's Talk

The Blockade of Gaza

What is the Blockade? 2/10

In 2007, Hamas started administering the Gaza Strip.

In response, Israel launched **one of the longest sieges in history**, beginning a military blockade now nearing its **15th year**. The blockade has not only devastated the economy and infrastructure of Gaza, but the lives of its residents.

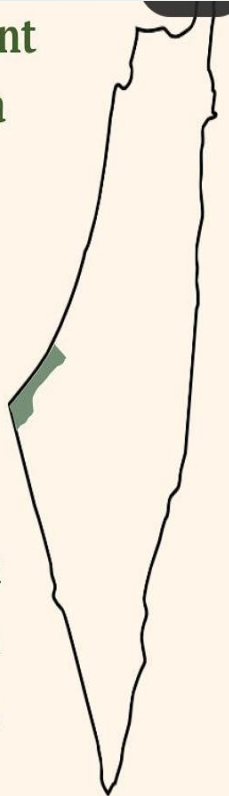
- Poverty & unemployment have skyrocketed
- Residents lack access to basic goods & services
- Repeated rounds of military violence have killed thousands of civilians

Despite calls from the UN to lift the illegal blockade, Israel has only clamped down tighter since the pandemic began.



Inaccurate reporting of the recent events portray Israel & the Gaza Strip as two separate, adjacent territories, & that Hamas attacked Israel unprovoked.

But this is misleading. The Gaza Strip is under Israeli occupation & blockade. Israel striking Gaza is an attempt to crush a people resisting its occupation.



An Open-Air Prison 4/10

In 2007, Gaza had 5 fence crossings with Israel & Egypt. These have all since been shut, with Israel seizing control of Gaza's sea & airspace. Today there are only 2 pedestrian crossings out of Gaza.

BEIT HANOUN (EREZ):

Towards the West Bank & East Jerusalem.

RAFAH:

Crossing to Egypt. Egypt reopened it last year, but has historically played an active role in assisting the blockade, leaving Gaza residents trapped in an open-air prison.

@LETSTALKPALESTINE





The Blockade's Impact

82%

Unemployment

10x

increase in those
dependent on food
handouts, to **50%**

56%

Live in Poverty

Even before Covid-19, the UN
predicted that by 2020, the Gaza Strip
would become uninhabitable.

It's 2021.

@LETSTALKPALESTINE



No Water, No Gas

6/10

Last year, Israel banned fuel shipments, forcing
Gaza's only power plant to shut down, and leaving
residents with just four hours of electricity a day.

2

of Gaza's water supply has been
wiped out with devastating results
on sanitation and health.

3

Because most of Gaza's water is unfit for consumption,
residents have to buy expensive desalinated water.
**When Covid hit, while the world scrambled for toilet
paper, most Gaza residents didn't even have
access to a proper sewage system.**



No Healthcare

The blockade has left Gaza with a chronic shortage of medical supplies. As a result, sick Palestinians have to obtain permission from Israel to travel to the West Bank & Jerusalem for treatment - which it usually doesn't grant.

“ *There's no justification for that. It's a baby with cancer who needs urgent treatment, and any delay causes the disease to spread and increases his suffering.* ”

Ibrahim Al-Akhras, whose 2-year-old son has cancer, missed two appointments due to delays. Every year, the number of successful applications decreases, with half either rejected or ignored until it's too late.

The blockade amounts to
Collective Punishment
of the 2 million people of Gaza.

Almost half are 14-years-old or younger.

70% are refugees whose families were expelled from their homes in 1948 by Israel.



"What About the Missiles." ^{9/10}

You're omitting crucial context.

- 1948** — Israel expels Palestinians, many of whom flee to Gaza, forming a majority of its population.
- 1967** — Israel invades & militarily occupies Gaza.
- 2005** — Israel removes its troops but controls Gazan waters, airspace, borders, electricity, etc.
- 2007** — Israel imposes an ongoing blockade on Gaza, collectively punishing 2 million.
- 2021** — Israel attacks worshippers in Jerusalem & escalates ethnic cleansing in Sheikh Jarrah.
- May 5** — Hamas warns Israel to stop. Israel refuses.
- May 10** — Hamas launches missiles.

