



# **Palestine Holocaust**

*Produced by Falasteen Al - Muhtalla Magazine*



Palestine, now called 'Israel', is the homeland of the Palestinians, who, as descendants of the Philistines, Canaanites and other tribes, inhabited the country from the dawn of history until 1948, when most of them were forcibly displaced by Zionist Jewish terrorist organizations.

When Palestine was chosen as the location for the Jewish state, Zionism invented the concept of a "historic right" to the land. This was based on the relatively brief occupation of Palestine in ancient times by the Hebrews. But this cannot give rise to a "historic right" since many other people occupied and ruled the land during its long history. The following table shows the various peoples who occupied the land:

2500 BC	People from the south-east settle the land. They are known as Canaanites.
2000 BC	Amorites and Phoenicians also move in.
1200 BC	Philistines move in. Hebrews leave Egypt and settle in area east of Dead Sea. Invade land of Canaan.
1050 BC	Hebrew kingdom set up under Saul, then David, then Solomon.
923 BC	Kingdom under Solomon splits into Israel (north) and Judea (south).
722 BC	Assyrians invade Israel.
586 BC	Babylonians invade Judea.
538 BC	Persian conquest under Cyrus.
332 BC	Macedonian conquest under Alexander.
166 BC	Maccabean Jews take Jerusalem and set up kingdom.
63 BC	Roman conquest. Romans use word "Palestine" to describe their new province (named after Philistines).
614 AD	Persian conquest.
628 AD	Byzantine conquest.
637 AD	Conquest by Muslim Arabs.
1072 AD	Conquest by Muslim Turks.
1092 AD	Reconquest by Arabs.
1099 AD	Christian Europeans (Crusaders) invade and set up kingdoms.
1187 AD	Reconquest by Arabs.
1517 AD	Conquest by Ottoman Turks.
1917 AD	British conquest.
1948 AD	Jewish Europeans conquer the land, set up a Zionist state and expel most of the Arab Palestinians.

The official ending of religious persecution of European Jewry in the nineteenth century was replaced by nationalist persecution by the ruling classes of Europe.

Zionism is a political ideology which was a response to this anti-Semitism. Some middle-class Jews, led by the Austrian Theodor Herzl, believed that Jews were no longer just a religion but were a nation. Herzl developed the idea that the solution to anti-Semitism was that the Jewish 'nation' should have a Jewish state somewhere in the underdeveloped world, and would be a "part of the rampart of Europe against Asia... an outpost of culture against barbarism".

Zionism is a pessimistic ideology, believing that non-Jews are inherently and unalterably anti-Semitic, and that Jews should leave their native countries and move to the Jewish state in order to live as full human beings.

The first Zionist Congress was held in 1897, and by 1907, the World Zionist Organization had selected Palestine as the site of the Jewish state.

The conquest of Palestine by the British in the First World War gave Zionist diplomacy the opening it had hitherto been denied. In 1917 the Zionists succeeded in obtaining from the British Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, a declaration that the Government would facilitate "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish

people". At that time there were 56,000 Jews in Palestine — about 8 per cent of the population — most of whom were part of the Jewish exodus from persecution in eastern Europe.

During the 1920s and 1930s Jewish immigration increased along with Zionist activity. The Zionists set up industries, social and political organizations and a militia — in fact the incipient infrastructure of a Jewish state.

The Arabs reacted against these developments using violence against the Zionists (threat when peaceful means such as strikes, petitions and demonstrations proved futile). Unlike the Zionists, the Arabs did not have continuous access to the upper echelons of the British Government. Arab uprisings took place in 1920, 1921, 1929, 1933, 1936 and 1937-9. Each of the government commissions of inquiry attributed the disturbances to "the non-fulfilment of promises of independence" which had been given to the Arabs during the War in exchange for help given in defeating the Ottoman Turks, and the belief "that the Balfour Declaration implied a denial of the right to self-determination" for the Arabs, leading to a Zionist takeover of Palestine.

In the late 1930s and the early 1940s Jewish immigration accelerated again as Jews fled Europe to avoid being exterminated by the Nazis. Jews were left little option but to flee to Palestine or the Soviet Union because Britain and the USA were effectively closed, due partly to Zionist pressure, and partly to government indifference.

"The dimensions of the refugee problem demand an immediate, territorial solution; if Palestine will not absorb them, another territory will. Zionism is endangered. All other territorial solutions, certain to fail, will demand enormous sums of money. If Jews will have to choose between the refugees, saving Jews from concentration camps, and assisting a national museum in Palestine, mercy will have the upper hand and the whole energy of the people will be channelled into saving Jews from various countries. Zionism will be struck off the agenda." (Letter from David Ben Gurion, later first Prime Minister of Israel, to Zionist Executive, 17 December 1938.)

In 1943, Itzhak Greenbaum, head of the Jewish Agency Rescue Committee, declared, "If I am asked, could you give from UJA (United Jewish Appeal) money to rescue Jews, I say No, and I say again No. In my opinion we have to resist that wave that puts Zionist activities in the second line."

By 1939 the Zionists were too strong and mobilized to contain, both militarily and diplomatically, and began consolidating their control over parts of Palestine, using terrorist violence as a tactic.

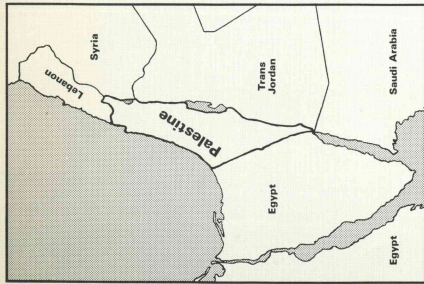
In 1947 the British handed over the problem to the United Nations Organization, which approved a partition plan whereby the Jewish minority (33 per cent of the population) would get 57 per cent of the land.

During the British control of Palestine, 196 Arab nationalists were hanged, 300 sentenced to life imprisonment, and about 50,000 Arabs killed.

In April 1948, the Zionists launched their final military drive to take control of all of Palestine, and declared the establishment of the state of Israel on 14 May 1948. A war with the neighbouring Arab states broke out the next day. At the end of hostilities later that year, the Zionists had occupied 78 per cent of the entire country. Of the remaining 22 per cent, the West Bank of the Jordan River was annexed by Jordan, and the Gaza Strip came under Egyptian administration. The Palestinians had lost everything.

Some 780,000 Palestinians had been driven from the area under Zionist control.

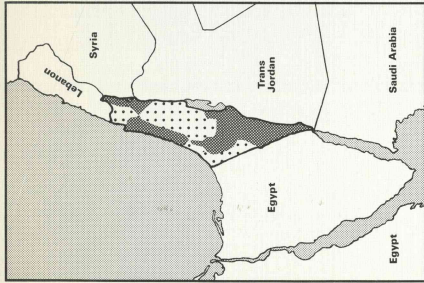




### British Mandate 1922-1948

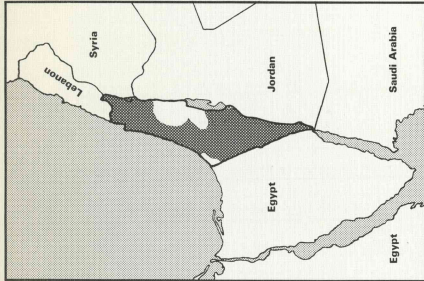
1922  
 668,000 Arabs owning 98% of the land.  
 84,000 Jews owning 2% of the land.

1946  
 1,237,000 Arabs owning 92% of the land.  
 608,000 Jews (two-thirds immigrants) owning less than 8% of the land.



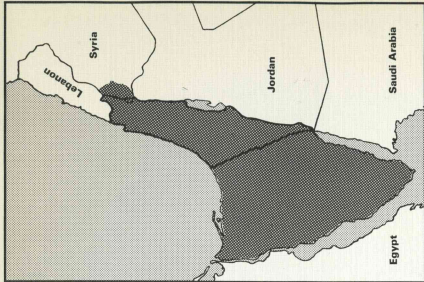
### UN Partition Plan 1947

Jewish State ■■■ 498,000 Jews  
 497,000 Arabs  
 57% of the total area of Palestine including the most fertile lands.  
 Arab State ... 725,000 Jews  
 ... 10,000 Arabs  
 42% of the total area of Palestine, mostly hilly and unproductive.  
 Jerusalem  
 100,000 Jews  
 105,000 Arabs  
*(International zone)*



### 1948 War

760,000 Jews now in control of three-quarters of Palestine. 1,350,000 Palestinian Arabs dispersed:  
 120,000 under alien rule in Israel  
 450,000 in their own homes under Arab rule  
 380,000 refugees in Gaza and the West Bank  
 400,000 refugees in exile outside Palestine.



### 1967 War

2,365,000 Jews now in control of the whole of Palestine (as well as parts of Egypt and Syria). 2,525,000 Palestinian Arabs dispersed:  
 313,000 under alien rule in Israel  
 640,000 in their homes under Israeli occupation  
 540,000 refugees under Israeli occupation  
 1,032,000 refugees in exile.



The logical consequence of the ingathering of world Jewry into a Jewish state in Palestine is that the native inhabitants, the Arab Palestinians, would have to be dispossessed and expelled. And this is exactly what was done.

One of the methods used was indiscriminate terrorism. On 9 April 1948, members of the terrorist groups, the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the Stern Gang and the Haganah (official militia of the Jewish Agency) attacked the Arab village of Deir Yassin, which was to be razed to the ground as part of the Haganah's plan to make way for an airfield. They met only minor resistance since most of the men were working in the city. The Irgun and Sternists then went from house to house and killed 254 people, mostly in cold blood.

After stalling for a day, the Jewish Agency permitted the chief delegate for Palestine of the International Red Cross, Jacques de Reynier, to visit the village. He found 150 bodies thrown into a well and another 50 at one side. In all he counted 254 dead, including 145 women of whom 35 were pregnant. About 150 surviving women and orphaned children were stripped and paraded on open trucks through a Jewish quarter of Jerusalem, where they were stoned and spat on. The Irgun held a press conference and said that the attack "was the beginning of the conquest of Palestine and Transjordan."

The results of the massacre were indeed significant in the conquest of Palestine. The Jewish Agency unsuccessfully tried to dissociate itself from the massacre and expressed "horror and disgust" at the atrocity. But the Irgun toured loudspeaker vans in Arab Jerusalem, broadcasting in Arabic: "Unless you

leave your homes, the fate of Deir Yassin will be your fate!" and "The Jericho road is still open, fly from Jerusalem before you are killed." In his book, *The Revolt*, the Irgun leader Menachem Begin describes the result: "All the Jewish forces proceeded to advance through Haila like a knife through butter. The Arabs began fleeing in panic, shouting, 'Deir Yassin!'"

Reynier commented that "he" seized the Arabs and gave rise to movements of panic which were wholly out of proportion with the real danger. The exodus began and became nearly general." *The Jewish Newsletter*, 3 October 1960, quotes Begin as saying "The massacre was not only justified, but there would not have been a state of Israel without the victory at Deir Yassin."

In May 1977, Begin became Prime Minister of Israel.





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Israel's attack in June 1967 on several surrounding Arab states created another 400,000 Palestinian refugees, taking the total to about 1,600,000. Israel expanded to take over the rest of Palestine as well as parts of Syria and Egypt.

Some refugees used the ruined Allenby Bridge to cross the Jordan River into Jordan after Israel captured the West Bank.

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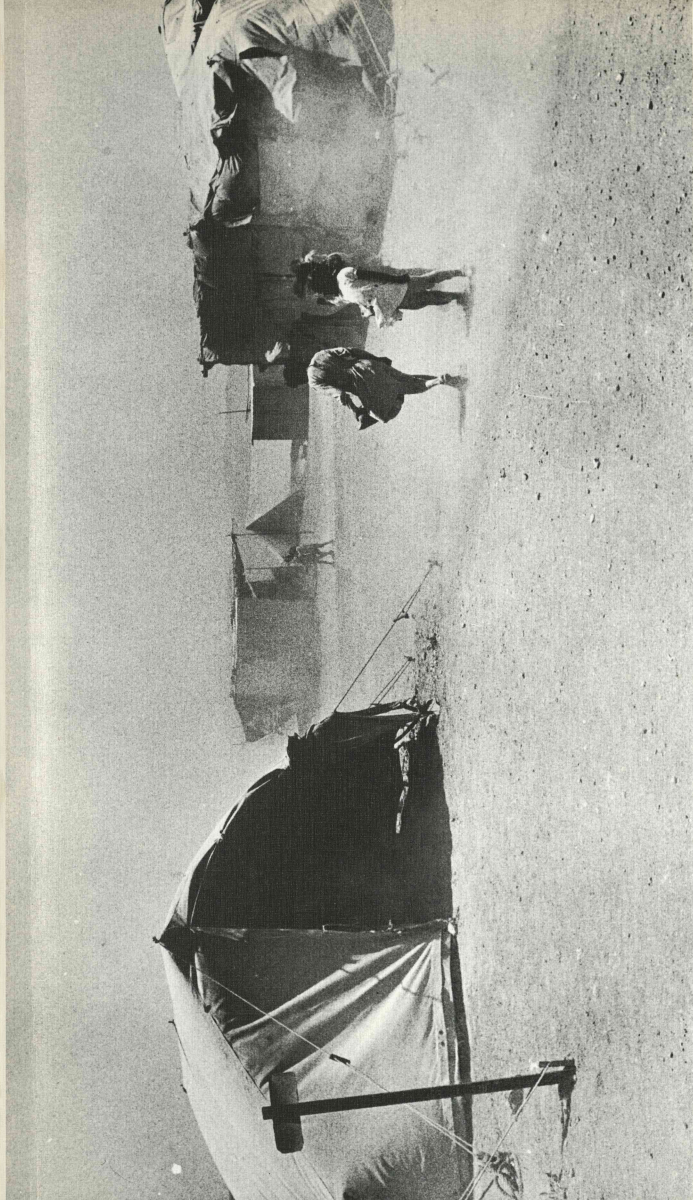


Nahr-el-Bared camp for Palestinian refugees near Tripoli, Lebanon, as it was in 1952.

The first camps, sheltering those who were driven from their homes in Palestine as a result of the Zionist expansion of 1948, were tented. This was an emergency and far from satisfactory measure, as the tents could not give adequate protection against either the burning heat of the summer, or the driving rain