Gaza's residents have been confined to the world's largest open-air prison, sentenced to a life of violence, poverty & desolation for the crime of being Palestinian.

The root cause of the violence is the oppression of millions & the delusional expectation of stability. End the blockade.

This is the context in which the projectiles must be understood; as a direct response to 14 years crushed under an illegal blockade, designed to collectively brutalize & punish the 2 million Palestinians of Gaza.

@LETSTALKPALESTINE

*Disclaimer: This post does not support Hamas as an organization overall.



What's happening in
Sheikh Jarrah
and **Gaza?**

What has been
happening for 73 years.
Israeli colonisation,
ethnic cleansing and
apartheid.

Ok one by one,
what is exactly
happening in
Sheikh Jarrah?

In an **occupied East Jerusalem**
neighbourhood called **Sheikh Jarrah,**
8 Palestinian families,
approximately **75 Palestinians** in
total, are at risk of **ethnic cleansing**
by **Israel,** in order to move **Israeli**
settlers into their homes.



So is that
why there are
clashes right
now?

Those are **NOT** clashes, that's **Israeli settler colonial terrorism**. **Palestinians** from all over **Palestine** are peacefully protesting what's happening in **Sheikh Jarrah** because each one of them can empathise with the **Palestinian families** on the verge of being ethnically cleansed. This is because every '**Israeli**' town and city, was once **Sheikh Jarrah**.

How is this
happening? Surely
this can't be
happening in 2021?

Nahalat Shimon International, a **settler** company, has filed lawsuits to seize the homes of dozens of families in **Sheikh Jarrah** using inherently discriminatory laws, such as the Legal and Administrative Matter Laws as well as the **Absentee Property Law of 1950**, to confiscate **Palestinian land or property** and transfer it to **settler groups**. Forcible transfer of an occupied population is prohibited under international humanitarian law and constitutes as war crimes according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.



Well the protests don't look that peaceful to me?...

Well that would be because they are being met with **brutal** and **disproportionate force** from **Israeli settler colonial forces**. **Israeli settler colonial forces** who are using stun grenades, spraying malodorant (illegal skunk water) and shooting at unarmed protestors, worshippers, children and anyone who they think is **Palestinian**.

What do you mean?

"Israel" is a **settler colony** that was only established in 1948 by **ethnically cleansing, massacring and destroying over 540+ Palestinian towns and villages**. **Zionist terrorist groups** including the **Haganah, Stern** and the **Irgun** all facilitated the ethnic cleansing, they then later became politicians in the '**Israeli**' government. Every single **Palestinian** has been affected by the creation of the **settler colony** of **Israel**, either having family massacred, being or having family exiled or living under '**Israeli**' **occupation** or **blockade**.



Lynchings?!
This sounds like
apartheid!

That's exactly what it is. 'Israel' is an apartheid settler colonial state, and instead of protecting its Palestinian citizens from lynchings, they protect the perpetrators. Human Rights Watch, the United Nations as well as B'Tselem - an Israeli human rights organisation, have all released damning reports that 'Israel' is an apartheid settler colony. Whilst it also is imposing a brutal illegal military occupation.

I read that they
only use rubber
bullets though?

Rubber bullets are just like regular bullets, they have a metal core and are just coated in rubber. They can still kill people, as well as causing serious injury and leading to many Palestinians they shot at, becoming blind. 'Israel' also tends to use regular bullets as well. The 'Israeli' settler colonial forces are also protecting far-right 'Israeli' settlers who are lynching Palestinians.



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And what's
happening in
Gaza?

Gaza has been under a **barbaric illegal military blockade** by **'Israel'** since 2007. Total **land, air, sea siege**, and no one can leave or enter. In the past decade **'Israel'** has subjected **Gaza** to three massacres, and is about to subject it to its fourth. This is why we need to speak up, and act now, and realise supporting the **decolonisation, freedom, justice** and **human rights** of the **Palestinians** isn't **'biased'** or **'one sided'**, **it's human**.