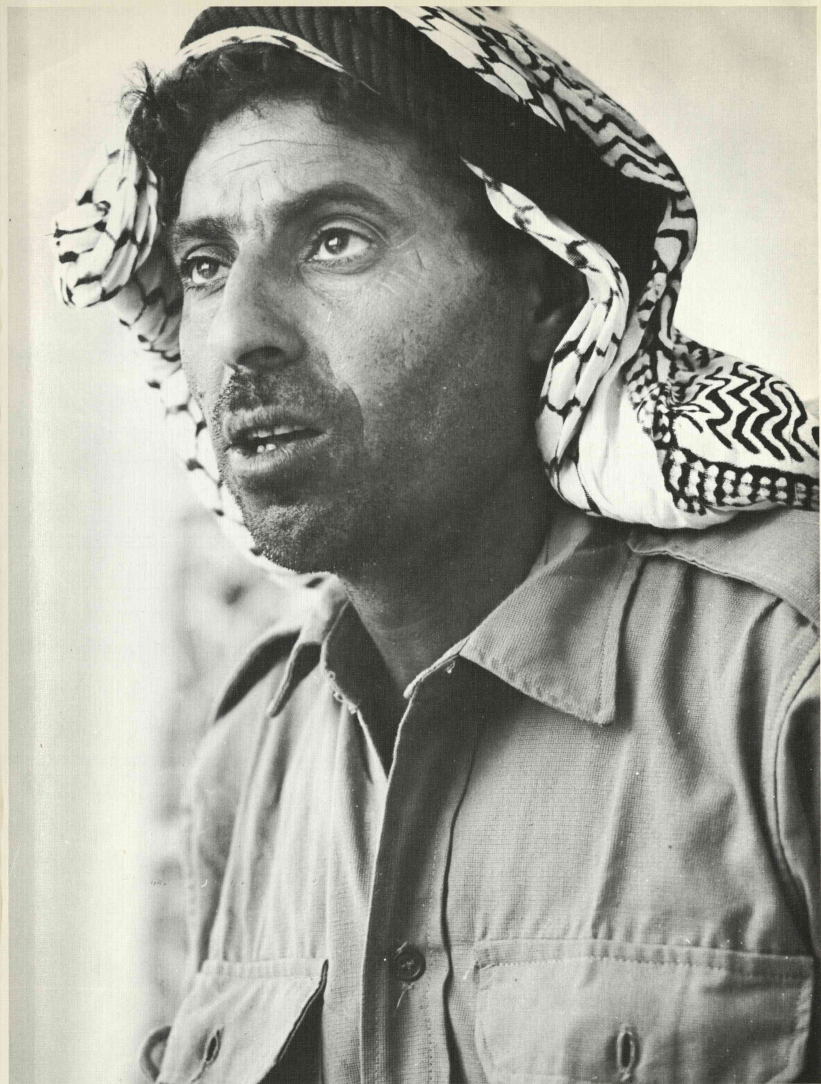
and cold of the winter. There was no running water, or basic health or education facilities. Many still live in this 'temporary' camp thirty years later, though the tents have been replaced by concrete huts.





These Palestinian refugees in Jordan are the result of the Zionist colonization of their land. Former general, Moshe Dayan, who became Defense Minister and later Foreign Minister of Israel, expressed it as follows: "Mainly anyone could, in Teudor Atarozot, 10 May 1973:

"It has to be said harshly: the state of Israel was established at the expense of the Arabs and in their place. We did not come to settle the Arab settlement here. We are settling Jews in places where there were Arabs. We are turning an Arab land into a Jewish land."



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"...they sit in their refugees camps in Gaza, and before their very eyes, we turn into our homestead the land and the villages in which they and their forefathers have lived... We are a generation of settlers, and without the steel helmet we cannot plant a tree and build a house."

Moshe Dayan, *Davar*, 2 May 1956.





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Arab Palestinians remaining under Israeli occupation of the West Bank are a subjugated people, suffering daily harassment and discrimination.

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## Palestine Holocaust

They had just arrived in Jordan, crossing the temporary bridge near the destroyed Allenby Bridge.

There was a continuing exodus of Palestinians, from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, numbering between two and four thousand a month from autumn 1967 until summer 1968.





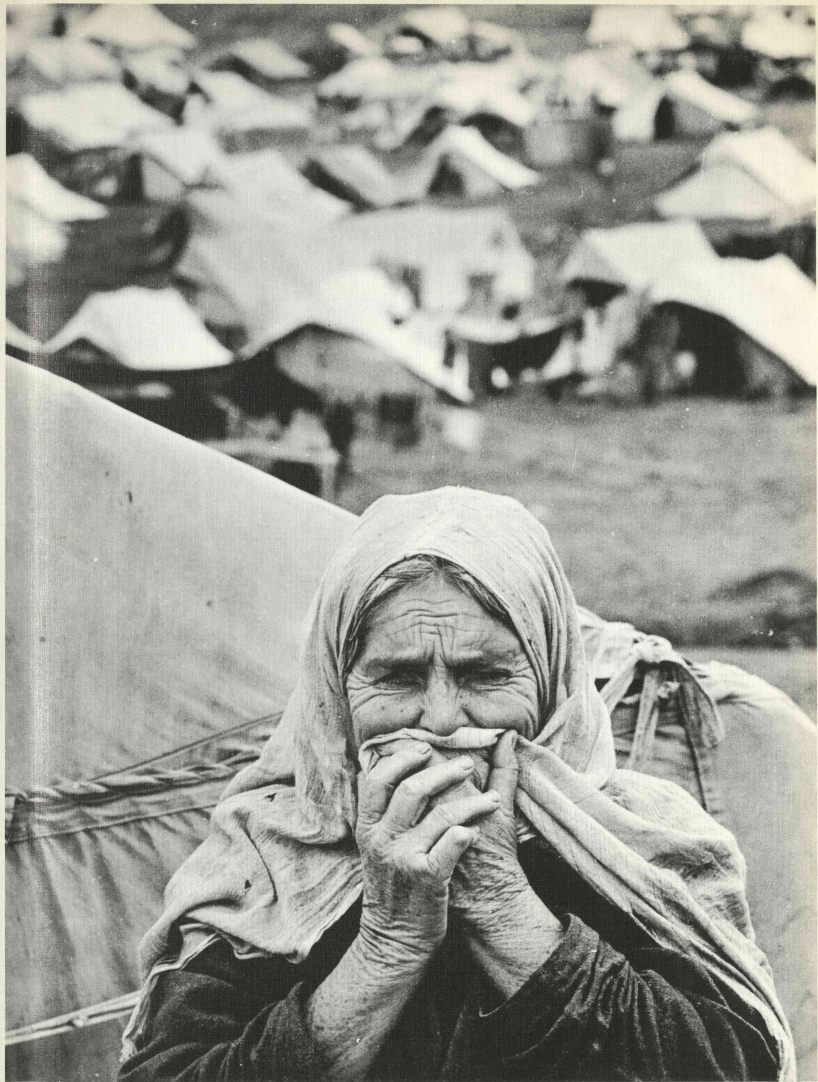
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## **Palestine Holocaust**

Since 1948 Israel has ignored all requests and resolutions of the United Nations regarding the Palestinians.

Not only has Israel refused requests to allow the repatriation of Palestinian refugees currently outside Palestine, it continues to expel more of them and expropriate Arab land inside Palestine.

Other policies include apartheid measures such as forcible relocation of populations to make way for 'Jewish only' areas, and discriminatory practices including low wages and denial of social welfare benefits.



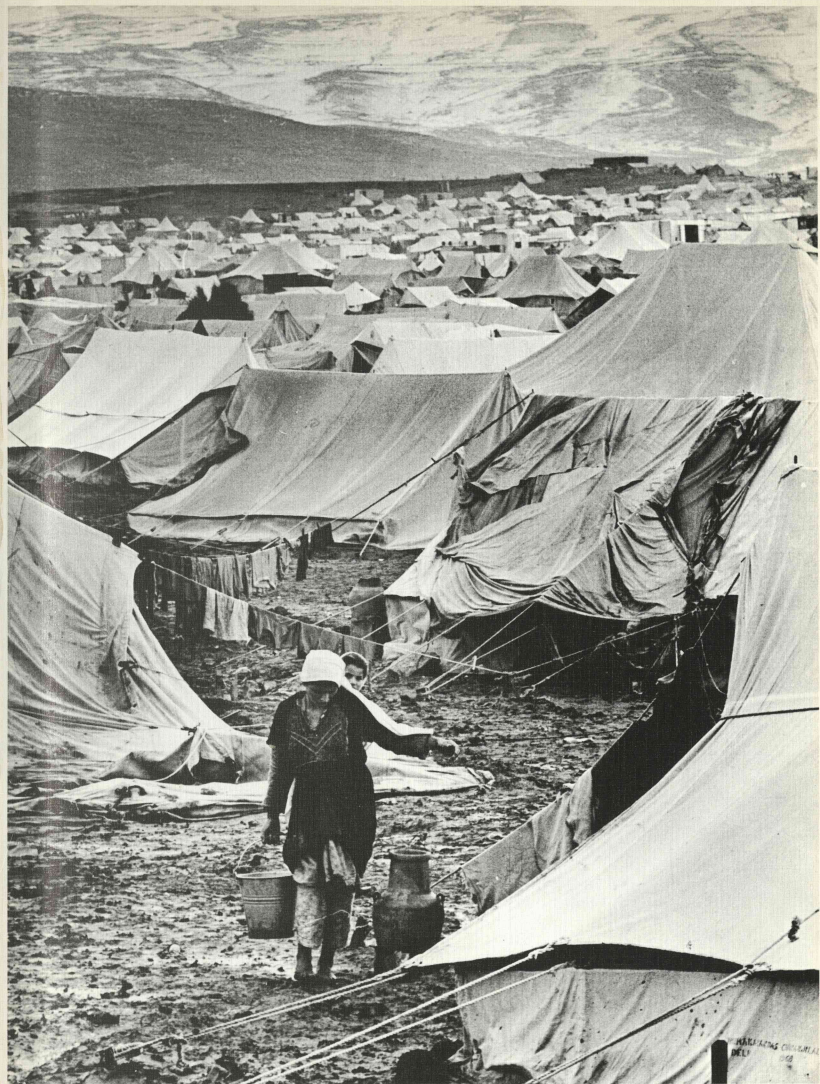
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Losing her tent in the winter storms of February 1969 was a major tragedy for this displaced Palestinian refugee who found shelter in Baqa'a emergency camp, Jordan.

Fleeing from her camp 'home' in Jericho during the June 1967 hostilities, she hoped to return soon after. But none of the refugees from the Jericho camps in the Israeli-occupied West Bank has been granted a permit to return.

## **Palestine Holocaust**



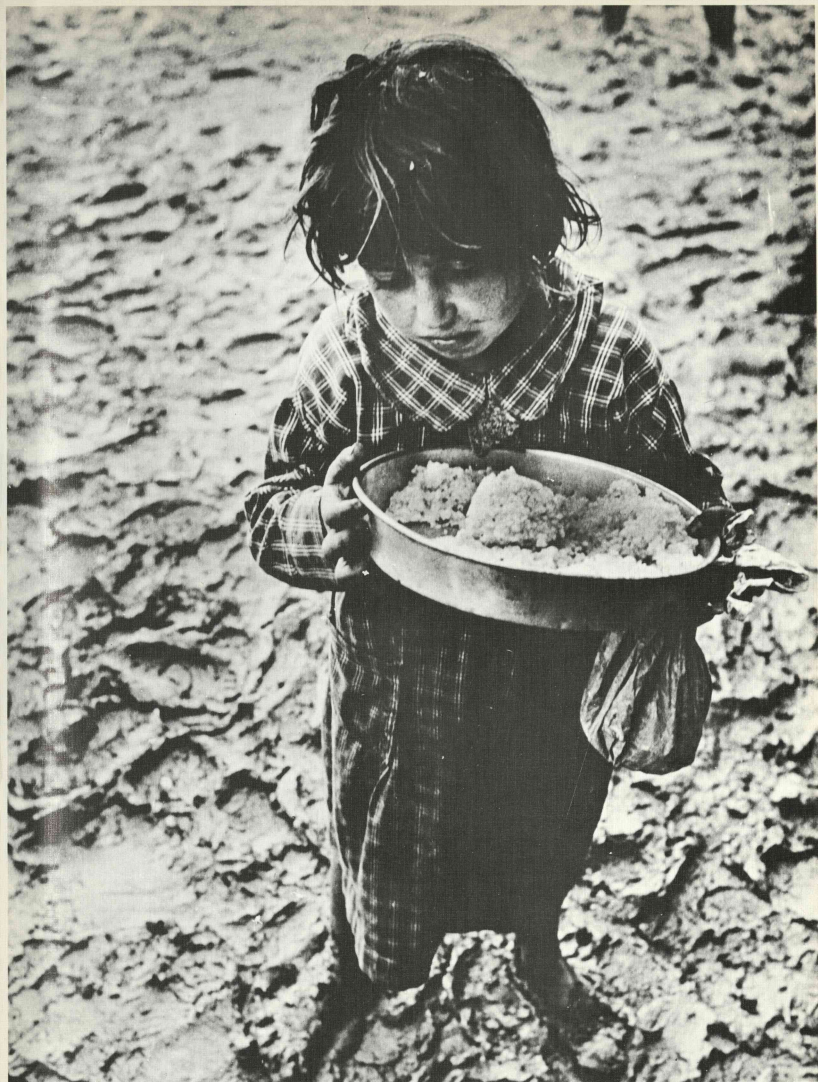


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## Palestine Holocaust

The cold winds blow down from the snow-covered hills, the ground is soggy, the tents wet and battered from weeks of winter storms in this United Nations Relief and Works Agency camp in Jordan.

But life has to go on, so this Palestinian refugee goes to the waterpoint, as usual, to fetch the family water supply, barefooted through the mud and snow. She was one of the 40,000 living in this camp.



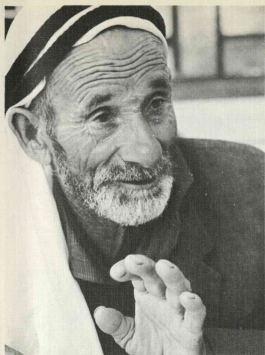
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After each spell of rain, the refugee camp turns into a sea of mud for several days and everywhere there are shivering children.

Although many Palestinians have now been dispersed around the world, the number of Palestinians registered in the camps rose to over 1,700,000 in the decade following the 1967 War as a result of the continuing Zionist colonization and expropriation of their land.

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## Palestine Holocaust

Under Israel's 'Law of Return' any Jew of any nationality, no matter how well off, is allowed to come from anywhere in the world and automatically take up Israeli citizenship. Yet these Palestinians and their families are not allowed to return to their homeland.





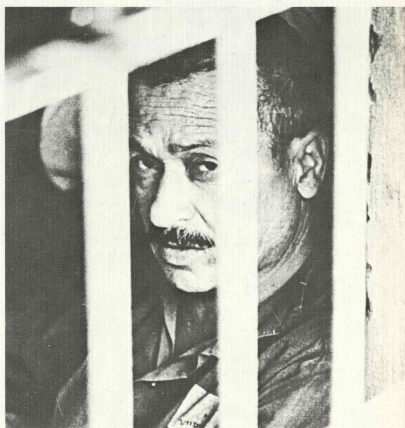
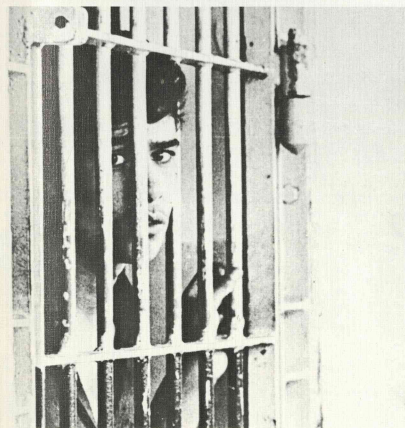


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Palestinian detainees are taken from Ramleh to Jerusalem for interrogation. Prisoners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are handed by military tribunals.

By 1990 there were about 6000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails. This figure does not include those who are not taken to court. Article 111 of the military regulations allow the authorities to put thousands in jail under detention without trial for up to a year.

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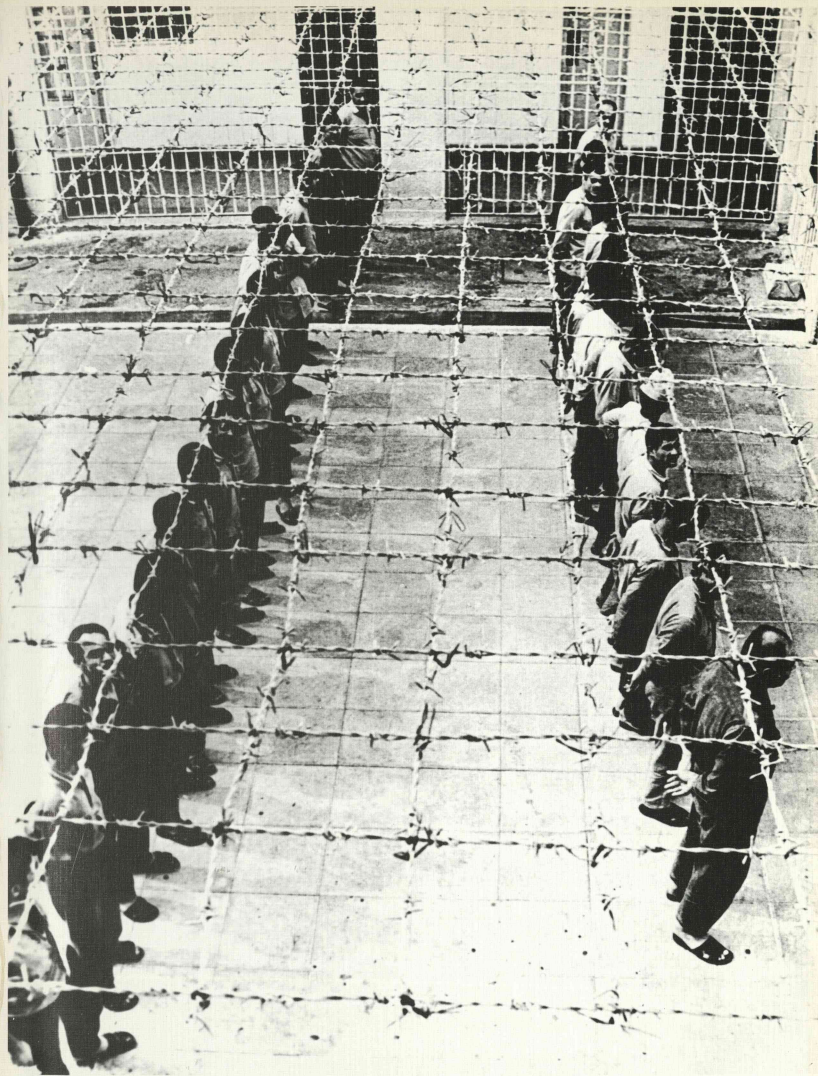


According to the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, "Almost all convictions in the Israeli Military Courts in the occupied territories are based on confessions by the accused. In very many cases the prisoners deny their confession in court and complain of being coerced to confess under torture. They describe exactly the various methods of torture applied on them, sometimes even point out their torturers in the courtroom and offer to be submitted to medical investigation to support and prove their complaint of torture under

interrogation. In all cases there was no official judicial investigation of these complaints. Even in cases where an obviously incapacitated man with physical marks of torture appears before the court, the court of the Appeal Commission refuses investigation into the matter.

"Now Military Courts refuse even to hear preliminary claims and complaints of torture, unless the accused presents to the court the full names of his torturers. (This should be quite difficult, since torturers do not usually introduce themselves.)"





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## Palestine Holocaust

The systematic torture, even until death, of Palestinian detainees has been documented by the United Nations, Amnesty International, the US State Department, the London *Sunday Times* Insight Team, the US National Lawyers Guild and the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights.

Confidential cables sent to Washington from the US embassy in Jerusalem during

1978, published in part by the *Washington Post*, reported that severe torture included "refrigeration, the use of electricity, hanging by the hands and feet, extreme forms of sexual sadism, interrogation accompanied by starvation, enforced sleeplessness". Furthermore, "brutality in the interrogation of Arab political prisoners is a systematic practice"



**AN  
INSIGHT  
INQUIRY**

The Insight team has carried out a detailed inquiry in Israeli-occupied territories into Arab allegations and official Israeli denials of the use of torture. It concludes in part: "Torture of Arab prisoners is so widespread and systematic that it cannot be dismissed as 'rogue cops' exceeding orders. It appears to be sanctioned as deliberate policy"

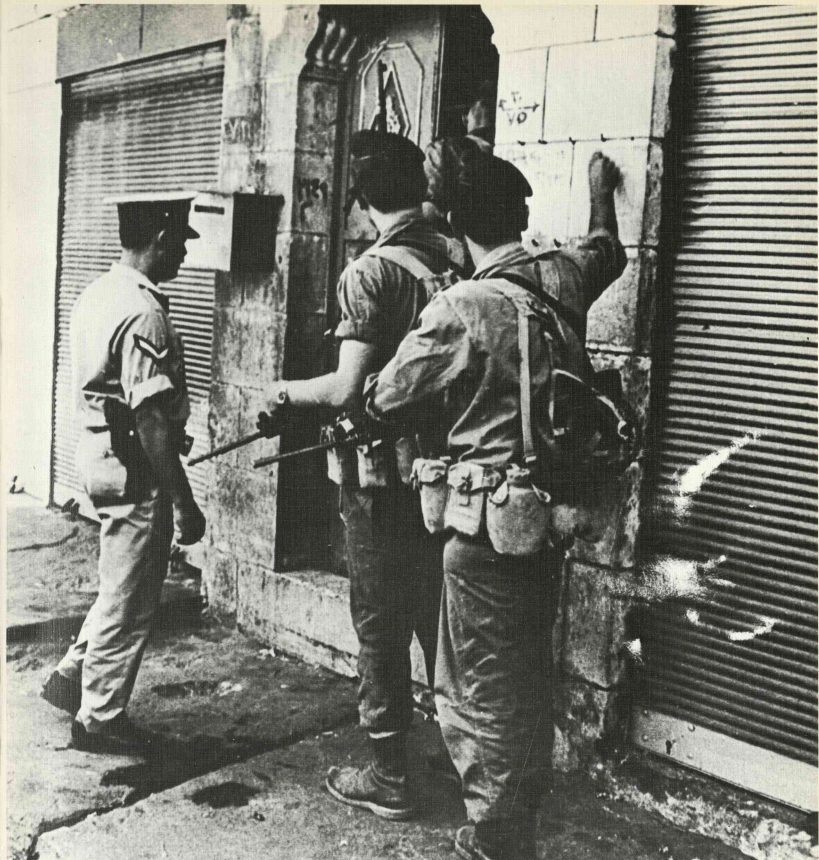
# ISRAEL AND TORTURE

**ISRAELI CIVIL SERVANTS** working in occupied territories are being subjected to the same treatment as the Arab prisoners. The report says that in the West Bank of Jordan, Israeli soldiers have been seen to beat and torture Arab prisoners. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers have been seen to beat and torture Arab prisoners. In the West Bank of Jordan, Israeli soldiers have been seen to beat and torture Arab prisoners. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers have been seen to beat and torture Arab prisoners.

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In an article published in *Pi-Ha'aton*, the student newspaper at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, on 5 November 1976, Dr Israel Shahak said: "The Israeli Ministry of Housing consists of two sections. One section, the largest, implements a racist policy that aims at benefiting Jews alone. We saw an example of this in Rafiah Approaches. The other section is a unit that goes by the worthy name, Department for the Housing of Minorities. It deals solely with non-Jews.

"The *modus operandi* of this department is instructive. For example, here in Jerusalem, while the Ministry of Housing builds apartments for Jews strictly *inside* the city boundaries, the Department for the Housing of Minorities does exactly the opposite. It 'thins out' — what a term to use with respect to human beings — the Muslims and transfers them *out* of Jerusalem.

"We have a similar situation in Galilee. The terms 'populating Galilee' and 'Judaization of Galilee' are identical."

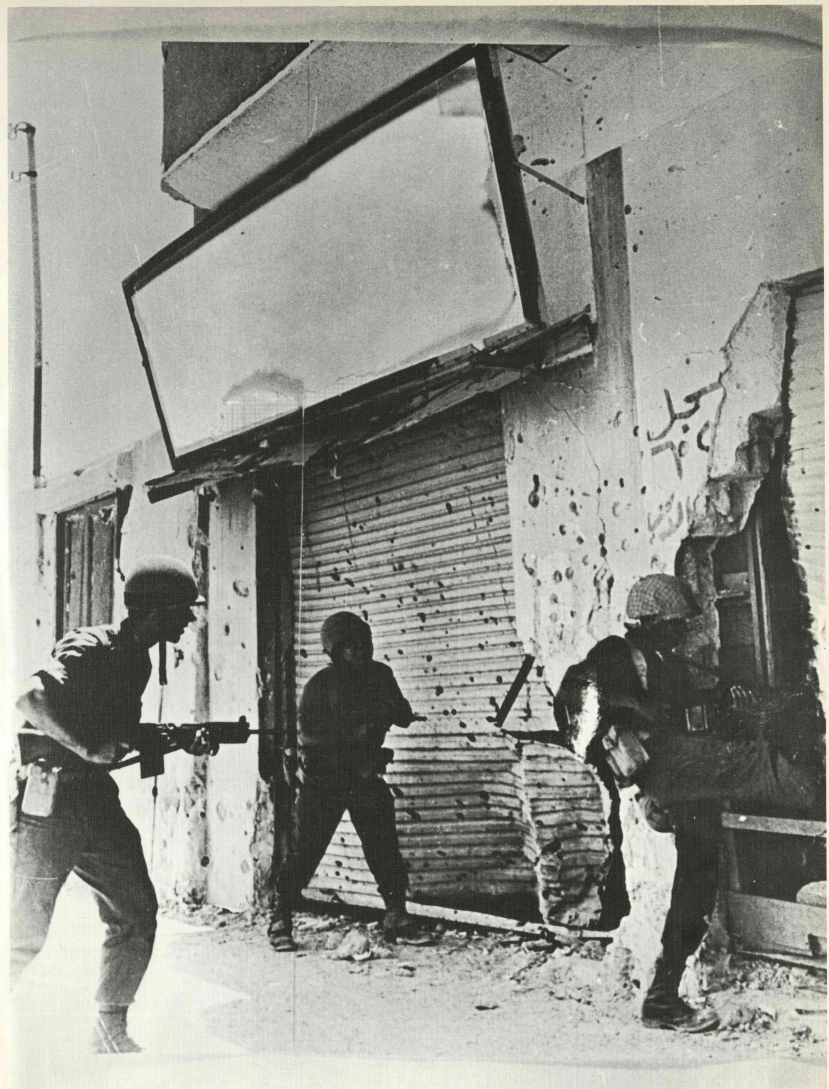
Many Arab houses to be demolished are marked with a cross by the Israeli troops.

Within two and half years of the 1967 War, more than 7500 were demolished in the newly occupied areas, according to Dr Shahak, and this policy has continued since then.

Houses are demolished for two reasons. Many are destroyed under the policy of collective punishment for acts of resistance against the occupation. This is allowed by Article 119 of the military regulations. Others are demolished or confiscated to make way for Jewish settlers.

Even inside the 1948 borders of Israel the courts ordered the demolition of some 3000 Arab houses by 1974 on the grounds that they were built without a permit (Israeli Parliament Debates, 30 July 1974). Permits had been unavailable because the location of the houses did not conform to the apartheid housing plan.

Between 1948 and the end of 1972, 385 entire Arab villages were destroyed out of a total of 475 existing originally. This does not include the territories captured in 1967, although over 16,300 Arab houses had been destroyed by the end of the first five years of occupation.



Palestinians are subjected to raids by the military at any time of day or night. Hundreds have been shot dead during curfews.

Israel's current military regulations used against the Palestinian population are the Defence Laws (State of Emergency) of 1945 that were applied by the British during their rule

over Palestine. Yet at that time Yaacov Shapiro, who later became Attorney General and Minister of Justice in Israel, said: "The system established in Palestine since the issue of the Defence Laws is unparalleled in any civilized country; there were no such laws even in Nazi Germany."

## **Palestine Holocaust**





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## **Palestine Holocaust**

Israeli police and troops move in to break up a demonstration by Palestinians against the occupation.

"Reporters saw Israeli soldiers drag youths from their homes...and beat them with batons..." (Sydney Morning Herald, 13 March 1976.)

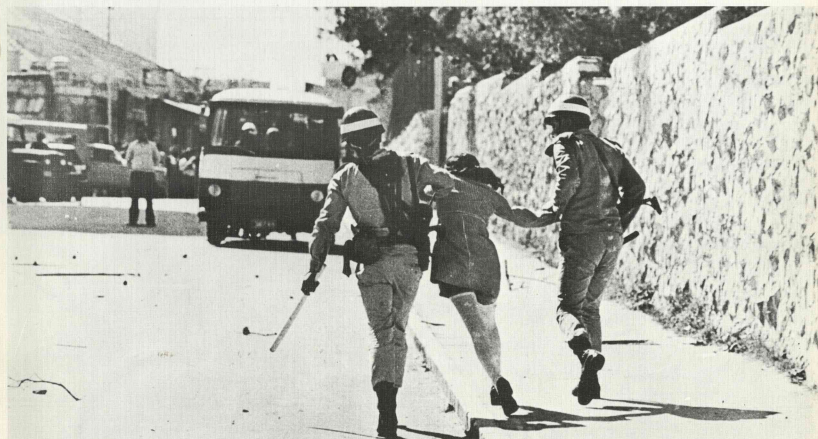


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## **Palestine Holocaust**

When it comes to brutality the occupation forces don't discriminate against any particular Arab, as this schoolgirl discovered when she protested against the discriminatory education system.





Israeli troops beat and arrested these schoolgirls in Jerusalem on 28 March 1976.

Israel Shahak, who is professor of chemistry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said that "there are two completely separate school systems in Israel, a Hebrew one and an Arabic one.

"First of all, the Arab school system is heavily discriminated against in every material area: no buildings, or bad buildings; almost no laboratories; bad teachers; bad teachers-aides.

"The most important discrimination is in the area of schooling itself. The Arab students have to learn an enormous amount of Hebrew literature — including Hebrew religious material, the Bible, the Talmud and so on — as

well as Zionist literature, both in Hebrew and in Arabic translations. The Koran is taught less than 10 per cent of the time allotted to the Old Testament. All Arabic literature written after the year 1800 is prohibited.

"There is a school for Arabs, and there is a school for Jews. Jews are completely prohibited from sending their children to Arab schools, but Arabs can sometimes obtain permits to send their children to a Jewish school. Not in their own area, however, but in a different area, especially to a school in a different village, where there will be one Arab in a class of about a hundred Jews. Even this needs very special permission."



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## **Palestine Holocaust**

There is no safety for Palestinians inside or outside their homeland. Bombing is Israel's main method of attacking the refugee camps. Besides conventional artillery, Israel uses anti-personnel weapons such as cluster bombs and napalm.





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## **Palestine Holocaust**

Not even the children are safe from Israel's napalm and bombs.

Up until the Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt, almost half of America's foreign aid went to Israel.

In 1978, the US Government officially acknowledged that Israel was using US-made cluster bombs.

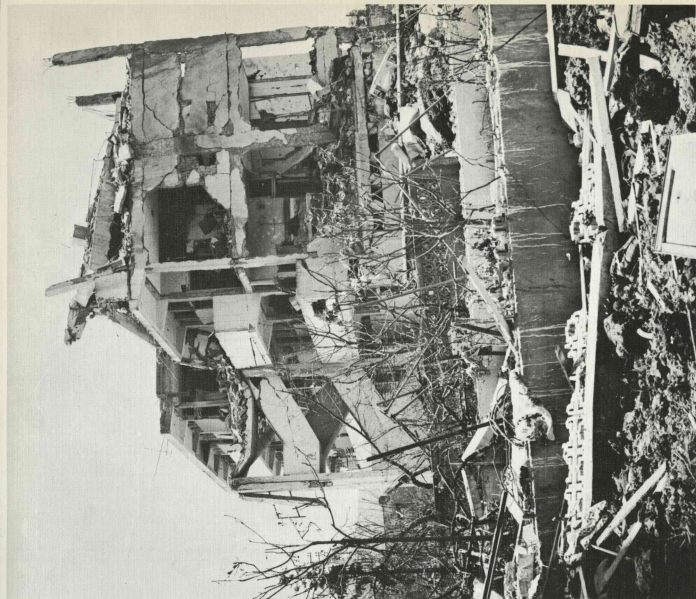


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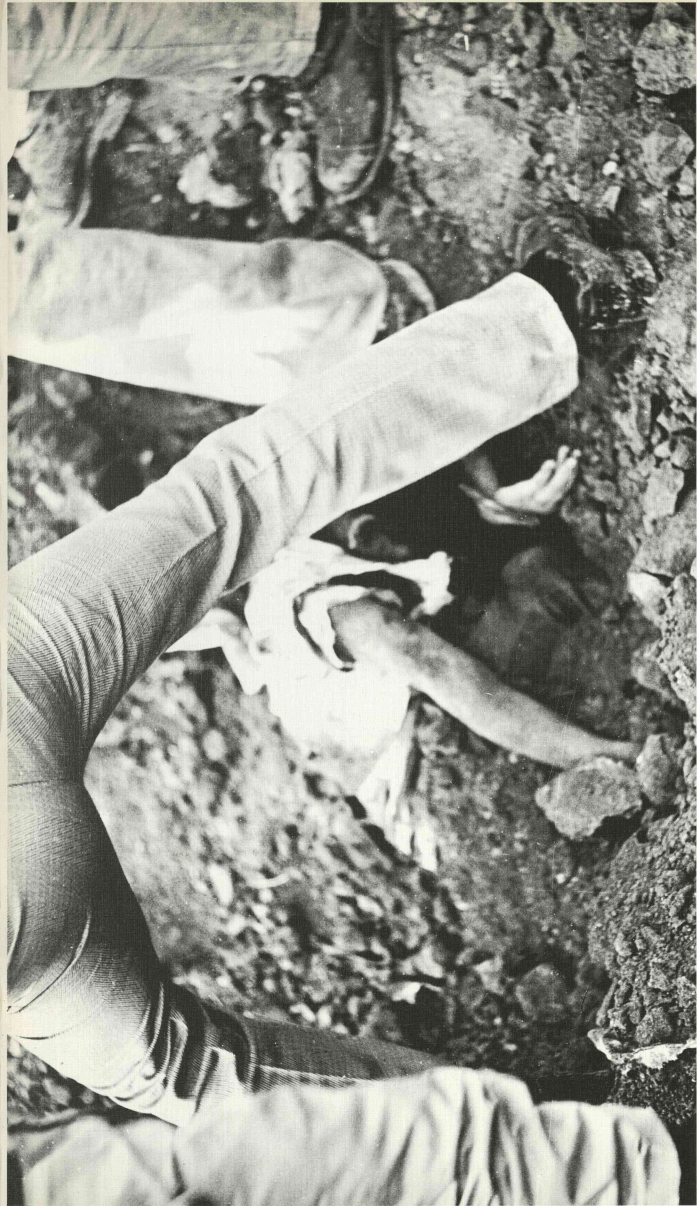
Some of Israel's weapons are directed specifically for children to pick up — such as booby-trapped toys.

## **Palestine Holocaust**





All targets, from ambulances to apartment buildings, are 'legitimate' for Israeli bombers.



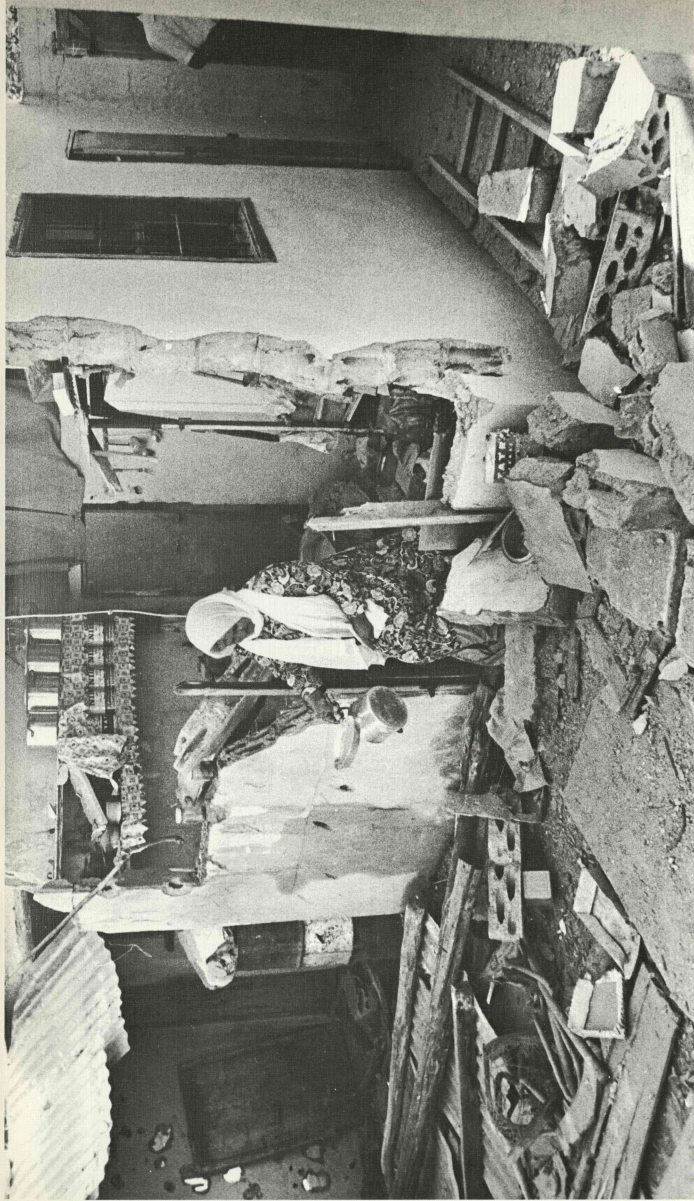
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## Palestine Holocaust

Seventeen Palestinians were reported killed and 91 injured by an Israeli air attack on the Nabatieh camp in south Lebanon on 16 May 1974.

Sixty per cent of the buildings were destroyed, including the clinic and food distribution centres. All other buildings were severely damaged.





Three days later, the Israeli navy bombarded the Rashidieh camp nearby.



Palestinian children returning to their school in Dikwaneh camp, Beirut, see the results of an attack by the Lebanese right-wing forces in January 1976.

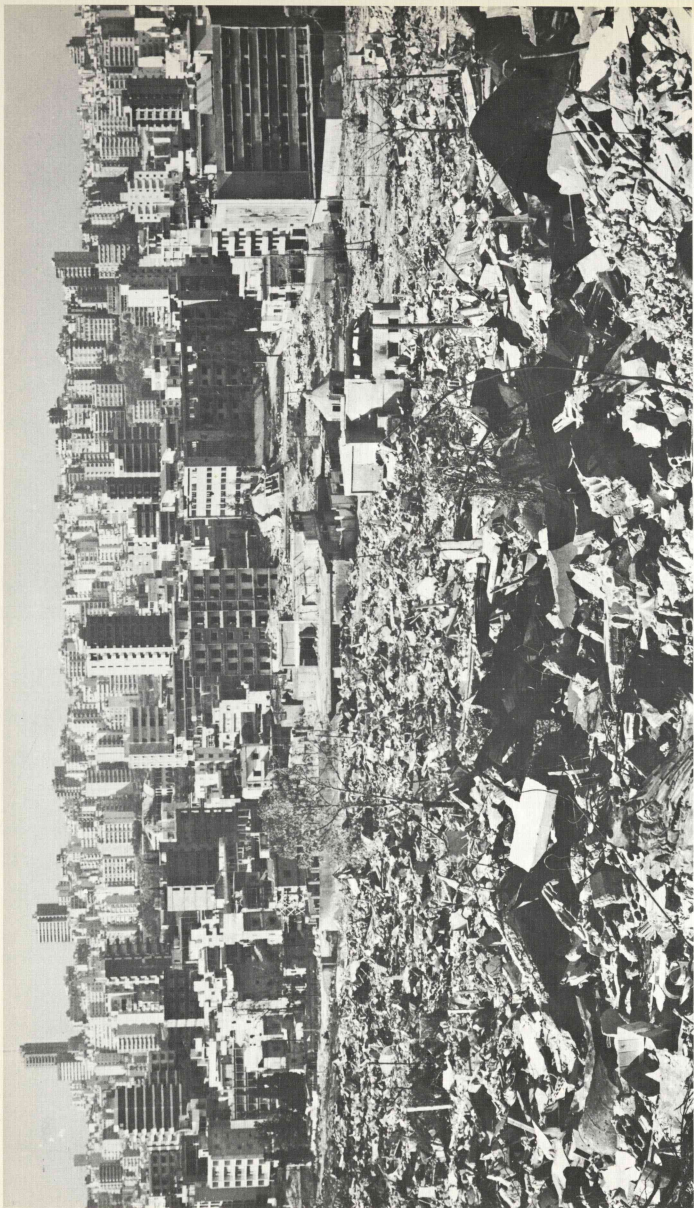
Israel found that the right-wing forces are a convenient ally for its activities in Lebanon. These forces include the Lebanese Phalangie

(Fascist Party), which has vowed to exterminate the Palestinians, and started the war in Lebanon on 13 April 1975.

Israel will not reveal the extent of its cooperation, but *Time* magazine in August 1977 gave an indication of the sort of aid, other than medical treatment, given to the rightists. About

\$30-35 million of aid was supplied to maintain right-wing strongholds at Jounieh and in the mountains. Military equipment given by Israel included 10 tanks, 3000 machine guns, and 12,000 rifles. Israel also supplies military advisers and military training for thousands of rightist troops.





Tai al-Zaatar ('Hill of Thyme') was a refugee camp in Beirut, covering two square kilometres and accommodating 17,000 Palestinians and 13,000 poor Lebanese in tin-roofed huts with seven people per room.

During the war, the camp was attacked and besieged for almost 17 months. The roads into the camp were opened only a few short times and only small amounts of supplies could be brought in.

The final blockade of Tai al-Zaatar began on 21 June 1976 and ended eight weeks later when the camp was overrun by rightists on 12 August.



By 30 June the rightists were confidently predicting that the camp would fall within another ten days. A month later, the camp's inhabitants were still holding out and it became clear that the rightists were intent upon killing all those who remained. When an underground shelter with almost 500 people inside collapsed from the shelling, the rightists prevented all rescue operations. During the siege they also systematically obstructed efforts by the

International Red Cross to evacuate the wounded.  
The end of the siege was bloody and murderous. No prisoners were taken. Hundreds had died of thirst, starvation and gangrene from minor wounds — the hospital was operating without medicine or water. On what turned out to be the final day of the blockade, the rightists announced a ceasefire so that the remaining inhabitants could be evacuated. But when the

people came out, they were all shot dead. The rightists then overran the camp and killed the rest. The nurses and doctors in the hospital were taken outside, lined up and shot dead.  
During the final siege, 3000 of the camp's inhabitants were killed, including 1000 on the last day. Some 60,000 shells were dropped on the camp.

This woman survived.

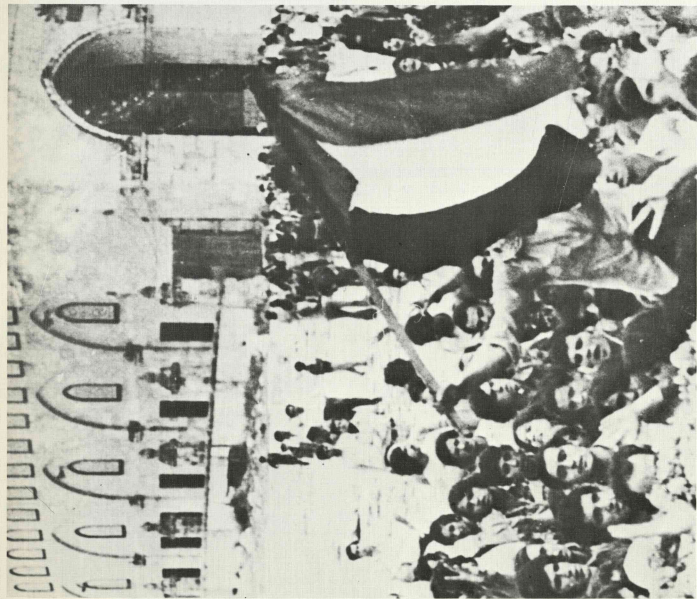




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When the Israelis invaded Lebanon in 1978, they killed 2000 civilians and rendered 200,000 homeless.

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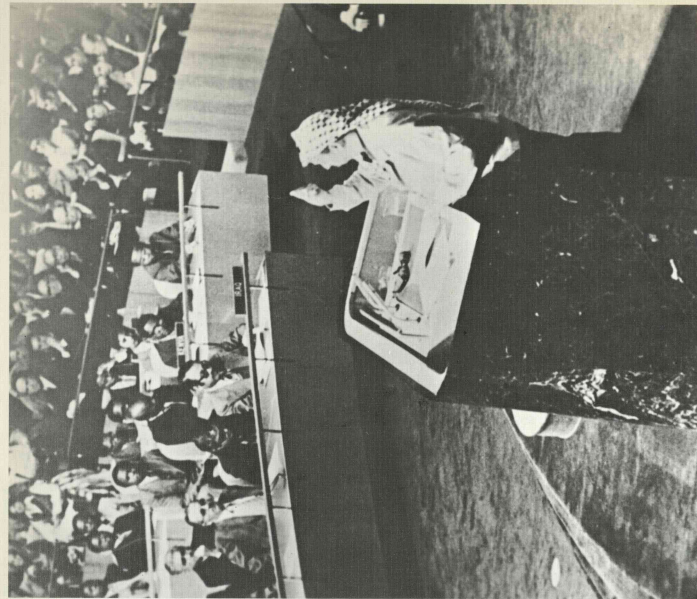


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## Palestine Holocaust

The Palestinians no longer passively accept their oppression.

Inside Palestine they organize rallies and strikes against the occupation and in favour of their national liberation movement, the Palestine Liberation Organization.



Outside Palestine, the P.L.O., led by Yasser Arafat, organizes the nation of Palestinians in all areas, including health, education, housing and employment. It also organizes the armed resistance to the Zionist occupation of their land.





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## **Palestine Holocaust**

"We are fighting today to create the new Palestine of tomorrow; a progressive, democratic and non-sectarian Palestine in which Christian, Moslem and Jew will worship, work, live peacefully and enjoy equal rights. Our Palestinian revolution still stretches its

welcoming hand to all human beings who want to fight for and live in a democratic, tolerant Palestine irrespective of race, colour or religion." (Al-Fateh, Cairo, 28 January 1969.)

# **Palestine Holocaust**